



Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Minita Nōna te Mana Whakarite Take e pā ana ki Te Tiriti o Waitangi

19 NOV 2003

Alfred Preece
Chairman
Hokotehi Moriori Trust
PO Box 188
CHATHAM ISLANDS

Dear Mr Preece

Firstly, we would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Hokotehi Moriori Trust and its supporters to advance the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Moriori. Thank you for the Deed of Mandate you submitted to the Crown in July 2003. As you know, officials have publicised the Deed and sought submissions from Moriori regarding the Trust's intention to represent Moriori in Treaty of Waitangi negotiations.

Having considered the Trust's mandate, we have come to the conclusion that the Trust has considerable support from the claimant community and is an appropriate structure to represent all of Moriori in the negotiation of Moriori's historical Treaty claims. We are therefore pleased to recognise the mandate of the Trust to represent the Moriori people in direct negotiations with the Crown for the settlement of their historical Treaty claims, which are all claims relating to Crown acts or omissions prior to 21 September 1992. This recognition is subject to the Trust continuing to maintain the support of the Moriori people.

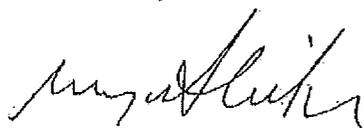
We recognise the strong support you have mustered, particularly significant given the numbers and wide dispersal of Moriori. Maintaining effective and open communication processes will assist you throughout negotiations, ensuring broad participation in elections and other decision points for the wider claimant community.

We note that you plan to hold Trustee elections in February 2004. As we are sure you will agree, elections provide an important mechanism of accountability for the mandated body. This will be the first opportunity for Moriori to decide who, as individuals, will represent them on the Trust. Until this has happened, we believe that it would be inappropriate to begin negotiations. Meanwhile, officials will be contacting you shortly to discuss the early stages of the settlement process with you, and assist you with any issues you may have in preparing for Trustee elections. They will also be able to advise you on ways to ensure that you maintain the support of your people throughout negotiations.

The negotiation and signing of Terms of Negotiation, an agreement between the Crown and Moriori on how negotiations will be conducted, is the next milestone to be achieved in the settlement process, after which formal negotiations can begin. This will be the first task of

the negotiators appointed by the Trust after elections. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with Moriori in the first half of next year.

Yours sincerely



Hon Margaret Wilson
Minister in Charge of
Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



Hon Parekura Horomia
Minister of Māori Affairs