

Record of Meeting

Hui: Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi initial information hui, Barge Showgrounds Events Centre, Whangarei

Date: Thursday 16 January 2020

Present: Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi

Opening remarks

The hui opened at approximately 5.30pm with karakia. The facilitator advised the purpose of the hui was to make good on Minister Little's commitment from the December 2019 hui in Waitangi when he said officials would begin conversations with ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi in January 2020 to discuss next steps for the development of new mandate proposals.

Te Arawhiti provided attendees with copies of a presentation. The presentation was not covered in full as attendees were asked what they wanted to get out of the hui and discussions were centred around attendee questions and comments (as detailed below).

Matters raised by nga hapū o Ngāpuhi

He Wakaputanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Waitangi Tribunal inquiries

1. Speakers stated He Wakaputanga needs to be properly recognised by the Crown and must be central to everything.
2. Speakers asked what the Crown's position is on whether ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi would be ceding sovereignty if they signed a deed of settlement. Speakers stated they would take issue with signing a deed of settlement that names the Crown as sovereign or any other document that would undermine the autonomy of ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi.
3. Speakers queried when the Waitangi Tribunal's Stage 2 report will be available and requested the Crown provide resourcing for this to happen as soon as possible.

Hapū rangatiratanga

4. Speakers stressed the importance of hapū rangatiratanga.
5. One speaker noted that while Maranga Mai needed some tweaking it gave ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi their own autonomy.

Discontinued recognition of the TIMA mandate and views on new proposal

6. One speaker shared their view that the Crown's discontinued recognition of the TIMA mandate meant that the TIMA mandate was still there.
7. Some speakers stated the new proposal feels the same as the Tūhono process.

8. Speakers asked whether the Crown is open to hearing other proposals. Te Arawhiti noted that when Ministers met with ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi in December 2019 at Waitangi they said nothing is set in stone. Accordingly, there is an opportunity for ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi to develop and present their own proposals.
9. Speakers sought more clarity around the new proposal. Te Arawhiti advised ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi have an opportunity to develop bespoke mandate proposals to enable hapū to move into negotiations if they wish. Te Arawhiti advised that while Ministers have called for regional hapū grouping mandate proposals by March 2020 and collective mandate proposals by May 2020, these timeframes are not set in stone and the Crown will be flexible. Te Arawhiti clarified that speakers were not expected to present mandate proposals at the hui.
10. Speakers stated some surrounding mandated groups and agreements in principle (AIPs) are undermining ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi mana and hapū rangatiratanga. Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi are trying to manage those issues and have limited capacity to develop mandate proposals at this time.
11. The Crown was told it needed to engage with the correct hapū representatives.
12. Speakers expressed distrust of the Treaty settlement process and considered settlements should not be full and final.
13. Speakers queried where Te Parawhau fits and stressed Te Parawhau is a distinct tribe. Some speakers advised Te Parawhau do not want financial redress they want their land returned.

Collective mandate and regional hapū groupings mandate proposals

14. Whangarei hapū want to be able to negotiate their financial and commercial redress as well cultural redress.
15. Speakers said there needs to be a fair distribution of wealth across ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi.
16. One speaker highlighted the importance of Porotī Springs and other potential commercial opportunities. There was a strong view that hapū should be able to negotiate what is in their own backyard and Porotī Springs needs to be transferred to hapū.

Funding

17. Speakers stressed the Crown needs to provide ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi with funding to allow them to come together and be stronger. Te Arawhiti advised funding is available for ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi to hui and to assist with the development of mandate proposals.

Other feedback

18. Speakers advised the Crown needs to do some relationship building with Whangarei hapū followed by wider relationship building with ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi.
19. Speakers stated ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi cannot be “a political football” or “the golden goose” for the general election.

20. Speakers raised concerns about Ngātiwai and Ngāti Whātua claiming Te Parawhau assets, and Crown agencies offering these groups memorandums of understanding (MOUs) without engaging with Whangarei hapū.
21. One speaker noted the Provincial Growth Fund activity is exhausting Whangarei hapū and asked for it to stop.
22. Speakers conveyed New Zealand history including the New Zealand land wars needs to be taught in schools so younger generations can have a better understanding of historical events and what is being fought for.
23. One speaker raised awareness about making hui more accessible for people with disabilities and requested the Crown ensure future hui meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Closing remarks

Following all speakers, key messages heard by the Crown were summarised as follows:

- Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi do not trust the Crown and there is a need for relationship building;
- Further discussions around He Wakaputanga and sovereignty need to be had and He Wakaputanga me Te Tiriti must be central to everything;
- The Waitangi Tribunal's Stage 2 report must be completed as soon as possible and the Crown should resource this;
- Whangarei hapū are unique and hapū autonomy needs to be respected;
- Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi need to be properly resourced in order to engage;
- Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi do not want to be used as a political football; and
- The Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua AIP, Ngātiwai mandate and ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi mandate are a noose around the neck of Whangarei hapū. Other Crown agencies need to stop entering into MOUs with tribal organisations without engaging with Whangarei hapū. The Provincial Growth Fund activity is exhausting Whangarei hapū. Whangarei hapū asked for all of this to stop.

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 8.30pm.