

Record of Meeting

Hui: Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi initial information hui, Te Paea Marae, Tāmaki Makaurau

Date: Monday 20 January 2020

Present: Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi

Opening remarks

The hui opened at approximately 5.30pm. The facilitator highlighted some of the key themes that had arisen in previous initial information hui, including He Wakaputanga, rangatiratanga, and the desire for Crown processes and practices to change.

Te Arawhiti talked through the presentation then attendees asked questions and made comments (as detailed below). The specific presentation has not been recorded as it followed closely to the information on the slides.

Matters raised by ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi

He Wakaputanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and hapū rangatiratanga

1. Speakers stated He Wakaputanga needs to be properly recognised.
2. One speaker expressed if He Wakaputanga is properly recognised then Ngāti Hikitu should be seen as a separate country.
3. There was consensus around the need for a proper Treaty partnership relationship.
4. There were strong views the Crown is not empowering hapū to be autonomous. In addition, hapū should have rangatiratanga over their own land and be able to build and develop on their own land without the government or council consent. Hapū should not have to revert back to the government post-settlement. Te Arawhiti noted arrangements and changes can be made through negotiations.

Views on the new mandate proposal

5. There was support for a fresh approach to mandating and negotiations.
6. There were also views the Crown is still trying to dictate and control processes and conversations.
7. One speaker advised the Crown's statement about only making one quantum offer to ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi was disheartening and not a good way to start this fresh approach. It was suggested the Crown should start by speaking with each hapū to help shape the fresh approach.
8. Speakers raised queries about the timeframes for mandate proposals. Te Arawhiti advised that Ministers would like to start receiving regional hapū grouping proposals from March 2020 and

collective proposals from May 2020, but if groups cannot meet the timeframes then the Crown can be flexible.

9. Speakers asked for more clarification around the mandating process and mandate maintenance. Te Arawhiti advised that when groups have a mandate they are asked to update the Crown on how they are retaining support from their claimant community. It was also noted some mandated groups set themselves up as legal entities which have elections and constitutions however this is not a requirement.

Collective and regional hapū groupings mandate proposals

10. There were strong views that collective negotiations and redress will create issues for ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi, and hapū should be empowered to sort out their own matters. It was noted hapū want to raise their grievances against the Crown and not contest other hapū.
11. Te Arawhiti advised that Ministers consider there are common issues and shared interests across ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi that would be better addressed in a collective negotiation, but Ministers genuinely do want to hear how hapū want to approach negotiations.
12. One speaker questioned whether the Crown will work collectively in negotiations (i.e. central and local government working together). The speaker highlighted an example of an iwi reaching a settlement and trying to develop their land only to be road-blocked by council. Te Arawhiti advised that mandated groups negotiate with the Crown as one and clarified councils are not Crown agencies. However, the Crown does consult and work with councils and can pass legislation to make things happen.
13. Speakers asked whether the call for regional hapū groupings meant that urban Māori would need to go back to their traditional tribal areas to engage with mandating and negotiations. Te Arawhiti advised the Crown does not want to dictate what regional hapū groupings should look like and said it is up to hapū to agree this. However, Ministers have said it would be difficult to have separate negotiations for all hapū due to some of the collective matters and overlapping interests.

Urban Ngāpuhi representation

14. Speakers highlighted how there are up to four generations of Ngāpuhi in Tāmaki Makaurau comprising over 50,000 people and the majority under 35 years old. Many of these Ngāpuhi in Tāmaki feel disconnected to their hapū and negotiations. There were questions about how Ngāpuhi in Tāmaki can be supported and ensure they have a voice in negotiations.
15. Speakers stated Ngāpuhi in Tāmaki can be seen as a hapū themselves and they want to be recognised.
16. There has been messaging within Ngāpuhi that those who do not live in the traditional rohe will not get a cent. Speakers considered internal conversations need to happen with regards to the concerns of Ngāpuhi in Tāmaki.

Funding

17. Speakers raised questions about funding for the new mandate opportunity and whether there are any conditions for funding. Te Arawhiti advised funding is available for hui and the development of mandate proposals. There was feedback \$500 for a single hapū hui is not enough.

18. Speakers also asked about funding for negotiations. Te Arawhiti explained how adequate claimant funding is made available for mandated groups to cover the running costs of negotiations.

Other feedback

19. There was feedback that four days notice to attend the hui in Waitangi in December 2019 was unacceptable.
20. Speakers highlighted the need for better hapū information particularly around membership and databases. Hapū want to find, record and reach out to members so they can discuss the regional hapū groupings mandate opportunity. Te Arawhiti was asked if it could help provide such information. Te Arawhiti advised it does not hold detailed hapū membership information.
21. One speaker raised concern about rates arrears of \$18 million on Māori land in the Far North and how there is talk land will be seized and sold to balance out the arrears. The speaker said the Crown needs to talk to the council and make sure this does not happen.
22. One speaker expressed that while whenua and raupatu are central components to settlement, there are other important issues that also need to be addressed including te reo, tikanga and the ability for ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi to connect as they once did. The speaker questioned whether discussions and redress relating to wider issues (e.g. health, homelessness, imprisonment etc) could be expediated as these need to be addressed now and there are concerns whenua negotiations will take time. Addressing Ngāpuhi suicide rates, homelessness and incarceration needs urgent action. The Crown was asked if it could support and facilitate ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi to have these types of conversations so that divisions are avoided and hapū are united at home and in Tāmaki.
23. Te Arawhiti advised the Crown recognises the need for flexibility. A key aspect for the Minister is how ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi want to approach mandating and negotiations. The Minister has heard about the issues surrounding He Wakaputanga and a lot of people want to start there, but he also needs to hear about the wider issues that need addressing. If the Crown and ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi can get to the negotiating table we can discuss aspirations and addressing socio-economic needs.

Closing remarks

Following all speakers, Te Arawhiti summarised some of the key messages from the hui:

- There are some hard issues the Crown needs to discuss;
- Further discussions on how urban Ngāpuhi are represented need to be had;
- The Crown needs to give more notice for hui; and
- Crown officials are willing to come back and meet with ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi if requested.

Copies of the presentation, funding application form and guidance for mandate proposals were available for all attendees to take away.

The hui closed at approximately 7.45pm.