



## Office of Hon Dr Pita R Sharples

MP for Tamaki Makaurau  
Minister of Māori Affairs  
Associate Minister of Corrections  
Associate Minister of Education

2/10/09

Tiwha Bell  
Chairman  
Maniapoto Māori Trust Board  
49 Taupiri Street  
P O Box 36  
TE KŪITI

Tēnā koe

Thank you for submitting the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board Deed of Mandate for Ngā Wai o Maniapoto negotiations with the Crown on behalf of Maniapoto.

We have concluded that the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board has the support of the Maniapoto claimant community that you seek to represent and is an appropriate body to represent Maniapoto in negotiations with the Crown for the co-management of the Waipā River. We are, therefore, pleased to recognise the mandate of the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board for this purpose. This recognition fulfils the condition that required you to gain a mandate before finalising co-management arrangements of the Waipā River.

After careful consideration, we have decided not to recognise the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board mandate for other waterways issues beyond negotiations for the co-management of the Waipā River. There are several factors that we took into account in reaching this decision.

The Crown preference, which has been communicated previously, is that we consider that the settlement of historic land and water claims should be negotiated together as far as possible in a comprehensive settlement.

We understand that you have recently informed officials that you had not intended to seek the mandate to negotiate Maniapoto's historical Treaty claims with respect to waterways. You are, however, seeking the mandate for co-management of Waipā and other Maniapoto waterways.

We do not think that recognition of a mandate to negotiate co-management arrangements for other Maniapoto waterways beyond the Waipā is appropriate at this time. Beyond negotiations for co-management of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers, the Crown does not intend to negotiate co-management arrangements for other Maniapoto waterways outside of a comprehensive settlement. We do not consider such a mandate to have any practical outcome.

In reaching our decision, we also considered your advice to Ministers that you intend to seek the dissolution of the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board within the next two years. If such a dissolution occurs then it is possible that the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board will no longer be in existence when negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of Maniapoto Treaty claims commence.

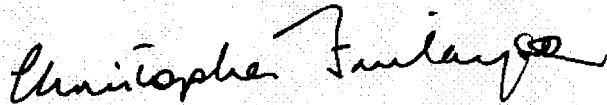
Our overall conclusion is that we will not recognise your mandate to negotiate waterways claims beyond co-management of the Waipā River.

We are pleased to hear that the Trust Board has recently met with the individuals that made submissions on your Deed of Mandate and that you are currently holding information sharing hui with Maniapoto hapū and marae, with hui scheduled to continue until 15 October 2009. We advise you to continue with these communications and to inform the Maniapoto claimant community of the nature of the mandate that we have recognised. Our officials will also be communicating our decision on the mandate to submitters. Kāti mō tēnei wā.

Heoi anō



nā Hon Dr Pita R Sharples  
Minister of Māori Affairs



nā Hon Mr Christopher Finlayson  
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations