



Office of Hon Mark Burton, M.P. for Taupo
Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister of Defence
Minister of Tourism
Deputy Leader of the House

19 MAY 2005

Lady Raiha Mahuta
Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company Ltd
Private Bag 542
NGARUAWAHIA

Tēnā koe Lady Raiha

WAIKATO-TAINUI DEED OF MANDATE

Thank you for submitting your Deed of Mandate on 18 October 2004. We also acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15 April 2005.

Officials have now completed an assessment of the Deed of Mandate. Based on this assessment, we have concluded that the Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company Ltd (WRTCL) has the support of Waikato-Tainui to commence settlement negotiations with the Crown over the Waikato River. We are therefore pleased to recognise your mandate to do so.

As you are aware, the Crown is committed to settling all the claims of Waikato-Tainui that were set aside in 1995 for future negotiations. The Crown wishes to achieve settlement of these claims in a timely fashion. We have therefore agreed to negotiate the River claims first as a part of a wider framework which will see all remaining Waikato-Tainui claims settled (preferably through one Deed of Settlement and one Bill).

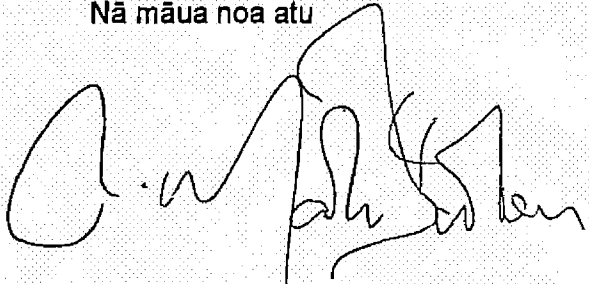
During the submissions process, Nganeko Minhinnick of Ngāti Te Ata and Taotao Tauroa of Pōhara Pā made submissions in which they express some apprehension about the mandate of WRTCL but note their willingness to meet with the WRTCL and co-negotiators to discuss issues raised in their submissions and to reach agreement on the way forward. We note that other submitters seek clarification of WRTCL's role with regard to the mandating and negotiation processes for the Maoro and Wairoa blocks and the West Coast harbours.

Your letter of 15 April 2005 proposes a process by which the WRTCL and co-negotiators will meet with these submitters. We encourage you to undertake the process you have outlined to ensure that Waikato-Tainui members continue to engage in and support the negotiation process.

There are some second order issues associated with the Deed of Mandate which it would be useful for WRTCL to confirm with the Crown before the Terms of Negotiations are signed. Dean Cowie, Manager – Policy and Negotiations at the Office of Treaty Settlements will contact you shortly to discuss the next stage of the settlement process.

Finally, we wish to congratulate you and the rest of WRTCL for your hard work and the leadership you have shown to get Waikato-Tainui to this point. We look forward to working with you to implement the agreed mandating and negotiating framework to settle all of the outstanding Waikato-Tainui claims.

Nā māua noa atu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Burton', written in a cursive style.

Hon Mark Burton
Minister in Charge of Treaty of
Waitangi Negotiations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. T. Horomia', written in a cursive style.

Hon Parekura Horomia
Minister of Māori Affairs