



Office of Hon Christopher Finlayson

Attorney-General

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

20 OCT 2009

Tania Hopmans
Deputy Chairperson
Maungaharuru-Tangitu Incorporated
PO Box 3376
Hawke's Bay Mail Centre
NAPIER 4142

Tēnā koe

We write to confirm the Crown's recognition of the mandate of Maungaharuru-Tangitu Incorporated (**MTI**) to negotiate a settlement of all the historical Treaty claims (except Wai 55 and 692) of Ngāi Tātara, Ngāti Kurumokihi, Marangatuhetaua (Ngāti Tū) and Ngāti Te Ruruku ki Tangoio (**the Hapū**) with the Crown.

The deed of mandate you have submitted shows a very high level of support for MTI from the Hapū. We have concluded that MTI is an appropriate body to represent the Hapū in settlement negotiations with the Crown. In addition, the mandate you have obtained allows for joint negotiations with Ngāti Hineuru Iwi Incorporated to take place. We are aware that Mana Ahuriri Incorporated are seeking a mandate to represent Marangatuhetaua (Ngāti Tū) and Ngāti Te Ruruku ki Tangoio in negotiations with the Crown for the settlement of Wai 55 and 692.

There is one outstanding matter that will need to be addressed in relation to your mandate and certain hapū that have been identified in your discussions with Ngāti Pahauwera. The status of these hapū and the question of who represents their interests in negotiations was highlighted during the Crown's negotiations with the Ngāti Pahauwera Development Trust. This issue was also highlighted during your mandate process.

The Crown's view is that these hapū interests need to be represented in negotiations by MTI, the Ngāti Pahauwera Development Trust, or both. We note that the MTI deed of mandate states that "the definition of the Claimant Group... may be amended prior to reaching an agreement in principle" thereby allowing for MTI to include additional hapū if necessary. Similarly, the Ngāti Pahauwera agreement in principle states that "the categories, placement and final composition of hapū... may be subject to further change as it remains subject to the Trustees' best endeavours to reach agreement with other Tribal groups with interests in the Area of Interest between this Agreement in Principle and the Deed of Settlement..."

We are aware that MTI and the Ngāti Pahauwera Development Trust have begun engaging in a process to address these concerns. As you will be aware, the Crown and Ngāti Pahauwera are currently aiming to initial a deed of settlement in December 2009.

We urge you to continue these discussions with a view to resolving these issues before the end of the year. It is important that both parties use their best endeavours to resolve these issues before MTI and the Crown enter into an agreement in principle or the Ngāti Pahauwera deed of settlement is initialled.

We have therefore instructed our officials to progress facilitated meetings with urgency, to update us as progress is made and report back in December 2009. We will also write to Ngāti Pahauwera to state this.

In conclusion, we are pleased to recognise the mandate of MTI to represent the Hapū in negotiations for the settlement of their historical Treaty claims (except Wai 55 and 692). Congratulations on attaining this milestone in your path to reaching settlement with the Crown. We look forward to working with you.

Nā māua noa,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Christopher Finlayson' and the signature on the right is 'Georgina te Heuheu'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon Christopher Finlayson
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Georgina te Heuheu
Associate Minister of Māori Affairs