



Tēnā koutou kātoa

04 DEC 2019

## Next steps for Ngāpuhi Treaty settlement negotiations

In 2014 the Crown recognised the mandate of the Tūhoronuku Independent Mandated Authority (TIMA) to represent Ngāpuhi in negotiations towards the settlement of all their historical Treaty claims, subject to certain conditions, including that the mandate would be maintained.

Since then, there has been a high level of dispute within Ngāpuhi around this mandate. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts many of you have put into attempting to resolve mandate concerns raised by the Ngāpuhi claimant community and the Waitangi Tribunal in its 2015 *Ngāpuhi Mandate Report*. Ultimately, however, those attempts have been unsuccessful in gaining sufficient support from Ngāpuhi.

Through all of this we acknowledge the role of Ngāpuhi kuia and kaumātua.

Last year, a majority of Ngāpuhi hapū voted against the proposal to evolve the TIMA mandate. This year we have stepped back to allow Ngāpuhi hapū to work together on a pathway into Treaty settlement negotiations. During this time, many of you have raised the issue of the Crown's continued recognition of the TIMA mandate.

The Crown cannot grant a mandate, or withdraw it, the Crown can only recognise a mandate where it has been granted by iwi members. A mandate is not static and needs to be regularly evaluated to ensure that the people it purports to represent are happy with how they are being represented.

We have considered TIMA's mandate to represent all Ngāpuhi and have concluded that we cannot be confident that TIMA has maintained that mandate. The conditions placed on the mandate have not been met. We have therefore decided to discontinue

the Crown's recognition of the TIMA mandate as it no longer provides for the kind of opportunities that Ngāpuhi have told us they are seeking.

We believe it is time for a fresh approach that provides an overall plan for Ngāpuhi Treaty settlement negotiations.

We consider there are common issues across Ngāpuhi that must be negotiated collectively with the Crown. These include settlement quantum (the Crown will only make one quantum offer to Ngāpuhi), He Whakaputanga, social issues, te reo Māori, and natural resources redress.

We also recognise that takiwā wish to negotiate on area-specific matters, including the return of whenua, that are most important to them.

We invite Ngāpuhi to propose a new mandate to negotiate a collective settlement package. We invite collective mandate proposals by May 2020.

Alongside that process, we invite proposals for takiwā groupings to negotiate takiwā-specific cultural redress packages by March 2020. Takiwā packages will cover cultural, apology and whenua-specific redress.

We will be visiting Te Tai Tokerau for an open-invitation hui with Ngāpuhi on Sunday 8 December, and we invite you to attend that hui and to share your views on the way forward. More information on the collective and takiwā-specific mandate proposals process will be made available at that time.

Nā māua



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations**



Hon Nanaia Mahuta

**Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori**