

4 June 2026

REF: OIA 88520

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Request for Official Information: Whanganui Land Settlement ratification (Te Arawhiti)

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 May 2026 requesting the information indicated in the table below under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

A response to your request is set out below.

1.	<i>Advice to the Minister for Treaty Negotiations</i>	Please refer to document #47 of the attached release.
2.	<i>Red Book compliance</i>	The ratification strategy was assessed as compliant with the Red Book. Refer to documents #43A and #47 of the attached.
3.	<i>NTT register total</i>	<i>Refused under s18(g)(i)</i> – this information is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority. Please refer to Ngā Tangata Tiaki for this information.
4.	<i>WLSNT voter roll – basic information</i>	<i>Refused under s18(g)(i)</i> – the information is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority. Please refer to Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust for this information.

5.	<i>WLSNT voter roll – source breakdown</i>	<i>Refused under s18(g)(i)</i> – the information is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority. Please refer to Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust for this information.
6.	<i>WLSNT voter roll – written criteria</i>	<i>Refused under s18(g)(i)</i> – the information is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority. Please refer to Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust for this information.
7.	<i>Crown assessment of sufficient reach</i>	<i>Refused under s18(e)</i> – the information does not exist, or cannot be found.
8.	<i>NTT adult population discrepancy</i>	<i>Refused under s18(g)(i)</i> – the information is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority. However, we consider that the members of Ngā Tangata Tiaki are unlikely to be the same as the members of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui as they have different definitions for 'member' of each group (noting the River settlement included other Whanganui groups). Refer clauses 12.7 of Whanganui-River-Deed-of-Settlement-Ruruku-Whakatupua-Te-Mana-o-Te-Iwi-o-Whanganui-5-Aug-2014.pdf and 11.10 of Nga-Hapu-o-Te-Iwi-o-Whanganui-Deed-of-Settlement-Version-2971762087.1.pdf.
9.	<i>Legal advice sought by the Crown regarding the validity or sufficiency of the WLSNT voter roll</i>	<i>Refused under s18(e)</i> – the information does not exist, or cannot be found.
10.	<i>Consideration of pausing the process</i>	<i>Refused under s18(e)</i> – the information does not exist, or cannot be found.
11.	<i>Date of mandate approval</i>	<i>Refused under s18(d)</i> – the information is publicly available. Refer Te Tari Whakatau - Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui – Crown recognition of mandate.

12.	<i>Complaints from whānau</i>	Please refer to documents numbered 1 – 46 and 48 – 49 as attached.
13.	<i>The Tupoho loan</i>	<i>Refused under s18(g)(i)</i> – the information is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority. Please refer to Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust for this information
13A.	<i>Crown awareness of Tupoho governance concerns</i>	<i>Refused under s18(e)</i> – the information does not exist, or cannot be found.
14.	<i>Observer reports or notes from ratification hui that were provided to Te Arawhiti by Te Puni Kōkiri.</i>	<i>Under s14</i> , this request has been transferred to Te Puni Kōkiri for response.
15.	<i>Confirmation in writing whether Te Arawhiti [Te Tari Whakatau] conducted any of the following:</i>	
	<i>Any independent verification of the voting roll before accepting the ratification result</i>	<i>Refused under s18(e)</i> – the information does not exist, or cannot be found.
	<i>Any analysis of whether the 25% turnout met Red Book standards for a valid mandate</i>	Refer to requests 1 and 2 above.
	<i>Any investigation into complaints about the ratification process</i>	<i>Refused under s18(e)</i> – the information does not exist, or cannot be found.
	<i>Any assessment of whether governance concerns regarding Tupoho Trust Group entities affected the suitability of the proposed Interim Trustees</i>	<i>Refused under s18(e)</i> – the information does not exist, or cannot be found.

I am satisfied that there are no other public interests' considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA available.

When Te Tari Whakatau acknowledged receipt of your OIA request, we advised we may proactively release your OIA response on our website.

After considering our response to your request, we can advise that it will be published no earlier than 20 working days from the date of this letter at www.whakatau.govt.nz. Your personal and other identifying information will be removed.

If you have any concerns about the information in this response being published on our website, please contact us by emailing officialcorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz by 5.00pm on 18 June.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or phone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Fern Hyett
Director

Table of documents provided under the Official Information Act 1982

Document number	Date	Document description	Extent of information provided	Reason for withholding/refusing (refer to notes below table)	Page
1	23 April 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Opposition to PSGE	Released in full		1
1A		Attachment – Notice to Opposition	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	2
1B		Attachment – Concerns regarding PSGE	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	5
2	7 May 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – request for copy of the draft Deed of Settlement	Released in full		10
3	7 May 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification voting process	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	13
4	12 May 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Request for Legal cost contribution	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	15
5	16 May 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Request for financial reports	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	18
6	11 June 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification process	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	22
7	7 July 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Clarification on the Settlor	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	25

Document number	Date	Document description	Extent of information provided	Reason for withholding/refusing (refer to notes below table)	Page
8	21 October 2025	Email from Te Tari Whakatau – Response to request for legal cost contribution		Out of scope - remove	27
9	30 October 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Concern regarding hui	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	30
9A		Attachment – Disclosure statement	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	31
9B		Attachment – letter to Te Tari Whakatau	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	32
10	3 November 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Concerns regarding misinformation	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	34
11	18 November 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Loss of confidence	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	36
12	22 November 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Loss of confidence	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a) Out of scope	40
12A		Attachment – screenshot of registered vs recorded members information	Released in full		45
13	25 November 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Contradictory information	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	46
14	25 November 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Contradictory information	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	50

Document number	Date	Document description	Extent of information provided	Reason for withholding/refusing (refer to notes below table)	Page
15	25 November 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Contradictory information	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	54
16	26 November 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Loss of confidence	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	59
17	3 December 2025	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Whanganui Hapū petition	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a) Out of scope	63
17A		Attachment – PSGE Q & A	Released in full		67
18	3 December 2025	Email cc Te Tari Whakatau – various correspondence	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	116
19	5 December 2025	Email cc Te Tari Whakatau – various correspondence	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	123
20	5 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Voting process	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	131
21	5 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Contradictory information	Withheld in part	Out of scope S 9(2)(a)	134
22	5 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Voting process and threshold	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	138
23	9 February 2026	Email from Te Tari Whakatau – Voting process and threshold	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	139

Document number	Date	Document description	Extent of information provided	Reason for withholding/refusing (refer to notes below table)	Page
24	9 February 2026	Email from Te Tari Whakatau – Voting process and threshold	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	143
25	20 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Blocked access to Pūtiki	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a) Out of scope	145
26	23 February 2026	Email cc Te Tari Whakatau – WDC LGOIMA	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	146
27	23 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification hui concerns	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	150
28	24 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Feedback from ratification hui	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	157
29	24 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Feedback from ratification hui	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	164
30	24 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification process concern	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	171
30A		Attachment – Social media screenshot	Withheld in full	S 9(2)(a)	173
31	24 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification process concern	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	174
32	25 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification process concern	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	177
33	25 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification process concern	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	181

Document number	Date	Document description	Extent of information provided	Reason for withholding/refusing (refer to notes below table)	Page
34	25 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Registration concerns	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	187
35	25 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification process concern	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	190
36	25 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification process concern	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a) Out of scope	197
37	26 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Ratification process concern	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	208
38	26 February 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Registration issues	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	209
39	2 March 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – Process clarification	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	213
40	5 March 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – online form issues	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	215
40A		Attachment – screenshot of issue	Withheld in full	S 9(2)(a)	
40B		Attachment – screenshot of issue	Withheld in full	S 9(2)(a)	
40C		Attachment – screenshot of issue	Withheld in full	S 9(2)(a)	
40D		Attachment – screenshot of issue	Withheld in full	S 9(2)(a)	
41	9 March 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – registration for issues	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	221

Document number	Date	Document description	Extent of information provided	Reason for withholding/refusing (refer to notes below table)	Page
42	9 March 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – registration for issues	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	223
43	19 March 2026	Email from Te Tari Whakatau – OIA request response	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	226
43A		Attachment – OIA request response	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	228
44	19 March 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – response to OIA release	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	246
45	30 March 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – ratification query	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	249
46	24 April 2026	Email to Te Tari Whakatau – ratification data request	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	251
46A		Attachment – media release	Released in full		254
47	29 April 2026	Report – ratification results (signed)	Released in full		256
48	1 May 2026	Email cc Te Tari Whakatau – formal request for voting data	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	272
49	5 May 2026	Email cc Te Tari Whakatau – formal request for voting data	Withheld in part	S 9(2)(a)	274

Reasons for withholding under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982ⁱ

s 9(2)(a) – protect the privacy of natural persons, including the deceased.

s 9(2)(b) – protect information that would:

- (i) – disclose a trade secret;
- (ii) – unreasonably prejudice commercial position of subject.

s 9(2)(ba) – protect information where making it available would:

- (i) – prejudice the supply of similar information; or
- (ii) – likely otherwise damage the public interest.

s 9(2)(c) – prejudice to measures protecting health or safety of the public.

s 9(2)(d) – prejudice to substantial economic interests of New Zealand.

s 9(2)(e) – prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public.

s 9(2)(f) – maintain the constitutional conventions which protect:

- (i) – communications by or with the Sovereign or their representative; or
- (ii) – collective and individual ministerial responsibility; or
- (iii) – the political neutrality of officials; or
- (iv) – the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and Crown officials.

s 9(2)(g) – maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through:

- (i) – the free and frank expression of opinions;
- (ii) – the protection from improper pressure or harassment.

s 9(2)(h) – maintain legal professional privilege.

s 9(2)(i) – enable the Crown holding the information to carry out commercial activities.

s 9(2)(j) – negotiations sensitive.

s 9(2)(k) – prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or advantage.

Reasons for refusing information under section 18 of the Official Information Act 1982ⁱ

s 18(a) – good reasons by virtue of s 6, 7 or 9 of the Act:

s 18(b) – the department or Minister or organisation neither confirms nor denies the existence or non-existence of the information:

s 18(c) – making the information available would –

- (i) – be contrary to a specified enactment; or
- (ii) – constitute contempt of court or the House of Representatives:

s 18(d) – the information is, or will soon be, publicly available:

s 18(da) – the request is made by a defendant or person acting on behalf of a defendant and is –

- (i) – information that could be sought under the Criminal Disclosures Act 2008; or
- (ii) – information that could be sought under that Act and that has been disclosed or withheld under that Act:

s 18(e) – the information requested does not exist, or cannot be found:

s 18(f) – the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research:

s 18(g) – the information is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that it is:

- (i) – held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority; or
- (ii) – connected more closely with the functions of another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation or local authority:

s 18(h) – the request is frivolous or vexatious or the information requested is trivial.

ⁱ Please see the Official Information Act 1982 for full version of sections 9 and 18 of the Act.

From: [Me](#)
To: [WLSNT Comms](#)
Cc: contactus@tearawhiti.govt.nz
Subject: Notice of Opposition and Concerns
Date: Wednesday, 23 April 2025 9:13:53 am
Attachments: [Notice to Oppose Takapau Whariki Trust PSGE 23.4.25.pdf](#)
[Concerns PSGE.pdf](#)

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Tena koutou,

We are writing to formally express our concerns regarding the current PSGE arrangements.

Please find attached our notice of opposition, which outlines the key issues and whakaaro held by our whanau.

We believe it is vital that any governance structure truly reflects the will of our people, honours tikanga, and upholds the principles of collective accountability. Irrespective of the outcome, this is the standing we would like recorded on your files.

We welcome the opportunity to kōrero further at your convenience.

Ngā mihi nui

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

Notice – Opposition to the Ratification of the Whanganui Post-Settlement Governance Entity – Takapau Whariki Trust (PSGE)

23 April 2025

Tēnā koutou,

This is a formal Notice on behalf of Rakato hapu, concerning the Crown's PSGE process for the Whanganui Land Settlement.

We oppose the current or proposed ratification of the Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) structure associated with this settlement process. Our grounds are based on both legal precedent and tikanga Māori, and we submit that the PSGE as it stands:

- Not developed with free, prior, and informed consent of hapū;
- Does not reflect tikanga-based authority structures or collective hapū rangatiratanga;
- Risks undermining our mana motuhake by reducing our identity and decision-making to an individualised, corporate model.

1. Breach of Treaty Principles

The proposed PSGE structure breaches the following Treaty principles:

- **Tino Rangatiratanga** (Article 2 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi): Guarantee hapū their right to self-determination over their whenua, taonga, and tikanga. The PSGE diminishes this by centralising authority in a Crown-aligned entity.
- **Partnership**: Requires active engagement and good faith. Hapū have been excluded from genuine co-design processes.
- **Active Protection**: The Crown is required to actively uphold and protect Māori customs, structures, and interests, including tikanga-based governance.

2. Exclusionary Nature of the Registration Model

A critical concern is the exclusive reliance on registration with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui as the primary basis for participation in PSGE decisions.

Only individuals registered with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki are counted, consulted, or considered in governance and ratification processes.

- This excludes the majority of hapū and whānau who have chosen not to register for reasons rooted in principle, distrust, or allegiance to traditional structures.
- The number of unregistered hapū members and collectives substantially outweighs those currently on the register — yet they are effectively rendered invisible under this model.
- This practice distorts representation, marginalises tikanga-based voices, and falsely legitimises PSGE processes as inclusive.

This exclusionary design is incompatible with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Crown's duties under public law, and recent Waitangi Tribunal findings.

3. Relevant Tribunal Findings

- **Wai 2417 (He Whakaputanga me te Tiriti Report):** Affirmed that hapū are the principal political and cultural units in Māori society and must be the primary voice in governance decisions.
- **Wai 898 (Te Paparahi o te Raki Report):** Confirmed that Māori did not cede sovereignty; the Crown cannot impose unilateral governance over Māori entities.
- **Wai 2200 (Te Rohe Pōtae Report):** Found that the Crown breached its obligations by failing to protect and include hapū in the governance of their own settlement frameworks.

4. Relevant Case Law

- **Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust v Attorney-General [2018] NZSC 84:** Affirmed that tikanga Māori forms part of the common law of Aotearoa and must be considered in legal decision-making.
- **Trans-Tasman Resources Ltd v Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board [2021] NZCA 276:** Upheld the central role of tikanga in decision-making impacting Māori rights and taonga.
- **Ellis v R [2022] NZSC 114:** Reinforced that tikanga must be woven into legal analysis and process, not marginalised or overlooked.

5. Contradiction of Te Awa Tupua Act (2017)

The Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017 recognises the Whanganui River as a living entity with its governance structure grounded in tikanga and hapū relationships. Any PSGE must honour this framework, not displace it.

6. Governance by Tikanga vs. Corporate PSGE Model

- Tikanga governance upholds whakapapa-based decision-making, intergenerational stewardship, and mana whakahaere.
- PSGEs prioritise legal compliance and corporate accountability, often to the Crown — not to hapū.
- The reliance on individualised registration severs collective cultural identity and undermines traditional forms of consent and representation.

We Request

1. That Te Arawhiti withhold recognition of any PSGE developed without demonstrable hapū consensus and co-design.
2. That an independent, tikanga-consistent facilitation process be initiated between hapū and the Crown to address grievances and design an appropriate governance model.
3. That no settlement decisions proceed until there is clear, documented, and mana-enhancing hapū participation in all stages.

We submit this in the spirit of restoration and protection of our rights under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We seek enduring solutions grounded in whakapapa, tikanga, and hapū authority—not temporary entities born of state convenience.

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

23 April 2025

ISSUES WITH HAPU/IWI OBTAINING SETTLEMENT

Submission: Concerns Regarding the Establishment of a Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE)

Tēnā koutou katoa,

This submission is made with deep respect for our tūpuna, our people, and our collective future. It is not made to divide, but to protect the integrity of our whakapapa, tikanga, and mana motuhake.

We, as concerned whānau and hapū members, raise urgent concerns about the push to establish a Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) while serious underlying issues remain unresolved. These issues are not minor—they directly impact the fairness, legitimacy, and long-term strength of any settlement process.

Summary of Underlying Issues Within Hapū Trust Management

Across several hapū within the Whanganui region, there are ongoing and substantial concerns regarding the governance and management of hapū trusts. These concerns are not isolated—they reflect a widespread feeling among whānau that the current structures do not uphold the values of transparency, accountability, and collective responsibility expected under tikanga Māori.

Key Issues Identified Across Hapū Trusts:

1. Lack of Transparency in Decision-Making

- Many whānau feel excluded from key decisions made by their hapū trusts.
- Minutes, financial reports, and strategic plans are often not shared or made accessible to members.
- This lack of visibility leads to mistrust and suspicion of how funds and resources are being managed.

2. Concerns Over Trustee Selection

- There is growing discontent around how trustees are nominated and appointed.
- Processes are often unclear, not well communicated, or are perceived as being controlled by a small group.
- In some cases, trustees have been selected without proper consultation with hapū members, creating a sense of disenfranchisement.

3. Perceived Conflicts of Interest

- Trustees may hold multiple roles across various entities, raising concerns around conflicts of interest.
- There are instances where decisions appear to benefit trustees or their whānau, undermining trust in the system.
- Without clear checks and balances, these perceptions are difficult to resolve.

4. Limited Accountability

- Some hapū trusts are not holding regular AGMs or reporting back to the people in a meaningful way.
- Mechanisms for holding trustees accountable—such as removal processes or independent oversight—are either weak or nonexistent.
- Whānau report feeling powerless to challenge poor governance or mismanagement.

5. Lack of Skills and Capacity

- While many trustees have good intentions, there are concerns about the lack of experience or training in financial management, governance, and planning.
- This has led to poor outcomes or missed opportunities for hapū development and investment.

6. Disconnection from the People

- Trustees are often seen as disconnected from everyday whānau realities.
- Communication is minimal, engagement is low, and many whānau feel their voices are ignored.

Conclusion

These issues highlight a broader concern about the legitimacy and effectiveness of current hapū governance structures. When trustees are not selected through open and inclusive processes—and when they are not accountable to the people they represent—hapū cannot move forward in unity or confidence.

If these issues are not addressed before advancing settlement processes or forming new governance entities, the same patterns will simply carry over into the post-settlement environment, repeating the cycle of exclusion and mistrust.

For the settlement process to be truly successful and for any governance structure to be legitimate, these foundational issues at the hapū level must be resolved, and the voices of the people must be restored to the heart of all decision-making.

Key Issues That Must Be Addressed Before Voting on a PSGE

1. Lack of Transparency

- Many whānau and hapū do not have clear, consistent access to information about the settlement process.
- Key decisions are often made without full disclosure of how or why they were reached.
- When transparency is missing, trust breaks down.

2. Poor Communication

- There has been little meaningful engagement with hapū and kaumātua at the grassroots level.
- Some whānau are not aware of what's happening, who is representing them, or what is being agreed to on their behalf.
- This leads to confusion, frustration, and disengagement.

3. Concerns About Integrity

- There are serious concerns about accountability—how decisions are made, who benefits, and whether the process is truly in service of all our people.
- Without integrity, the process loses its moral and cultural foundation.

4. Lack of Impartiality

- In many cases, certain individuals or groups appear to be favoured, while others are ignored or excluded.
- Hapū with legitimate concerns or different views are sometimes sidelined.
- This imbalance creates division and undermines unity.

5. No Conflict Resolution Capability

- Internal disputes between hapū, and between hapū and mandated entities, are not being resolved in a fair or tikanga-based way.
- There is a lack of skilled facilitation to address these issues respectfully and constructively.
- Without conflict resolution, we are building on unstable ground.

Why a PSGE Is NOT Tikanga, and NOT Hapū Empowerment

- A PSGE is a Crown-created legal structure, not a tikanga-based solution grounded in whakapapa and hapū rangatiratanga.
 - It places power in the hands of a few individuals or trustees, often without clear accountability to hapū.
 - The process to establish a PSGE often *overrides* hapū mana motuhake and tikanga-based decision-making.
 - Tikanga is about relationships, consensus, and whakapapa—not corporate governance or compliance with Crown frameworks.
-

Our Position

We strongly urge that no vote or decision on a PSGE be held until the following have occurred:

- Transparent and inclusive communication with all hapū and whānau.
- Independent review of how integrity, impartiality, and accountability are being upheld.

- A tikanga-based process for resolving conflict and rebuilding trust.
- A clear explanation of the PSGE structure and alternatives—so whānau can make an informed decision, not a pressured one.

Key Considerations for a Fair and Just Settlement

While the settlement process continues, it is crucial that the settlement quantum remains intact and is protected during this transitional period. Hapū must be given real, practical control over their own futures, and the PSGE must be built on strong values of transparency, equity, and accountability.

We propose the following principles be agreed upon before any PSGE is finalised or voted on:

1. Hapū Choice Over Access to Settlement Funds

- Hapū should have options available to access their fair share of the settlement quantum directly, should they choose.
- This recognises mana motuhake and allows hapū to govern according to their own values and priorities.

2. Guaranteed Hapū Income from PSGE Operations

- Hapū must receive a fixed percentage of all income generated by the PSGE and its subsidiaries.
- This ensures hapū benefit from long-term commercial activity, not just one-off payments.

3. Hapū Self-Determination Over Spending

- Hapū will determine their own priorities and make independent decisions on how their funds are invested or spent, in line with their tikanga and aspirations.

3.1 Funds Held in Trust if Hapū Are Not Yet Ready

- If any hapū are not yet ready to manage funds, their share should be protected in a high-interest-earning account until they are prepared to receive and administer them.

4. Independent Evaluation of PSGE Services

- The PSGE and its subsidiaries must commit a portion of their budget to independent evaluations of the services and support they provide.
- This creates accountability and ensures whānau and hapū voices are reflected in performance reviews.

5. Strong Financial Planning and Accountability Standards

- The PSGE must implement high standards of financial planning, transparent reporting, and analysis that meet the needs of hapū.
- Financial processes should be accessible and easy to understand for whānau.

5.1 Limits on Executive Pay and Consultant Fees

- Wages and consultant fees must be capped as a percentage of income, to prevent overspending and ensure most resources go back to the people.

Final Thoughts

We are not opposing progress. We are upholding our tikanga and the right of hapū to determine our future *on our terms*, not the Crown's. We cannot rush to establish a governance entity while our own house is still unsettled.

A strong settlement begins with strong relationships. Let us take the time to put things right, together.

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

2

From: [Illana, Caryl](#)
To: [Rupuha Wereta](#)
Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
Bcc: [Mitchell, James](#); [Wikaira, Rachel](#); [Smits, Victoria](#); [Claudia, Helena](#); [Rick Barker](#)
Subject: RE: Nga Hapu o Whanganui Settlement Deed Request
Date: Wednesday, 7 May 2025 4:59:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Kia ora John,

Thank you for your email regarding the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement.

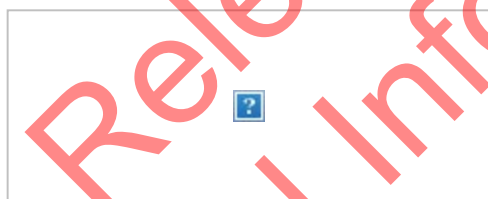
We are unable to release the draft Deed of Settlement for Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui at this stage of negotiations. This document is currently confidential between the Crown and Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust as matters of detail remain to be finalised.

However, the initialled deed and a summary of its contents will be released on our website and by Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust following the initialling of the deed of settlement, as part of the ratification process.

As for your question on voting, people who do not wish to register with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust will be able to vote on the settlement and the post-settlement governance entity, provided they whakapapa to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui, are 18 years or older, and complete any other necessary steps such as whakapapa verification. This process will be made clear during ratification.

I hope this email has provided you with useful information for your members. I encourage you to continue engaging with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust about the settlement process.

Ngā mihi,
Caryl



Caryl Illana (pronounced KAH-rill ill-YEAH-nuh)
KAITĀTARI · ANALYST

DDI: 04 918 8780

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

My employer supports flexible working. If I've sent this email outside standard business hours, please know that I do not expect a reply from you outside of your own working hours.

Āta whaka rohia a Papatūānuku i mua i tō tānga i tēnei īmēra Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Rupuha Wereta <rupuhawereta.inc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:02 PM
To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Nga Hapu o Whanganui Settlement Deed Request

Kia ora Caryl,

We are the appointed managers of whenua interests held within the rohe of Whanganui, for whanau and hapu members registered to Rupuha Wereta Maori Incorporation, bound by Maori Incorporations Constitution Regulations Act 1994/95 and Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993.

We have previously requested the Draft Whanganui Deed of Settlement contract kanohi ki kanohi at hapu hui held at Nga Tangata Tiaki by the WLSNT Trustees in April 2025 and again via email however, we have only received the WLSNT Hapu Update and Deeds to the proposed PGSE Trusts

To be clear, we are humbly requesting a copy of the Draft Whanganui Deed of Settlement between the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust and the Crown ahead of the Agreement in Principle and Ratification phase, as we cannot truly make a fully informed decision about what we are being asked to vote on without the Deed of Settlement

We would also like to know whether or not our registered Incorporation members, (who do not want to register with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust) have the ability to vote on the proposed infrastructure and entities that will highly likely have an adverse effect on their whakapapa, whenua interests and taonga tuku iho

As owners and kaitiaki of vested land contained within the boundaries of Whanganui, we look forward to reading the draft version that has been so tirelessly worked on and will endeavour to give our feedback at the earliest convenience to get ahead of the legislative constraints as soon as you provide the above requested Whanganui Deed of Settlement.

Nga manaakitanga

John Green
Chairman
Rupuha Wereta Maori (Inc)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rupuha Wereta** <rupuhawereta.nc@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 3 May 2025 at 17:30
Subject: Nga Hapu o Whanganui Settlement Deed Request
To: <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>

Kia ora,

Our Maori Incorporation is responsible for the management of shares in maori land blocks within the Aotea Waka District.

In order to fully inform our registered uri regarding the update of their whanau and hapu beneficial interests within the Whanganui and Crown Settlement, we must have full disclosure and access to all pertaining documents.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trustees for the update and copy of the PGSE Trust and subsidiary Trust Deeds however, we would like to cross-reference any recent and final changes made against the attached Whanganui Land Settlement Crown Offer issued 11th October 2019 with the Final Deed of Settlement

Therefore, on behalf of our registered uri o nga hapu o Whanganui, we request full disclosure and a copy of the final Whanganui Land Deed of Settlement as soon as possible before initial signing and ratification phase.

Look forward to hearing from you soon

Nga mihi

John Green
Chairman
Rupuha Wereta Maori (Inc)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

3

From: Me
To: Illana, Caryl
Subject: Re: Ratification and Voting Process - PSGE Whanganui
Date: Wednesday, 7 May 2025 5:42:44 pm

Tena koe Caryl,

I really appreciate your efficiency and speedy responses with information.

Thank you for confirming for our hapu. We were misinformed of the voting process relating to whakapapa which is a breach in the participation and voting process.

I will let the hapu know and see how they want to approach. At the moment we are trying to get information so we can make informed decisions. It appears the WLST trustees are giving conflicting information to the crown and the Iwi.

Nga mihi

s9(2)(a)

On Wed, 7 May 2025, 16:52 Illana, Caryl, <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a),

Thank you for your email, and for expressing your concerns with the voting process. I appreciate your bringing this to our attention.

You are correct that people are not required to register with the mandated entity in order to vote. All those who whakapapa to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui, are 18 years or older, and complete any other necessary steps such as whakapapa verification will be able to vote on the settlement and the post-settlement governance entity. This process will be made clear during ratification.

The Crown does not have a role in communications with hapū, as this is a responsibility of the mandated entity, Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust. We can however ask Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust to be more clear in their communications.

Ngā mihi,

Caryl

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 2:29 PM

To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>

Subject: Ratification and Voting Process - PSGE Whanganui

Kia Ora Caryl,

I just got your message, as earlier noted to your other email address caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz I prefer correspondence in writing.

I am reaching out to formally document key aspects of the voting process relevant to my whanau, who are hapu in the region. I attended the hui on the 30th, which a presentation was provided. There was a summary of the settlement deed and only the chair of each marae was given a copy and for us to meet to go through it. There are terms we would like added to the PSGE entity deed and not all of us are able to site the settlement deed due to living abroad.

I want to emphasize that there is no legislative authority indicating that iwi are prohibited from voting solely based on their registration status. Additionally, the red book available on the Te Arawhiti website does not suggest any restriction on our right to vote. We were informed by the lead negotiator that we must be registered to vote.

I believe this clarification is essential for all hapu, and I appreciate your support in disseminating this information.

Na s9(2) a

From: [Illana, Caryl](#)
To: ["Alaina Teki-Clark"](#)
Cc: [Mitchell, James](#)
Subject: RE: Response to Request for Legal Cost Contribution
Date: Monday, 12 May 2025 2:32:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Tēnā koe Alaina,

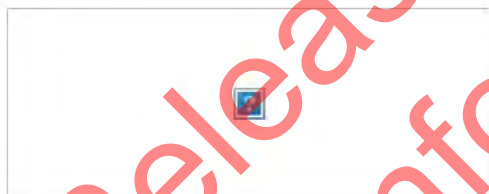
Thank you for your email and your previous CCs on your correspondence with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (the **Trust**). I have discussed your request with my manager, James Mitchell, CCed.

The Crown has provided funding to the Trust as a contribution towards their costs incurred in negotiating a Treaty of Waitangi settlement.

As noted by Wackrow Panoho and Associates, the post-settlement governance entity trust deed and other associated deeds are currently in draft form, with points of detail still under discussion between the Trust and the Crown. Once both parties are happy with the documents, they will be circulated to the iwi community including yourselves for discussion and for the community as part of the ratification process. Given that the documents are still in development, we do not consider this is an appropriate time to consider a request for funding for a separate legal review.

We encourage you to continue to engage with the Trust. Should any issues with the documents remain once they are finalised, please feel free to return to Te Tari Whakatau to discuss a funding request.

Ngā mihi,
Caryl



Caryl Illana (pronounced KAH-rill ill-YEAH-nuh)
 KAITĀTARI - ANALYST
 DOI: 04 918 8780
 WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
 Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

My employer supports flexible working. If I've sent this email outside standard business hours, please know that I do not expect a reply from you outside of your own working hours.

Āta whakaarohia a Papatūānuku i mua i tō tānga i tēnei īmēra Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Alaina Teki-Clark [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 10:05 AM
To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Response to Request for Legal Cost Contribution

Tēnā koe Caryl

WLSNT has received millions on behalf of hapū; the response (**see below**) is very concerning.

In this Settlement process, can you please advise where hapū can obtain funds to pay for their

Legal advice? For transparency purposes, I have attached again all our hapū communications with WLSNT for your consideration.

Please feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Ngā mihi
Alaina Teki-Clark.

Koriniti Marae Māori Reservation Trust.
Chairperson.

s9(2)(a)

☐ [Letter to Koriniti Marae.pdf](#)

☐ [WLST Letter 06_04_2025 \(1\).pdf](#)

☐ [WLSNT 28 April 2025.pdf](#)

☐ [Response Template.pdf](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ken Mair s9(2)(a)

Date: Thu, 8 May 2025, 3:12 pm

Subject: Response to Request for Legal Cost Contribution

To: s9(2)(a)

Cc: Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz>, Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>

Tēnā koe Alaina

Thank you for your follow-up regarding the legal costs associated with Wackrow Panoho and Associates.

We acknowledge the estimated costs provided and the significance of the matter to the hapū. However, upon review of our current financial position, WLSNT is not funded for this specific activity. Unfortunately, we do not have the discretionary resources available to commit to this level of legal expenditure at this time.

Additionally, we are still in the process of collating the necessary information in order to fully respond to the matters raised in your letters. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process.

We remain committed to supporting our hapū within the scope of our mandate and current funding constraints, and we appreciate your understanding.

Ngā mihi nui,
Ken M

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Me](#)
 To: [Illana, Caryl](#)
 Subject: Re: Request for Financial Reports
 Date: Friday, 16 May 2025 3:34:01 pm
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia Ora Caryl,

I seek clarification and to reiterate a key point regarding the settlor of the new Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE), Takapau Whāriki.

Under trust law, the settlor is the party that establishes the trust, defines its terms through the deed, and transfers property into the trust for the benefit of the beneficiaries. In this case, the Crown is not in a position to act as settlor, as it is the party acknowledging responsibility for historical breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi through its apology and settlement redress. The Crown's role is to make reparations—not to define the terms under which the recipients receive and manage that redress.

It is the Māori people themselves—those who have endured the harm—who must be recognised as the true settlers. Through their collective will and mandate, they empower trustees, and they reserve the right to withdraw that mandate where trust is lost.

The people have chosen the trustees of the Whanganui Land Settlement Trust (WLST), and they retain the authority to remove or replace those trustees if there is evidence of:

- Loss of confidence,
- Lack of transparency
- Conflicts of interest
- Trustees leveraging their role for personal gain via related consultancy companies or governance positions

It is vital for the integrity of this settlement and the future of the Iwi that trust formation and transition processes uphold these fundamental principles of Māori self-determination, accountability, and trust law.

I want to emphasise that this correspondence is not intended to delay or obstruct the redress process. I fully support the resolution of historical injustices and the return of what is rightfully ours. However, I believe it is critical that correct trust law principles are followed, and that the structure of the PSGE genuinely reflects the will and authority of the people.

A large percentage of our Iwi members do not have a clear understanding of trust law or the basic structure of a trust. This makes it even more important that the process is transparent, fair, and rooted in sound legal and tikanga-based foundations.

I ensure that the PSGE structure is rooted in the authority and tikanga of the people—not constructed on assumptions that conflict with the purpose and spirit of redress.

Nga mihi

On Fri, 16 May 2025 at 14:58, Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

The Crown will not be agreeing to vest settlement assets in a PSGE unless it meets certain conditions around accountability and transparency set out in [the Red Book](#).

We will also require that the Trust have undertaken a thorough process of information and ratification to seek the community's views on the PSGE. We encourage you to take part in that process.

Ngā mihi,

Caryl

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 7:32 AM
To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Request for Financial Reports

Kia Ora Caryl,

Thank you. Concerning it isn't kept up to date even though it's a negotiation trust.

I have a question, who is the Settlor of all these PSGE trusts?

Are you aware of how trusts truly work? Must have a Settlor, the crown can't be the Settlor so how are the crown setting these terms?

What is the trust property? Who owns the property to place it in a trust?

The very basic structure of a trust is being overlooked here, we may have to go back to the basics and start again so the trust's can be set up correctly and to "benefit" the beneficiaries not the "trustees".

There are many Iwi who don't use these services (5 arms), how do they benefit from this trust?

Out of scope

There are a few of us qualified, experienced and looking beyond what all the other iwi see. It's shocking. Criminal to be precise. Lol. There are 3 staff at Ng Tangata Tiaki O Whanganui who are defendants in current legal proceedings I have through the MLC. Some former employees of MLC. In reality, they are liars and thieves. This is what the evidence is presenting from forensic audits. We have accounting, legal and other skills relevant to look into these PSGE trusts. They're not sorted at hapu level, they certainly won't be sorted at Iwi level.

Na s9(2)(a)

On Mon, 12 May 2025, 14:16 Illana, Caryl, <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (the Trust)'s online files being out of date, and for your follow up today.

We will raise this with the Trust and ask them to update their website.

As for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 via FYI, please rest assured that we are still working on a response to your request and will respond within the statutory guidelines.

Ngā mihi,

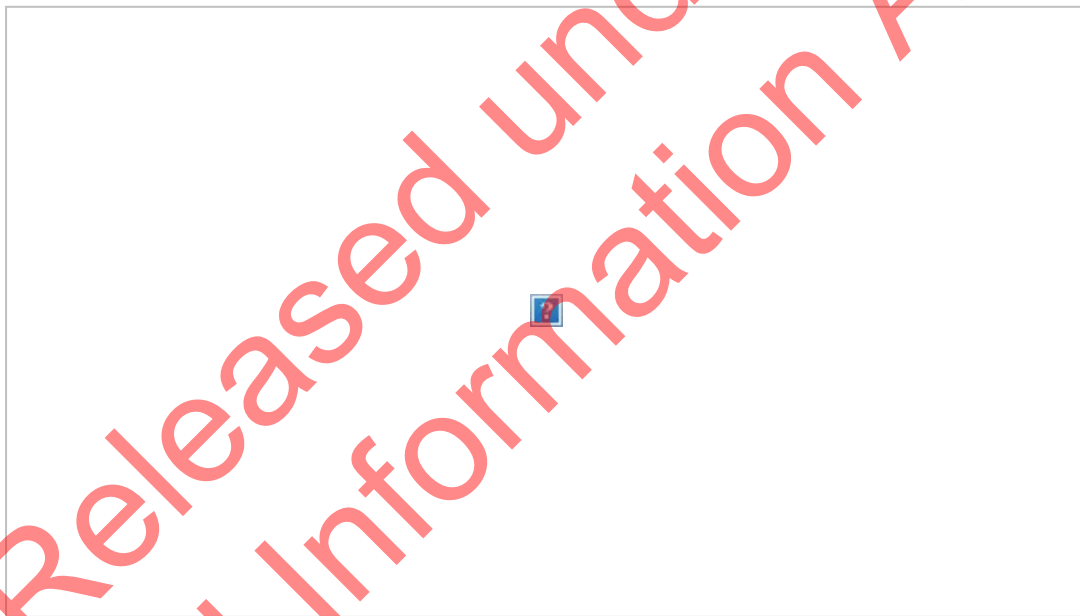
Caryl

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Request for Financial Reports

Kia ora Caryl,

I'm writing to let you know that I'm the one who submitted the request for WLST's financial information via the FYI website. Other iwi members have previously asked for these reports directly but have been ignored, which is why I'm hesitant to approach WLST directly.

I also want to note that while the current website is labelled 2022, the financial report linked is actually from 2019.



[https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/uploads/files/20191211%20AGM%20Minutes\(1\).pdf](https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/uploads/files/20191211%20AGM%20Minutes(1).pdf)

I'm concerned that these reports haven't been provided, as the iwi shouldn't have to wait for information that should already be recorded and readily available in WLST's files.

I would appreciate receiving this in a timely manner the information relating to WLST's funding from Te Arawhiti since 2018.

Na s9(2)(a)

From:
To:
Cc:

s9(2)(a)

Subject:
Date:

Re: Letter to Ngāti Pamoana Kōwhiri Marae
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 10:13:45 am

A resolution could be added to the WLSNT settlement ratification voting process - (mandated at a IWI/Hapu hui) "that hapu receive a % of Quantum on Settlement with the PSGE" within a stipulated time frame - (This is more or less what s9(2)(a) is asking for Support for.)
So hapu are not waiting 10 years. Next question is - can this be done?

s9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

On 11 Jun 2025, at 7:38 AM, s9(2)(a) wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

For Clarity. Are there any other examples of individual hapu accessing the deed of settlement before ratification over & above the mandated Settlement Trust?

s9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

On 11 Jun 2025, at 4:38 AM, s9(2)(a) wrote:

Auē, e te whanau! Nō whea mai ērā kupu me aua whakaaro pakeha. Kei te whai kautau i ngā wawata a te karauna, nā ētahi o kautau mātau i whakawehi ai i ngā kawa me ngā tikanga a kōwhiri mā, a kōwhiri mā, me te whakaatu atu ki ngā tamariki mokopuna, he mana ake tētehi hapū i tētehi atu. Enough is enough! we should be supporting one another, hapū to hapū to ensure the voices, the full voice of ngā hapū mai i te kahui maunga ki tangaroa is heard, is valued and has worth.

It is offensive to hear and think and read some nasty uncalled for commentary and accusations thrown at another whanaunga quite easily, and yes I am mangai for Ngāti Tuera Ngāti Hinearo, but I am still a mokopuna of Ngāti Pamoana and Ngāti Hineoneone. This behaviour is at the very least absolutely shameful, and disgusting and we are acting no better than Parliamentary ministers. Who needs outsiders when our very own can do that, and do it intentionally and ruthlessly where the mana of the other and oneself is shit.

As a reminder, every hapū along the river had kupapa, how do you think whiteman got up the river in the first place. Furthermore, I support s9(2)(a) who speaks on behalf of Ngāti Pamoana, so in essence I support Ngāti Pamoana, there could be division, but that will only happen when the ones that are part of this forum, push their personal agenda, not the agenda of hapū, collectivism of one thought, one heart, one mind...

Those values, and understanding of them is lost. Lost because ego and arrogance have taken hold of the reins, and leading!

On Tue, 10 Jun 2025 at 17:46, s9(2)(a) wrote:

Kia Ora Tatou,

This is getting out of hand!

All s9(2)(a) did, was share her thoughts on behalf of Pamoana and the rest was up to each hapū!

May I please suggest everyone read her letter again!

At our Ngātihine Komiti - Otoko Pā hui, - one hapū member, supported the letter... 100% ... Tikanga at Otoko ... even if 1 hapū member sends, in writing, her 100% support, we must allow her to be heard, whether we agree or not, that is our Tikanga.

Immediate action at this Komiti hui was to call a Hui a hapū, making sure we are within our own rights, by referring to our Charter displayed on our wall for anyone to see use in the future to protect our rights.

To date, we have had our first hui and on 21 June, 11 O'clock here at Otoko, our second hui a hapū is being held.. Yes! we are pushed for time, but that is the decision made by our hapū and those who attended.

Friday 13 June at 4:30pm WLSNT is coming to ensure those who have any questions or doubtful will be able to get their answers after the Hapū update 2025 is presented. This is our second presentation for Otoko... the first was in town.

Ngā mihi nui

s9(2)(a)

On 9 Jun 2025, at 8:27 PM, s9(2)(a) wrote:

s9(2)(a), Ngāti Pa rep is the settler for the WLSNT, hes already in yr house! What are you trying to achieve?

Sent from my iPhone

On 9 Jun 2025, at 7:34 PM, s9(2)(a) wrote:

Ka mihi s9(2)(a) for the update.

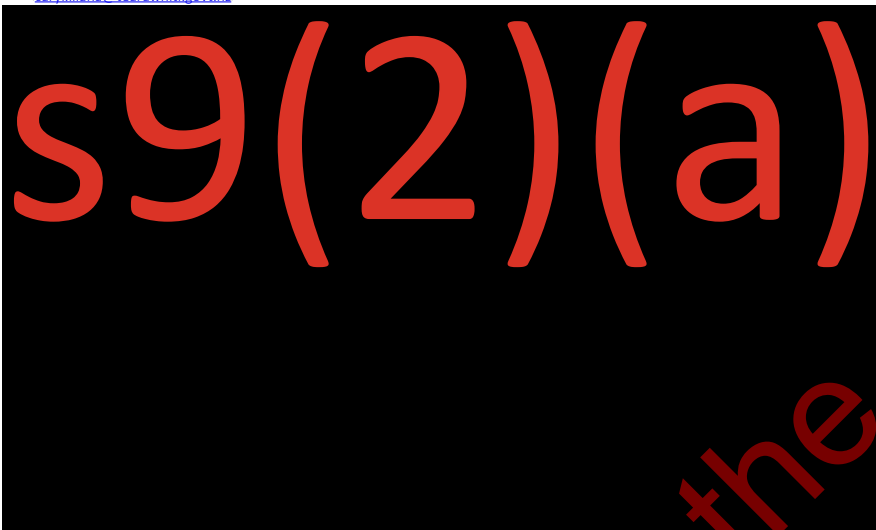
s9(2)(a)

Get Outlook for Android

From: Alaina Teki-Clark s9(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 6:41:59 PM

To: info.wlst@gmail.com <info.wlst@gmail.com>; Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>; caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz <caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz>



Subject: Fwd: Letter to Ngāti Pamoana Koroniti Marae

External email - take care with links and attachments

Tēnā koutou katoa

I have **attached**:

- The response from WLSNT's Legal representative, Renika Siciliano,
- The decline in funding email from Nga Tangata Tiaki TMOTA regarding Hapū Legal advice for the Whanganui Land Settlement and Ratification Process.

When Ngāti Pamoana engaged Wackrow Panoho & Associates, we indicated that we did not want to be obstructive to the process but rather advocate for the best possible hapū outcome within the current ratification process. That now seems clearly out of reach, given the response from the WLSNT.

The options, as we see it, are therefore to:

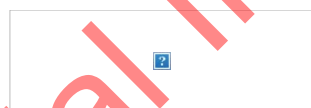
1. Use the ratification process to oppose the current settlement (that lands our Iwi back at square one in terms of negotiations with the Crown) **or**
2. Support the process and attempt to influence the PSGE and other entities once they're established, including through the development of policies that better align with our hapū's desires.

If we choose to oppose the process, we need to do so through the ratification process. If that is ignored, we can explore options through the Waitangi Tribunal or Judicial Review.

KMMRT is working with Wackrow Panoho & Associates on the Ngāti Pamoana response. We will make sure that everyone is kept updated.

We welcome any constructive feedback. This Letter is being delivered to a large number of recipients, so responding to 'all' becomes challenging to manage and handle appropriately. We would be grateful if any responses could be addressed to us directly.

Ngā mihi,



Alaina Te Aroha Clark
Chairperson
Koroniti Marae Māori Reservation Trust.

s9(2)(a)

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Renika Siciliano** <Renika.Siciliano@mccawlewis.co.nz>
Date: Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 5:01 PM
Subject: Letter to Ngāti Pamoana Koroniti Marae

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Alaina

Please find **attached** a letter to Ngāti Pamoana Koroniti Marae on behalf of the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiations Trust.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Ngā mihi

Lyric Walker-Eketone
Executive Assistant

	 07 808 7819  Level 6, 586 Victoria Street, Hamilton 3204, DX GP 20020    Hamilton Te Kāiiti			
				

This email message and accompanying attachments contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege.
If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that disclosing, disseminating, distributing or copying of this email message to others is prohibited.
If you have received this email message in error, please notify us immediately and delete all copies of this message and attachments. Thank you.

This email or attachment(s) may contain confidential or legally privileged information intended for the sole use of the addressee(s). Any use, redistribution, disclosure, or reproduction of this message, except as intended, is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify the sender and remove all copies of the message, including any attachments. Any views or opinions expressed in this email (unless otherwise stated) may not represent those of Te Whānui Ora.

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

7

From: [Me](#)
To: [Illana, Caryl](#)
Subject: Clarification on the Settlor
Date: Monday, 7 July 2025 10:09:00 am

Tēnā koe Caryl,

I'm writing to seek further clarity regarding the status of the Settlor in the context of post-government Treaty settlement entities, particularly where a trust is used as the vehicle for redress. There seems to be ongoing confusion about who legally constitutes the Settlor in these arrangements, and I'd appreciate Te Arawhiti's confirmation on the following interpretation.

In standard trust law, the Settlor is the party who creates the trust, sets its terms (via the trust deed), and transfers property into it for the benefit of the named beneficiaries. In the context of Treaty settlements, however, the situation is less straightforward.

1. The Crown as Settlor

When the Crown negotiates and concludes a settlement with a Māori claimant group, it:

Determines the form and content of the trust deed,

Specifies the governance structure,

Provides the quantum and apology as the settlement redress and

Executes the Deed of Settlement alongside the mandated representatives.

Given these actions, the Crown effectively performs the role of Settlor by establishing the terms of the trust and transferring assets to it. However, in most trust deeds, the Crown is not formally named as the Settlor—raising a tension between legal function and legal form.

2. Trustees as Settlor?

In some post-settlement trusts, it appears the initial trustees are recorded as both Settlor and trustee despite not having drafted the trust terms nor provided the assets. In conventional trust law, this is problematic, as a trustee cannot unilaterally settle a trust they did not create or fund. If the trustees are named Settlor simply to enable the trust to be legally registered, this could arguably be a legal fiction, rather than a genuine reflection of who settled the trust.

3. Beneficiaries and their limited Role

In many cases, the claimant community or beneficiaries:

Mandate negotiators to represent them,

Are not the authors of the trust deed,

Cannot directly alter its core terms,

Often have limited or no power to elect or remove trustees once the trust is established.

This significantly weakens the position of the beneficiaries, who typically would have the ultimate power in trust law to hold trustees accountable. The imbalance created may conflict with the principles of tino rangatiratanga and tikanga-based governance if the beneficiaries are bound by a trust they neither settle nor fully control.

In summary, it seems the Crown acts as the de facto Settlor, while beneficiaries and even trustees have minimal agency in the formation of the trust raising concerns about legitimacy, autonomy, and alignment with foundational trust law.

I would welcome any clarification you may be able to provide, especially regarding the legal recognition of the Crown's role as Settlor, and whether there is any mechanism to restore beneficiary control in these structures.

Ngā mihi nui,

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Illana, Caryl](#)
To: s9(2)(a)
Cc: [Tracey](#)
Subject: RE: Legal Aid
Date: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 3:57:00 pm
Attachments: [RE Response to Request for Legal Cost Contribution.msg](#)
[image001.png](#)

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email and your previous CCs on your correspondence with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (the Trust).

As I stated to you in my attached email of 12 May, the documents under discussion with the Trust are still undergoing development. The Crown does not consider this an appropriate time to consider a request for funding for a separate legal review of draft documents.

There is no further information or assistance that Te Tari Whakatau can provide at this time until the draft post-settlement governance entity trust deed and other relevant documents have been finalised and agreed by the Trust and the Crown. The documents will be made available to the claimant community by the Trust as part of the ratification process, and we encourage you to continue engaging with the Trust.

Additionally, claimant community engagement with the mandated entity is the responsibility of the Trust. Going forward, you do not need to include me in emails to or regarding the Trust.

Ngā mihi,
 Caryl

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 1:17 PM
To: Tracey <whanganui_ls@xtra.co.nz>
Cc: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Legal Aid

Kia ora Tracey & Caryl

Please review our Lawyers' response below and advise where to go from here.

Nā s9(2)(a)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Coral Panoho-Navaja <coral@wpalawyers.co.nz>

Date: Mon, 20 Oct 2025, 12:39 pm

Subject: RE: Legal Aid

To: s9(2)(a)

Cc: caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz <caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz>, s9(2)(a)

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email. I was not the solicitor on record for your Ngāti Pamoana claims, and would not know who the named claimants are or who the last known legal counsel is who might have been in receipt of legal aid.

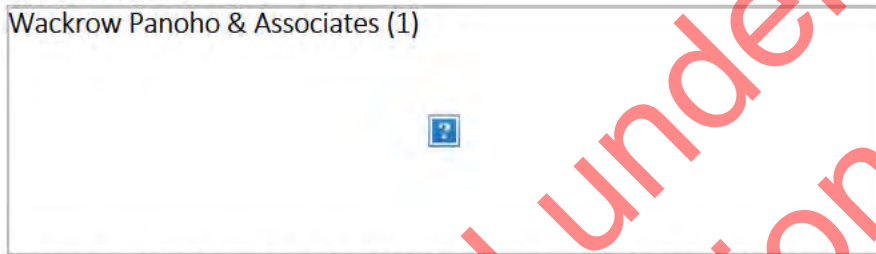
My understanding is that legal aid funding provided to claimants participating in the Waitangi Tribunal process is different to funding provided to groups progressing through a direct negotiations process. As previously indicated to you, unless you are seeking to challenge the settlement via Waitangi Tribunal under urgency, I would not have expected funding to be available for "general advice" on the PSGE structure or final DOS. Even if it was, that would be provided to the lawyer for the registered named claimants.

Ngā mihi,

Coral Panoho-Navaja | **Director**

M. 021 875 128

Wackrow Panoho & Associates (1)



This email contains information which is CONFIDENTIAL and may be subject to LEGAL PRIVILEGE – if received in error please delete this email and notify us immediately. Please do not peruse, use, disseminate, distribute or copy this email or attachments.

From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2025 11:15 am

To: Coral Panoho-Navaja <coral@wpalawyers.co.nz>

Cc: caryl.illana@tearawhiti.govt.nz; s9(2)(a)

Subject: Fwd: Legal Aid

Kia ora Coral,

Please take a look at the message below from the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust.

I'm checking if this is a possibility; we have five hapū in support, with growing interest.

The current political slowdown provides a good opportunity to strengthen our documents. Ngāti Pamoana is hosting a hapū Q&A with the WLSNT on 30 October to advance this.

Your thoughts would be appreciated.

Nā s9(2)(a)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz>

Date: Mon, Oct 13, 2025 at 12:24 PM

Subject: Legal Aid

To: s9(2)(a)

Tena koe s9(2)(a)

Just following up in regards to our discussion the other day at the Poutama reading of documents hui about Legal Aid for claimants.

I suggest going back to your lawyer to ask about legal aid in regards to your claim and the settlement package, considering your claim has not been settled yet, has your lawyer asked legal aid how claimants are supported with thier claim for next steps while the claim is still active.

nga mihi

Tracey Waitokia

Project Manager|Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust | Tupoho House - [249 Victoria Ave](#) | PO Box 4262 | Whanganui 4540 | Aotearoa | s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] .www.wlsnt.maori.nz

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Concern Regarding Trustees' Control of Iwi Hui and Access Restrictions

s9(2)(a)

Thu 30 Oct, 17:12 (22 hours ago)

Kia ora Trustees,

Can you please explain under what legal authority the trustees are controlling access to the iwi hui Zoom and setting participation restrictions?

My understanding is that this hui was called by the iwi, not the Trustees.

Please provide the exact clause or legal basis that gives you the right to do this. Failure to provide this, your actions are ultra vires.

Nga mihi

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

WLSNT Privacy and Confidentiality Disclosure

WLSNT Privacy and Confidentiality Disclosure

Purpose

This hui has been requested by Ngāti Pāmoana as a Question and Answer (Q&A) Session for the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT) to provide an update and respond to hapū questions regarding the ongoing Whanganui Land Settlement negotiations with the Crown. The information discussed in this hui, including any documents, presentations, or verbal kōrero, is strictly confidential.

Confidentiality Obligations

All attendees are reminded that:

- The material shared during this hui relates to active Treaty Settlement negotiations, which are highly sensitive and not for public disclosure.
- Participants must not record, copy, photograph, or distribute any part of this hui or associated materials.
- All participants are required to have their cameras turned on throughout the hui to confirm attendance and maintain transparency of kōrero.
- Attendee names must also be entered into the comment or chat section at the beginning of the hui for recording and verification purposes.

This disclaimer was generated by the account admin.

Agree

Cancel

Open recordings >

IN-CONFIDENCE

s9(2)(a)

Email:
Phone:

Date:

31 October 2025

To:

Te Tari Whakatau
contactus@whakatau.govt.nz
caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Whanganui claimant community to raise serious concerns regarding the conduct of the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT) trustees and to request immediate government oversight and intervention.

At present, claimants from eight hapū have lost confidence in the mandated WLSNT trustees. Despite repeated attempts by the claimants to engage constructively, the trustees have demonstrated behaviour that undermines trust, communication, and transparency. Some of the claimants have had input into this letter.

A hui was organised months ago by the claimant community (held last night at 6pm), initiated and hosted at Ngāti Pamoana to allow for a Q&A session with the trustees. However, less than 24 hours before the hui, the trustees insisted on taking control of the Zoom meeting, creating a link, and making participation by the Iwi conditional on agreeing to their demands. This was not agreed to and is considered ultra vires, as the trustees do not hold authority to impose such restrictions on the claimant community. *(Attached is a screenshot showing the Zoom entry conditions).*

Could the restriction placed on the Zoom hui have prevented more claimants from attending, given that they were not provided with adequate notice of this limitation?

The trustees failed to facilitate the hui effectively, many comments and questions raised in the Zoom chat were ignored and no meaningful answers were provided despite trustees being paid for these hui. This has further eroded trust and confidence. They had absolutely nothing prepared for this hui. I have no confidence their word to provide the requested information or answers in writing will occur.

During the meeting, the lead negotiator repeatedly sought to undermine Ngāti Pamoana. His comments carried a consistent undertone of subtle undermining rather than constructive engagement, reflecting a lack of integrity and falling short of the values they claimed to represent, namely fairness and respect. The discussion took on a tone of propaganda, with the lead negotiator asserting that Ngāti Pamoana was the only hapū raising concerns and implying that all others were acting in good faith and supported the status quo.

He then challenged Ngāti Pamoana to identify which hapū supported their position and concerns, a line of questioning that was entirely out of order, particularly given that he had just claimed all hapū supported the existing terms and conditions. When challenged to name the hapū that allegedly supported the status quo, he was unable to provide any and had to backpedal. What was further alarming was that trustees were present throughout this exchange, yet not one spoke up to confirm that their hapū supported the lead negotiator's statements. This silence is highly telling and further

highlights a significant disconnect, either between the lead negotiator and the hapū or within the governance oversight itself.

In our view, this approach was a deliberate attempt to diminish legitimate concerns and isolate them to an individual or a single hapū, rather than acknowledging the collective issues shared by hapū and beneficiaries alike.

In addition, there are many claimants who have become aware of backdoor dealings occurring in Whanganui involving gangs, which appear to be connected to the settlement assets but are not included in the official settlement documentation that requires ratification from the claimant community.

Given these serious issues, I formally request that the government halt the current settlement process until the WLSNT trustees can be removed and new trustees elected who genuinely represent the interests and wishes of the Iwi and hapū.

The claimant community is deeply dissatisfied with the current terms of Takapau Whārik Trust Deed, and the trustees' refusal to consider amendments is contrary to the collective will of the Iwi.

I respectfully request that Te Tari Whakatau intervene to address these ongoing concerns and ensure the WLSNT trustees are held accountable to their mandate and obligations under the Deed of Settlement.

The current loss of confidence among hapū represents a serious breakdown in trust and process, and immediate action is needed to restore integrity, transparency, and proper engagement with the iwi. Given the urgency and seriousness of these concerns, we ask that Te Tari Whakatau acknowledge and respond to this matter within 10 working days to prevent further harm and division among our people.

I understand, we must take this avenue and exhaust all available options through Te Tari Whakatau; however, if no action is taken to address these serious concerns, we will have no option but to approach the High Court to seek an injunction.

NOTE: This information must be made available to the claimant community, as it is confidential to them, not from them, and withholding it undermines their right to transparency and informed participation which is an obligation of the Crown & mandated trustees.

Ngā mihi nui

s9(2)(a)

From: [Me](#)
To: [Illana, Caryl](#)
Subject: Fwd: Concerns Regarding Misinformation and Trust Engagement
Date: Monday, 3 November 2025 11:50:49 am

Kia Ora,

Thank you for your recent correspondence.

After careful consideration, our whanau have decided that we will no longer be engaging with WLSNT. Our experience to date has raised significant concerns: there has been a consistent lack of preparedness from the trustees when it comes to addressing key questions, several hui have been disrupted or diverted from their intended kaupapa, including the recent Q&A session initiated by the claimant community, and despite ample time, nothing has been put in place to allow special voting for unregistered beneficiaries.

These issues have eroded our confidence in the process. What began with a few concerned hapū has now grown to include 10 marae/hapū who are dissatisfied with the way matters have been handled. I have been blocked from the new Facebook page they created, simply because I shared the red book with the claimant community. There is no other valid reason to block a claimant community member from information.

Nga mihi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Me **s9(2)(a)**
Date: Mon, 3 Nov 2025 at 11:30
Subject: Concerns Regarding Misinformation and Trust Engagement
To: <ken.mair@xtra.co.nz>, Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koutou WLSNT Trustees,

I am writing to address the ongoing issues of misinformation and lack of accountability that have now affected numerous hapū and marae within our claimant community.

A recent email from Aimee to one of the marae wrongly suggested that Ngāti Pamoana is the *only* marae or hapū with concerns regarding the current trust terms. She also made a statement in writing, that Ngāti Pamoana were deeming certain individuals appropriate to attend this? This is unequivocally *false*.

There are uri from nine marae, Koriniti, Rākato, Matahiwi, Pūtiki, Kawhaiki, Atene, Ōtoko, Rānana, and Pipiriki, who have raised consistent and unified objections. These are not isolated or “individual concerns.” They relate to collective whakapapa, wellbeing, and tino rangatiratanga.

Furthermore, the hui on 30 October 2025 at 6pm was a disappointment. The trustees appeared unprepared to meaningfully answer questions that were provided months in advance. That is not our fiduciary duty, it is yours.

It was also unacceptable that attendees were not given reasonable notice of trustee-imposed attendance conditions, especially for a hui *initiated by the claimant community*, not by WLSNT trustees. The agreement to hold this hui was made collectively at the last Hui-ā-lwi, which many can verify.

There is now a complete loss of confidence in the mandated trustees. Communication has been evasive, and no direct answers have been given to clear and justified questions. Your approach, simply reading clauses from a deed that many do not understand, does not demonstrate good faith consultation or engagement.

To make matters worse, you have not prepared adequate mechanisms for special voting, nor for those uri who are not registered.

Let it be clear: no uri is under any obligation to register with your entity to exercise their whakapapa rights. This term must be incorporated into the Takapau Whāriki before any ratification can be recognized as legitimate. Our whakapapa is not dependent on registration to access what is rightfully owed under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We expect these matters to be rectified immediately and no further misinformation to be circulated. There have also been no answers to some of who their hapū representatives are. Complete confusion and no transparency.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)

NOTE: Please share with the claimant community whānau, I don't have everyone's email addresses. This is confidential to them, NOT FROM THEM.

From: [Me](#)
To: [Illana, Caryl](#)
Cc: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) [Mitchell, James](#)
Subject: Re: URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention
Date: Tuesday, 18 November 2025 12:36:47 pm

Thank you for your speedy response, it's genuinely appreciated.

We do want to participate in this process; however, the timeframe provided is not sufficient to prepare the special voting packs for those who are not currently registered. As we move into the festival and holiday season, many services close or operate at limited capacity, making it even more challenging to ensure everyone in the claimant community is properly included.

Our people also need adequate time to read, understand, and digest the "terms" of the final Deed of Settlement before ratification.

Rushing this stage risks the integrity of the process.

Ngā mihi

[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

On Tue, 18 Nov 2025, 12:28 Illana, Caryl, <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Thank you for your email, and I apologise for the delay in my response.

We will raise your concerns with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (the **Trust**).

The Trust and the Crown will soon be initialling a deed of settlement. In early 2026 the Trust will commence the ratification process. This is an opportunity for them to disclose the full scope of the deed of settlement and for you and other claimant community members to discuss and decide whether or not you support the settlement.

The Crown will not proceed to sign the deed of settlement unless there is sufficient support demonstrated through this process, so it is important to participate in ratification whether you support the settlement or not.

Ngā mihi,

Caryl

From: Me **s9(2)(a)**
Sent: Tuesday, 18 November 2025 10:19 am
To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention

Request for Update on Outstanding Settlement Process Response

Kia ora,

I am writing to request an urgent update regarding the outstanding response on the settlement process.

The claimant community have been waiting patiently, yet no communication has been provided.

As you will appreciate, the Crown holds a clear obligation to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely information to those directly affected during the process.

The lack of response is causing unnecessary delay and uncertainty for the claimant community who simply seek clarity on matters that deeply impact their benefits as beneficiaries of this trust, their rights, and their future. A process of this significance requires responsiveness and professionalism from all parties involved.

If you are not the correct person to address this matter, or if you are unable to progress it, please direct me immediately to someone who has the authority and capacity to provide the answers required.

I remind you, this isn't an issue at hapu levels, there is an issue with the ratification process.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On Mon, 3 Nov 2025, 11:09 Illana, Caryl, <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

This email is to acknowledge we have received your email, and we will respond shortly.

Ngā mihi,

Caryl

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 31 October 2025 4:06 pm

To: contactus@tearawhiti.govt.nz <contactus@whakatau.govt.nz>; Illana, Caryl
<caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Subject: URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention

IN-CONFIDENCE

Tān koutou,

Please find attached our urgent request.

Ngāhi nui

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: Me
 To: Smits, Victoria
 Cc: Illana, Caryll; s9(2)(a)
 Subject: Re: FW: URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention
 Date: Saturday, 22 November 2025 6:34:48 am
 Attachments: IMG_20251122_062919.jpg
 image001.jpg

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for your response.

Unfortunately, the claimant community continues to receive conflicting information from WLSNT regarding registration and eligibility.

This inconsistency has eroded confidence in both the trustees and the process. If transparent communication cannot be upheld on something as fundamental as the ratification process, it raises real concerns about how whakapapa verification and other key responsibilities will be carried out.

It is also becoming increasingly clear that the actions of the trustees do not reflect the wishes of the claimant community.

Many descendants are being excluded from timely updates, communication is limited, and questions raised at hui remain unanswered. This has created a perception that WLSNT is managing the process in a way that obscures rather than informs.

Furthermore, I am unsure whether the kaumātua who acted as Settlor fully understood that he was establishing an irrevocable trust structure. Many of our people are unfamiliar with trust law, and the PSGE model, where the community mandate/appoint trustees, differs significantly from the basic construct of any trust.

At this stage, there is very little confidence in the trust or its trustees. The lack of transparency, ongoing delays, and the deliberate withholding of information from unregistered descendants are contributing to a growing lack of trust and support.

Can you confirm if unregistered or unrecorded descendants can participate in ratification online as stated by WLSNT? (Attached)

We shouldn't be dealing with your office, we should be dealing with trustworthy trustees the people can rely on.



Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

On Fri, 21 Nov 2025, 15:37 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your recent correspondence querying the registration requirement for those who wish to be beneficiaries to the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement. We encourage all uri of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui to attend ratification hui and utilise their right to vote as part of the ratification process.

In response to your below query, I can advise that the requirement for registration (or recording) only applies to the ratification (approval) process for the deed of settlement.

Registration is not required to benefit from the settlement. Everyone who descends from a Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui tupuna is entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ngā mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits ([she/her](#))

KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

CEL: DD: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, [19 Aitken Street](#), SX10111, Wellington 6011

If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Sent: Thursday, 20 November 2025 7:46 am

To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention

Tēnā koutou,

A genuine question, why should those who are not registered participate, when we are being told we won't benefit from the settlement anyway? Those who aren't registered will not be permitted to the update. Furthermore, the deadline for the WLSNT trustees was 15th November, to provide written answers to the Q&A session.

Out of scope

Is this really the Crown-endorsed process?

And just to be clear, this information wasn't shared by the new WLSNT Facebook page. I can't even see it, I've been blocked. It's the claimant community sharing with each other, ensuring those who should be informed are informed and included.

The evidence attached, speaks for itself.

Nā

s9(2)(a)

NOTE: Please share whānau, this is imperative for the claimant community.

On Tue, 18 Nov 2025, 12:28 Illana, Caryl, <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, and I apologise for the delay in my response.

We will raise your concerns with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (the **Trust**).

The Trust and the Crown will soon be initialling a deed of settlement. In early 2026 the Trust will commence the ratification process. This is an opportunity for them to disclose the full scope of the deed of settlement and for you and other claimant community members to discuss and decide whether or not you support the settlement.

The Crown will not proceed to sign the deed of settlement unless there is sufficient support demonstrated through this process, so it is important to participate in ratification whether you support the settlement or not.

Ngā mihi

Caryl

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 18 November 2025 10:19 am

To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention

Request for Update on Outstanding Settlement Process Response

Kia ora,

I am writing to request an urgent update regarding the outstanding response on the settlement process.

The claimant community have been waiting patiently, yet no communication has been provided.

As you will appreciate, the Crown holds a clear obligation to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely information to those directly affected during the process.

The lack of response is causing unnecessary delay and uncertainty for the claimant community who simply seek clarity on matters that deeply impact their benefits as beneficiaries of this trust, their rights, and their future. A process of this significance requires responsiveness and professionalism from all parties involved.

If you are not the correct person to address this matter, or if you are unable to progress it, please direct me immediately to someone who has the authority and capacity to provide the answers required.

I remind you, this isn't an issue at hapu levels, there is an issue with the ratification process.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On Mon, 3 Nov 2025, 11:09 Illana, Caryl, <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

This email is to acknowledge we have received your email, and we will respond shortly.

Ngā mihi,

Caryl

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 31 October 2025 4:06 pm

To: contactus@tearawhiti.govt.nz <contactus@whakatau.govt.nz>; Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Subject: URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention

IN-CONFIDENCE

Tāwhiri koutou,

Please find attached our urgent request.

Ngāwhiri nui

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

The difference between registered members and recorded members	
Voting – there are three ways you can vote:	1. As a registered member – registered members need to: - Register as a WLSNT member via form or website. This includes a whakapapa verification process. - None of these details are provided to, or accessible by, the Crown.
	2. As a recorded member – recorded members need to: - Provide their contact details to WLSNT for the sole purpose of sending a ratification pack prior to the ratification period beginning. - Whakapapa verification will need to be completed prior to ratification packs being sent out. - Contact details will be kept separate from those members that have registered with WLSNT. - None of these details are provided to, or accessible by, the Crown. - Once the ratification period is complete, these contact details will be deleted.
	3. As a non-registered or non-recorded member - Any person that is 18 years or over before or during the ratification period who is not registered or recorded with WLSNT is able to vote via a special voting (whakapapa to vote) process. - Ratification packs will not be sent to any non-registered or non-recorded members prior to ratification but will be accessible at all ratification hui and online via the WLSNT website.
Becoming a beneficiary	Registered members: - Registered members will be beneficiaries of the settlement. - Their membership will be transferred from WLSNT to Takapau Whāriki, the proposed post-settlement governance entity (subject to a successful ratification vote) once established.
	Recorded members: Recorded members will not be beneficiaries of the settlement unless they register with WLSNT prior to the deed of settlement signing, or with Takapau Whāriki once established, but they can still vote. - Members who are recorded can register with WLSNT or Takapau Whāriki at any point later, if they so wish.

From: Me
 To: Smits, Victoria
 Cc:

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity
 Date: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 3:41:00 pm
 Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Thank you for your response in an efficient manner.

Can you tell those of us who are not registered adult members, what we can do?

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On Tue, 25 Nov 2025, 15:29 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email seeking clarification on the below matters. The document previously provided to WLSNT, and who forwarded this on to yourselves, was only partially correct.

Please see the updated guidance as follows:

Beneficiaries

Registration is not required to benefit from the settlement. Everyone who descends from a Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui tupuna is entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ratification

To receive ratification packs (including a voting form) before ratification begins, uri must be either *registered* with WLSNT or have their details *recorded* with WLSNT for the sole purpose of receiving a ratification pack prior to ratification beginning.

However, those that are not registered or recorded **are eligible to participate** in the ratification process and voting by way of a special vote (whakapapa to vote). Voting packs will be available to those who request one from WLSNT or in person at ratification hui.

Registering with the Post-Settlement Governance Entity (subject to a successful ratification)

Registering with the PSGE provides all adult registered members with the right to:

- a. decide the trustees' remuneration;
- b. attend Annual General Meetings (AGM);

- c. appoint an auditor;
- d. call and attend Special General Meetings (SGM);
- e. vote at any AGM or SGM;
- f. put forward for consideration proposals for amendments to the Trust Deed;
- g. terminate or dissolve the Trust by special resolution;
- h. decide on major transactions;
- i. nominate and vote in trustee elections; and
- j. be nominated for election and hold office as trustee (if he or she is eligible).

The above details are included in the draft PSGE trust deed, which will be part of the ratification materials.

Nga mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits (she/her)

KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

CEL: DDI: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, [10 Aitken Street](#), SX1011 | Wellington 6011

If you are receiving this email outside of office hours it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Sent: Sunday, 23 November 2025 3:56 pm

To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>; Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

Tēnā koutou,

We have identified material inconsistencies between the information provided by the trustees and the information provided by the Crown regarding participation and entitlements in the settlement process.

Specifically:

1. *The trustees have stated* that individuals *must be* registered to benefit from the settlement, while not needing to be registered or recorded by whakapapa in order to participate in ratification.
2. *The Crown has stated* that registration is *not* required to benefit from the settlement, but that individuals must be registered or recorded by whakapapa to participate in ratification.

These contradictory statements *cannot* both be correct. This represents a clear failure to provide accurate, consistent, and reliable information to the claimant community. Such misinformation undermines the credibility of the trustees and breaches the standards of transparency required in a mandated negotiation process.

Accordingly, we request that:

1. All descendants of Whanganui tūpuna be permitted to attend the WLSNT update hui scheduled for; Wednesday, 26 November 2025, at 6:00pm via Zoom, with no restrictions on entry, or registration.
2. The WLSNT trustees and Crown provide formal clarification addressing the inconsistencies outlined above.
3. The trustees confirm how they intend to ensure that all future information provided to the claimant community is *accurate, consistent*, inclusive to all, and aligned with Crown process requirements.

The issues listed above provide a clear and reasonable basis for the claimant community to lose confidence in the WLSNT trustees' mandate. If the mandate requires resetting to restore integrity to the process, then that outcome must be accepted.

This correspondence may be shared (with descendants), as the inconsistent information provided to the claimant community is having a direct and adverse impact on those entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ngā mihi

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Smits, Victoria](#)
 To: [Me](#)
 Cc:

s9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity
 Date: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 4:36:00 pm
 Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Kia ora anō

WLSNT are best place to be answering queries on the proposed PSGE. Please contact them directly.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
 Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 4:21 pm
 To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

Can you tell us, who is the Settlor of Takapau Whariki?

On Tue, 25 Nov 2025, 16:17 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora anō

Why the information provided is different?

When the information document was drafted by Te Tari Whakatau, the draft trust deed was still going through Crown review and was not able to be incorporated into the document provided to you in July. The main focus of the document was to detail that the Crown was comfortable with allowing recorded (un-registered) members to receive ratification packs prior to the ratification period. It has since been updated to reflect the information I have provided below, and has been provided to WLSNT for distribution.

As non-registered adult members, what can we do?

Non-registered members are able to:

- Participate in the ratification process and vote via special vote
- Benefit from the settlement

- Register with the post-settlement governance entity (not WLSNT) once it has been established (subject to successful ratification).

There may also be other items/activities that non-registered members can participate in, but we do not hold an exhaustive list for this. WLSNT would be the appropriate entity to reach out to with this query.

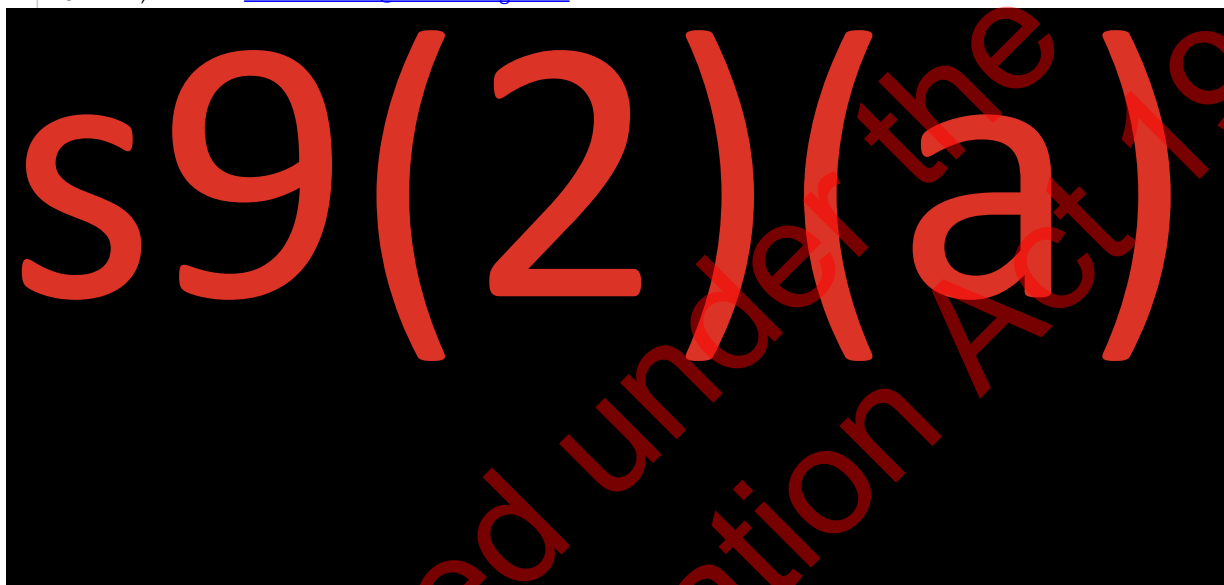
Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 3:42 pm

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>



Subject: Re: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

Can we please have a response as to why the information provided is different?

On Tue, 25 Nov 2025, 15:29 Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email seeking clarification on the below matters. The document previously provided to WLSNT, and who forwarded this on to yourselves, was only partially correct.

Please see the updated guidance as follows:

Beneficiaries

Registration is not required to benefit from the settlement. Everyone who descends from a Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui tupuā is entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ratification

To receive ratification packs (including a voting form) before ratification begins, uri must be either *registered* with WLSNT or have their details *recorded* with WLSNT for the sole purpose of receiving a ratification pack prior to ratification beginning.

However, those that are not registered or recorded **are eligible to participate** in the ratification process and voting by way of a special vote (whakapapa to vote). Voting packs will be available to those who request one from WLSNT or in person at ratification hui.

Registering with the Post-Settlement Governance Entity (subject to a successful ratification)

Registering with the PSGE provides all adult registered members with the right to:

- a. decide the trustees' remuneration;
- b. attend Annual General Meetings (AGM);
- c. appoint an auditor;
- d. call and attend Special General Meetings (SGM);
- e. vote at any AGM or SGM;
- f. put forward for consideration proposals for amendments to the Trust Deed;
- g. terminate or dissolve the Trust by special resolution;
- h. decide on major transactions;
- i. nominate and vote in trustee elections; and
- j. be nominated for election and hold office as trustee (if he or she is eligible).

The above details are included in the draft PSGE trust deed, which will be part of the finalisation materials.

Nga mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits ([she/her](#))

KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATU (SENIOR ANALYST)

CEL: DDI: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau**

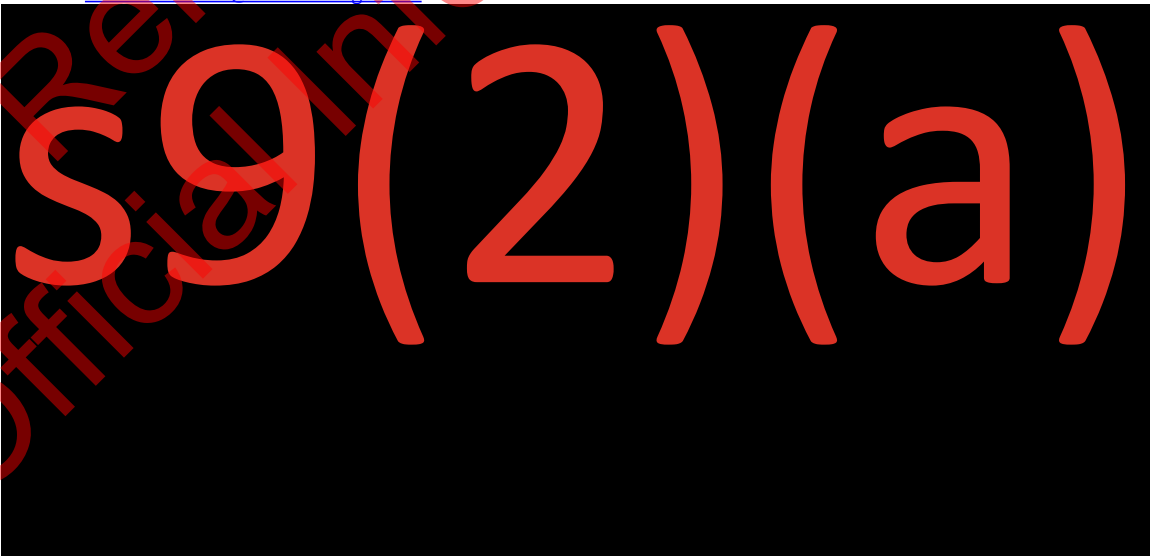
Level 2, Justice Centre, [19 Aitken Street](#) SX101 | Wellington 6011

If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Sent: Sunday, 23 November 2025 3:56 pm

To: Illana, Caryl <Caryl.Illana@whakatau.govt.nz>; Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>



Subject: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

Tēnā koutou,

We have identified material inconsistencies between the information provided by the trustees and the information provided by the Crown regarding participation and entitlements in the settlement process.

Specifically:

1. *The trustees have stated* that individuals *must be* registered to benefit from the settlement, while not needing to be registered or recorded by whakapapa in order to participate in ratification.
2. *The Crown has stated* that registration is *not* required to benefit from the settlement, but that individuals must be registered or recorded by whakapapa to participate in ratification.

These contradictory statements *cannot* both be correct. This represents a clear failure to provide accurate, consistent, and reliable information to the claimant community. Such misinformation undermines the credibility of the trustees and breaches the standards of transparency required in a mandated negotiation process.

Accordingly, we request that:

1. *All descendants* of Whanganui tūpuna be permitted to attend the WLSNT update hui scheduled for; Wednesday, 26 November 2025, at 6:00pm via Zoom, with no restrictions on entry, or registration.
2. The WLSNT trustees and Crown provide formal clarification addressing the inconsistencies outlined above.
3. The trustees confirm how they intend to ensure that all future information provided to the claimant community is *accurate, consistent*, inclusive to all, and aligned with Crown process requirements.

The issues listed above provide a clear and reasonable basis for the claimant community to lose confidence in the WLSNT trustees' mandate. If the mandate requires resetting or restoring integrity to the process, then that outcome must be accepted.

This correspondence may be shared (with descendants), as the inconsistent information provided to the claimant community is having a direct and adverse impact on those entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ngā mihi

From: Me
To: Smits, Victoria
Subject: Re: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity
Date: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 5:07:45 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

"who" is the Settlor of Takapau Whariki? If the claimant community understand, it isn't he Settlor of WLSNT. This, is a different trust.

On Tue, 25 Nov 2025, 16:36 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora anō

WLSNT are best place to be answering queries on the proposed PSGE. Please contact them directly.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 4:21 pm
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>;
[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>; [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz

Subject: Re: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

Can you tell us, who is the Settlor of Takapau Whariki?

On Tue, 25 Nov 2025, 16:17 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora anō

Why the information provided is different?

When the information document was drafted by Te Tari Whakatau, the draft trust deed was still going through Crown

review and was not able to be incorporated into the document provided to you in July. The main focus of the document was to detail that the Crown was comfortable with allowing recorded (un-registered) members to receive ratification packs prior to the ratification period. It has since been updated to reflect the information I have provided below, and has been provided to WLSNT for distribution.

As non-registered adult members, what can we do?

Non-registered members are able to:

- Participate in the ratification process and vote via special vote
- Benefit from the settlement
- Register with the post-settlement governance entity (not WLSNT) once it has been established (subject to successful ratification).

There may also be other items/activities that non-registered members can participate in, but we do not hold an exhaustive list for this. WLSNT would be the appropriate entity to reach out to with this query.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 3:42 pm
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a) Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>;
s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a) Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>; s9(2)(a) Tracey Waitokia

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a) whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz

Subject: Re: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

Can we please have a response as to why the information provided is different?

On Tue, 25 Nov 2025, 15:29 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email seeking clarification on the below matters. The document previously provided to WLSNT, and who forwarded this on to yourselves, was only partially correct.

Please see the updated guidance as follows:

Beneficiaries

Registration is not required to benefit from the settlement. Everyone who descends from a Nga Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui tupuna is entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ratification

To receive ratification packs (including a voting form) before ratification begins, you must be either *registered* with WLSNT or have their details *recorded* with WLSNT for the sole purpose of receiving a ratification pack prior to ratification beginning.

However, those that are not registered or recorded **are eligible to participate** in the ratification process and voting by way of a special vote (whakapapa to vote). Voting packs will be available to those who request one from WLSNT or in person at ratification hui.

Registering with the Post-Settlement Governance Entity (subject to a successful ratification)

Registering with the PSGE provides all adult registered members with the right to:

- a. decide the trustees' remuneration;
- b. attend Annual General Meetings (AGM);
- c. appoint an auditor;
- d. call and attend Special General Meetings (SGM);
- e. vote at any AGM or SGM;
- f. put forward for consideration proposals for amendments to the Trust Deed;
- g. terminate or dissolve the Trust by special resolution;
- h. decide on major transactions;
- i. nominate and vote in trustee elections; and
- j. be nominated for election and hold office as trustee (if he or she is eligible).

The above details are included in the draft PSGE trust deed, which will be part of the ratification materials.

Nga mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits ([she/her](#))

KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

CEL: DD: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, [39 Aitken Street](#), SX10111, Wellington 6011

If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Sent: Sunday, 23 November 2025 3:56 pm

To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>; Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>



Subject: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

Tenā koutou,

We have identified material inconsistencies between the information provided by the trustees and the information provided by the Crown regarding participation and entitlements in the settlement process.

Specifically:

1. *The trustees have stated that individuals must be registered to benefit from the settlement, while not needing to be registered or recorded by whakapapa in order to participate in ratification.*
2. *The Crown has stated that registration is not required to benefit from the settlement, but that individuals must be registered or recorded by whakapapa to participate in ratification.*

These contradictory statements *cannot* both be correct. This represents a clear failure to provide accurate, consistent, and reliable information to the claimant community. Such misinformation undermines the credibility of the trustees and breaches the standards of transparency required in a mandated negotiation process.

Accordingly, we request that:

1. *All descendants* of Whanganui tūpuna be permitted to attend the WLSNT update hui scheduled for; Wednesday, 26 November 2025, at 6:00pm via Zoom, with no restrictions on entry, or registration.
2. The WLSNT trustees and Crown provide formal clarification addressing the inconsistencies outlined above.
3. The trustees confirm how they intend to ensure that all future information provided to the claimant community is *accurate, consistent*, inclusive to all, and aligned with Crown process requirements.

The issues listed above provide a clear and reasonable basis for the claimant community to lose confidence in the WLSNT trustees' mandate. If the mandate requires resetting to restore integrity to the process, then that outcome must be accepted.

This correspondence may be shared (with descendants), as the inconsistent information provided to the claimant community is having a direct and adverse impact on those entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ngā mihi

From: [Me](#)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Cc: [Mitchell, James](#); [Ilana, Caryl](#)
Subject: Re: Evidence Required for Loss of Confidence in Mandated Trustees
Date: Wednesday, 26 November 2025 4:31:03 pm

This isn't a dispute. WLSNT trustees are deliberately excluding claimant community members from the update about the settlement package tonight at 6pm.

This isn't a dispute, it's a flaw in the settlement process. Registered members have been sent the link today, despite them having non registered members contact email. They are refusing to allow them entry to the Zoom.

There is no mechanism for the claimant community to replace these mandated trustees. It appears the only way to stop it, it's to leak the confidential information so the crown pulls out. There is no other option. Some of the claimant community are speaking of doing this, to reset it.

On Wed, 26 Nov 2025, 14:06 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

As we understand it, this is a dispute between you (and other hapū trustees) and the WLSNT. The disputes resolution process in the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust Deed of Trust (Appendix Four of [Whanganui Land Settlement Draft Deed Mandate Strategy](#)) is the first port of call for a dispute between a member of the claimant community and the Trust.

Our role in this is limited. We're not a party to it. It is important to note that at the time of mandating we ensured that there were mechanisms in place that provided for dispute resolution before we agreed to recognise the mandate.

While we've pointed you to the documents that contain the mechanisms for accountability of the WLSNT to the claimant community, we'd be overstepping our role to give you advice about how you should interpret or use them.

We will pass on the issues you've raised to the WLSNT and ask them to address the concerns and then come back and tell us how they've addressed them.

We strongly encourage you to keep engaging with them and we'll give them the same message.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 November 2025 12:59 pm
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Evidence Required for Loss of Confidence in Mandated Trustees

Kia Ora ano,

It appears that the dispute resolution process is limited to disputes between WLSNT and the Crown, and does not cover disputes between the trustee and the claimant community. Further, the trustees have not been responding to enquiries and have not acted in good faith, which undermines confidence that any dispute resolution will be conducted fairly.

Several hapū have no knowledge of who their representative is, and the trustees have refused to provide this information. This raises the question of who can formally write a letter on behalf of the claimant community. While over 51% of WLSNT members would normally need to sign, this is not feasible as we do not have contact details for all individual claimants.

Could this letter instead come from each hapū trustees? Currently, there are 15 marae registered with WLSNT, and 10 of these have expressed concerns, while the remaining 5 are marae affiliated with the mandated trustees and naturally do not raise issues.

We would appreciate guidance on how the claimant community can legitimately raise their concerns under these circumstances.

Nā

s9(2)(a)

On Wed, 26 Nov 2025, 12:38 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

In response to your below query, there is an *Amendment or Withdrawal of Mandate* section set out in the WLSNT Deed of Mandate – see section 16 of [Whanganui Land Settlement \(lower reaches of Whanganui\) Deed of Mandate 15 Apr 2017](#).

The section notes:

Any issues or concerns regarding WLS Negotiation Trust's mandate, that propose the amendment or removal of WLS Negotiation Trust's mandate, must first be addressed through the disputes resolution process outlined in Schedule four of the WLS Negotiation Trust Trust Deed.

The disputes resolution process can also be found online at Appendix Four of the [Whanganui Land Settlement Draft Deed Mandate Strategy](#).

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 November 2025 11:10 am
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Evidence Required for Loss of Confidence in Mandated Trustees

Hi Victoria,

Can you please confirm what recognised evidence Te Tari Whakatau requires to establish a clear loss of confidence in the mandated trustees? Despite repeated requests, no written answers have been provided to the claimant community prior to the update hui tonight, and non-registered members seeking the hui link have received no response.

These ongoing issues, combined with the lack of transparency and communication, make it evident that the wider claimant community are not satisfied with the conduct of the mandated trustees.

I am aware that some hapū members are considering petitioning directly due to their dissatisfaction with the current mandated trustees. However, my understanding is that there is a recognised and formal process for replacing mandated trustees on the basis of loss of confidence. I seek confirmation from Te Tari Whakatau on this process so that the claimant community can follow the correct pathway and ensure our concerns are dealt with in a transparent and legitimate manner.

It isn't the Crown or the claimant community that there are issues with, it's the transparency and conduct of the mandated trustees.

Regards

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
To: Mitchell, James; Smits, Victoria; Illana, Caryl; Wikaira, Rachel; Cameron, Tania; s9(2)(a)
Subject: Petition of Whanganui Hapū Regarding Mandate, process and Authority of WLSNT.
Date: Wednesday, 3 December 2025 12:22:46 pm
Attachments: Hui Patai – Ngati Pamoana – Hui-a-Iwi 2025.pdf

Kia ora Tātau
For your information.
Ngā mihi s9(2)(a)

On Wed, 3 Dec 2025 at 11:59, s9(2)(a)
wrote:

Kia ora tātau

I have attached the WLSNT responses to the questions collated and tabled by the hapū/beneficiaries. You can decide how well they have been answered.

You may or may not be aware that the Whanganui Land Settlement Trustees are initialling the Deed of Settlement at Parliament tomorrow, Thursday, 04 December 2025. This will trigger the Ratification Process.

Despite our attempts to insert terms and conditions that safeguard the interests of our hapū/beneficiaries, Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust has chosen to proceed without them.

Out of scope

If you are still undecided, you can join the Zoom meeting below on Tuesday, 09 December, to talk about the matter more.

Out of scope

Feel free to call me directly if you have any questions. s9(2)(a)
Naa s9(2)(a).

Out of scope

Out of scope

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

Out of scope

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

CRITICAL QUESTIONS FOR PSGE ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGITIMACY.

To ensure the proposed Post-Settlement Governance Entity is robust and truly representative, the following questions must be answered with specific enforceable details prior to ratification.

SECTION 1 – RATIFICATION & MANDATE

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. What minimum thresholds of voter turnout and supermajority support are required for the ratification vote to be considered legally and culturally binding?	The Red Book does not set a legal minimum for voter turnout or support. It only requires that the ratification process shows broad, genuine backing from iwi and hapū through a fair and transparent process. For Whanganui, WLSNT has signalled an 80% tikanga based support threshold as the standard we aim for, to ensure the decision reflects the collective will of our people. Reference • No explicit reference.
2. How will an independent electoral officer be appointed to guarantee a transparent and accessible voting process for all beneficiaries?	The Red Book requires that the ratification vote be overseen by an independent person or agency to ensure the process is free, fair, and transparent. This includes independent verification of all procedures and results. WLSNT will engage an external provider, such as Electionz.com, to manage registrations, voting packs, and result verification. For Whanganui, the Crown, through Te Puni Kōkiri, will appoint an independent electoral officer to provide full neutrality. Together, these two layers ensure a fair, transparent, and accessible process for all beneficiaries. Reference • Red Book Pt 5 “Ratification and Independent Oversight”

SECTION 2 – GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. What specific process and beneficiary vote threshold are defined in the Trust Deed for the removal of an under-performing trustee outside an AGM?	The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed provides two pathways for removing a trustee. Under cls. 26.1–26.4, a trustee may be removed for serious breach, misconduct, or loss of confidence. Removal can be decided at a Special General Meeting (cl. 15.5), where uri receive notice and vote on a Special Resolution, requiring 75% support of votes cast by Adult Members. Trustees may also be removed by the High Court under the Trusts Act 2019 if fiduciary duties are breached. The Red Book (Part 5: <i>Accountability to Beneficiaries</i>) supports this approach, recommending clear procedures with proper notice, evidence, and a transparent beneficiary vote. Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 26.1–26.4 (Removal of Trustees), 15.5 (Special General Meeting) • Red Book Pt 5 “Accountability to Beneficiaries”
2. How will an independent, beneficiary-elected Audit & Risk Committee be established and empowered to provide oversight of major financial decisions?	The Trust Deed allows Trustees to establish governance or financial oversight sub-committees if they consider them appropriate (cl. 12.7). An Audit & Risk Committee is one option the Trustees may choose to establish, and the method of appointing members would be determined at the time. The Deed provides flexibility rather than prescribing a specific structure. Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 12.7 (Sub-Committees – Optional) • PSGE Deed cls. 13–15 (Annual Planning & Reporting) • Red Book Pt 5 “Risk and Audit Oversight”
3. What is the mandated strategy for succession planning and leadership development to ensure continuous renewal of skilled governance?	The Trust Deed provides for trustee rotation and periodic governance reviews (cls. 8–10, 35), which naturally support renewal. Any broader succession or leadership development initiatives would be matters for Trustees to consider as part of their operational planning. Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 8–10 (Trustee Rotation & Elections) • PSGE Deed cl. 35 (Five-Year Deed Review) • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Capability and Continuity”

SECTION 3 – DISTRIBUTION & HAPŪ AUTONOMY

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. What legally binding formula or percentage for the annual distribution of profits to marae and hapū will be included in the Trust Deed or Distribution Plan?	The Trust Deed does not require a fixed formula for distributions. It enables the Trustees, through their annual planning processes, to outline how benefits may be allocated in any given year. This approach is intentionally flexible so that Trustees may respond to circumstances, priorities, and guidance from uri. Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 13.2–13.3 (Distribution Plan), 14.1–14.4 (Annual Report on Benefits) • Red Book Pt 5 “Distribution of Benefits and Accountability”
2. What specific legal mechanism in the Trust Deed will formally protect a hapū’s right to manage its own assets and cultural affairs?	The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed provides mechanisms that may support hapū autonomy, including Mūmū (cl. 6) and the potential establishment of Ngā Whenu (cls. 10–11) as subsidiaries that may hold or manage assets on behalf of a hapū or kaupapa where allocated. Each Whenu, if established, would operate under a constitution approved by the Trustees and would report annually. Clause 2.3(b) reflects the Trust’s intention to work with hapū to maintain and advance their rangatiratanga. Taken together, these provisions enable hapū self-management where appropriate, while remaining consistent with trustee decision-making under the Deed. The Red Book (Part 5: Governance Entities) identifies such structures, hapū voice, delegated mechanisms, and subsidiary entities, as examples of good practice for recognising distinct hapū interests. Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b) (Support for Hapū Rangatiratanga), 6 (Mūmū), 10–11 (Ngā Whenu – Subsidiaries) • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Entities and Representation”

SECTION 4 – CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. How does the Trust Deed explicitly prohibit trustees and employees from having a financial interest in entities that contract with the PSGE or its subsidiaries?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed includes provisions that govern how trustee interests are managed. Clause 18 (Trustee Interests and Accountability) requires Trustees to disclose any financial or personal interest in a contract, transaction, or matter before the Trust. A Trustee with a declared interest may not vote or participate in related decision-making.</i> <i>Clause 18.16 provides for a register of interests to be maintained. Acting contrary to these requirements may constitute a breach of trust and could, where appropriate, be considered under the removal provisions in cls. 26.2–26.4.</i> <i>Employees of the PSGE and subsidiaries are generally expected to comply with conflict-of-interest standards through internal policies or employment agreements; these are operational matters rather than deed-mandated requirements.</i> <i>The Red Book (Part 5 – “Managing Conflicts of Interest”) encourages PSGEs to ensure transparent declaration and proper management of all conflicts, aligned with best-practice integrity standards.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 18.1–18.16 (Trustee Interests and Disclosures), 26.2–26.4 (Consideration of Removal) • Red Book Pt 5 “Managing Conflicts of Interest”
2. How will a live and permanently accessible register of all declared conflicts of interest and major contracts be maintained for all beneficiaries to review?	<i>Under the Takapau Whāriki PSGE, a live Conflicts of Interest Register must be maintained in accordance with the Trust Deed’s conflict provisions. Clause 18 requires all trustees to declare any financial or personal interests, and under the prohibition clause they must not participate in discussions, decision-making, or voting on any matter where they are conflicted. All declared interests must be recorded in the Register.</i> <i>Records of major contracts and procurement decisions must also be kept as part of the PSGE’s reporting and audit obligations. While the PSGE must make high-level information accessible to uri in line with clauses 14–16 (Annual Reporting, Audit, and Access to Records), it will also need to assess the commercial sensitivity of certain information — such as contract values, negotiations, or personal employment details. This means beneficiaries can access</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	<i>conflict declarations and summary information, while commercially sensitive details may be appropriately restricted to protect legal and contractual obligations.</i> <i>This approach balances transparency with legitimate confidentiality requirements.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–16 (Reporting, Audit & Access to Records), 18 (Conflicts of Interest & Prohibition on Participation) • Red Book Pt 5 “Transparency, Conflicts Management, Commercial Sensitivity”

SECTION 5 – OTHER QUESTIONS

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. Who gave the Crown the ability to be trustees?	<i>The Crown is not a trustee of the Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE). Under the settlement framework, the Crown's role is limited to negotiating the Deed of Settlement and transferring redress. It does not hold, manage, or act as trustee for settlement assets.</i> <i>Once the settlement is enacted, all assets vest in the PSGE, which operates as the sole legal trustee for iwi and hapū beneficiaries. The Red Book confirms that PSGEs are intended to be independent of the Crown and accountable only to their beneficiaries.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 1.3 (Establishment of the Trust) • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Entities – Independence from the Crown”
2. If nobody gave the Crown the ability to be trustee, then how can they be trustees?	<i>The Crown cannot act as a trustee of the PSGE. Its role concludes once it transfers assets and obligations through the Deed of Settlement. From that point, only the PSGE is recognised as the trustee at law.</i> <i>The Crown's ongoing involvement is limited to its responsibilities in the settlement process, not the governance or management of iwi assets.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 1.3, 2.1–2.3 (Objects and Independence) • Red Book Pt 5 “Crown's Role in Settlement Governance”
3. Did the Crown give co-trusteeship to Māori?	<i>No. The Crown does not grant co-trusteeship. Iwi determine the structure of their PSGE through their mandate and ratification processes. The PSGE model for Whanganui was developed by WLSNT on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and will be confirmed by uri through ratification.</i> <i>The Red Book states that PSGEs must be developed by the claimant community and be accountable to their beneficiaries—not established by the Crown.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed Background paras 7–9 • Red Book Pt 5 “Ratification and Governance Entities”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
4. Can you only be a trustee if you were assigned to be a trustee by the Settlor?	<i>In the Takapau Whāriki Trust, the Settlor is the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT). The Settlor names the initial trustees as part of establishing the PSGE, and those appointments are confirmed through the ratification process.</i> <i>Once the PSGE is established, future trustees are elected by uri under the nomination, election, and tenure provisions in cls. 8–10 of the Trust Deed.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 1.3 (Settlor) • PSGE Deed cls. 8–10 (Election and Tenure of Trustees)
5. Then who is the Settlor of the Waitangi Settlement?	<i>The Settlor of the PSGE Trust is WLSNT acting on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui. The Crown is a party to the Deed of Settlement, but it does not settle or establish the PSGE trust. Its role is limited to providing and transferring settlement redress.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 1.3 (Settlor and Establishment) • Red Book Pt 5 “Settlement Structures”
6. Are we the Settlor of the Waitangi Settlement?	<i>Indirectly, yes. Although WLSNT is the legal Settlor, its authority is derived from hapū and iwi through their mandate and participation in the settlement and ratification processes. In that sense, the ability to establish the PSGE originates with the hapū and iwi.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed Background paras 5–9 • Red Book Pt 5 “Mandate and Ratification Process”
7. When there is no Settlor, does the trustee go into default setting under the Trusts Act 2019?	<i>The Trusts Act 2019 provides default rules where a trust deed does not identify a Settlor or does not specify governance arrangements. In this case, the Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed identifies a Settlor (WLSNT) and sets out the governance framework, so the Act’s default provisions would not apply.</i> <i>The Trusts Act would only become relevant in this way if the Deed were silent or defective on these matters.</i> Reference • Trusts Act 2019 ss. 12–15 (Default duties and Settlor provisions) • PSGE Deed cl. 1.3 (Settlor definition)

QUESTIONS TO WLSNT REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS AND HAPU AUTHORITY

SECTION 1– TINO RANGATIRATANGA AND MANA MOTUHAKE

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. How will the settlement guarantee that hapū retain Tino Rangatiratanga and Mana Motuhake over their own whenua, taonga, and tikanga?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed includes mechanisms that may support hapū in exercising their own mana and authority, including Ngā Whenu and the Mūmū hapū forum. These structures provide avenues for hapū participation in decision-making and, where established, in the management of assets connected to their whenua and taonga.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that settlements should recognise and respect distinct hapū interests and encourage governance arrangements that uphold hapū representation. These expectations inform the design of the PSGE but do not create Crown-imposed guarantees.</i> <i>Taken together, the Deed and wider settlement framework provide for ongoing hapū involvement and support for their rangatiratanga, while still operating within the collective PSGE structure.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b); 6 (Mūmū); 10–11 (Ngā Whenu) • Red Book Parts 3 & 5 (Representation and Post-Settlement Governance)
2. When you say hapū will “maintain” their authority, what ensures this remains intact and not overridden by the PSGE or Crown?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed provides for Ngā Whenu to operate alongside the PSGE where they are established, enabling assets or kaupapa to be managed for the benefit of a particular hapū. This structure supports hapū to continue exercising authority over matters connected to them, while remaining consistent with the PSGE’s overarching responsibilities.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages claimant groups to demonstrate governance arrangements that reflect hapū input and avoid unnecessary centralisation. The combination of Mūmū, Ngā Whenu, and tikanga-based engagement provides a framework that may help maintain hapū roles within the collective structure.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 8.3, 10–11 (Ngā Whenu) • Red Book Pt 5.9 (Engagement and Representation)
3. How will this be reflected in the Deed of Settlement, and will there be binding	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed includes provisions that support ongoing hapū roles—such as Ngā Whenu, Mūmū, and the commitment in cl. 2.3(b) to work with hapū to maintain and advance their rangatiratanga. These mechanisms operate within the PSGE framework and provide practical pathways for hapū involvement in governance and asset-related matters.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
recognition of hapū autonomy post-settlement?	<i>The extent to which these arrangements may be reflected in the Deed of Settlement will depend on final negotiations. The Red Book encourages the use of relationship agreements or similar mechanisms to acknowledge hapū interests, but these are not automatically binding unless incorporated into the final settlement documents.</i> <i>Accordingly, the Trust Deed provides the structural basis for supporting hapū autonomy, while any recognition in the Deed of Settlement would depend on what is ultimately agreed between WLSNT and the Crown.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b); 6 (Mūmū); 10–11 (Ngā Whenu); 15 (Ngā Whenu Plans & Reports) • Red Book Pt 5.11 (Ratification and Governance Structure Approval)

SECTION 2 – Relationship with Councils and External Authorities

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. Given that WLSNT and the PSGE are forming partnership agreements with councils and Crown agencies, how can hapū be confident these won't replace or weaken direct hapū authority?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed provides that external relationships are guided by Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi and Ngā Mātāpono, helping ensure that principles such as integrity (Toitū te Kupu), mana (Toitū te Mana), and sustenance (Toitū te Whenua) inform how the PSGE engages with external agencies.</i> <i>The Deed also supports engagement at PSGE, hapū, and marae levels, meaning each hapū may continue to maintain its own direct relationships with councils and Crown agencies where appropriate.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages claimant groups to demonstrate how hapū interests will continue to be reflected in post-settlement arrangements. These expectations help guide the development of PSGE-level agreements without replacing hapū authority.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 9.6 (External Agreements), 2.3(b) (Purpose of Trust) • Red Book Pt 5.10–5.12 (Governance Arrangements and Relationships)
2. What assurances are there that councils will continue to engage directly with hapū rather than defaulting to the PSGE as a single iwi authority?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed establishes a structure that supports hapū representation alongside collective iwi-level relationships. External agreements entered by the PSGE are held on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui, not instead of them.</i> <i>Hapū input is supported through two key mechanisms:</i> • Mūmū – the hapū forum where representatives provide advice and guidance on matters affecting hapū; and • Ngā Whenu – subsidiaries that may be established to manage assets or functions connected to hapū and iwi priorities. <i>Through these mechanisms, hapū remain involved in shaping PSGE priorities and may continue their own direct relationships with councils and regional authorities as appropriate.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 2.3(b) (Support for Hapū Rangatiratanga) • PSGE Deed cl. 9 (Mūmū – Hapū Forum)

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	• PSGE Deed cls. 10–11 (Ngā Whenu – Subsidiaries) • Red Book Pt 5.9 (Engagement and Representation)
3. How will hapū be represented and consulted in co-management or relationship frameworks created after settlement?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed enables Trustees to delegate representation roles to hapū or individuals for co-management or partnership arrangements where appropriate. This provides a pathway for hapū-led involvement in environmental, cultural, and land management matters post-settlement.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that governance arrangements should outline how hapū will participate in joint-management or statutory forums, especially where cultural redress involves relationships with local authorities.</i> <i>Together, these frameworks support ongoing hapū involvement in co-management arrangements, guided by tikanga and ahi kā, while recognising that specific arrangements will depend on final negotiations and agreements with relevant agencies.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 24 (Delegations), 27 (Accountability and Representation) • Red Book Pt 6.2 (Cultural Redress and Co-Management)

SECTION 3 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPRESENTATION

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. Who are these settlement entities answerable to — the hapū, the wider iwi, or the Crown?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust (PSGE) is designed to be accountable to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and their uri. Once the Deed of Settlement is completed, the Crown's role primarily relates to the transfer of redress, not ongoing governance.</i> <i>Clauses 2.3(a–b) outline the Trust's purpose to act for the collective benefit of beneficiaries and to support hapū in maintaining and advancing their rangatiratanga. Accountability mechanisms include reporting to uri through Annual Reports (cl. 14) and AGMs (cl. 15).</i> <i>The Red Book notes that PSGEs are expected to operate independently of the Crown and be accountable to their beneficiaries.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 14, 15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Accountability to Beneficiaries”
2. How is accountability to hapū legally or structurally established in the Trust Deed or PSGE structure?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed includes several mechanisms that support hapū involvement and oversight. These include Mūmū (cl. 6), which provides a forum for hapū representatives, and Ngā Whenu (cls. 10–11), which may be established to hold or manage assets for hapū or kaupapa.</i> <i>Accountability is further supported through planning, reporting, annual hui, and access-to-information provisions (cls. 13–16), providing transparency for uri.</i> <i>The Red Book highlights that strong hapū participation and oversight mechanisms contribute to durable and legitimate PSGE structures.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6 (Mūmū), 10–11 (Ngā Whenu), 13–16 (Planning, Reporting, Transparency) • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Entities and Representation”
3. Will hapū have direct decision-making power or only advisory roles within the governance structure?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed provides for hapū involvement in governance through Mūmū, which nominates four Trustees under cl. 6.3. This ensures hapū representation on the governing body, while the full Board retains the formal decision-making authority of the PSGE.</i> <i>Ngā Whenu, where established, may hold or manage assets related to hapū or shared</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	<i>kaupapa. Clause 2.3(b) reflects the Trust's intention to work with hapū to maintain and advance their rangatiratanga, while cls. 10–11 outline how Whenu entities may operate within the PSGE group.</i> <i>The Red Book identifies layered governance, combining collective strategy with mechanisms for hapū-level involvement, as an example of good practice for PSGEs.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 6.3 (Mūmū nominations), 10–11 (Ngā Whenu) • Red Book Pt 5 “Representation and Decision-Making”

SECTION 4 – POST-SETTLEMENT MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND TAONGA

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. When reserves, wāhi tapu, or sites taken under the Public Works Act (PWA) are returned, will the Crown or other agencies deal directly with the hapū or through the PSGE trust?	<i>Following settlement, Crown agencies generally interact with the PSGE as the legal holder of redress properties. The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed, however, supports hapū involvement in decisions affecting sites connected to them.</i> <i>Clause 2.3(b) signals the Trust's intention to work with hapū to maintain and advance their rangatiratanga. Clause 6 establishes Mūmū as a mechanism for hapū input, and cls. 10–11 enable Ngā Whenu entities to be created for hapū-specific asset or site management where appropriate.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that while the PSGE must hold redress assets on behalf of the claimant community, hapū participation or substructures may be used to support local management arrangements.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 6, 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Management of Settlement Assets”
2. How will hapū-specific taonga and ancestral lands be distinguished from ‘iwi’ or collective assets within the settlement?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE Deed provides for both collective and hapū-related assets. Clause 2.3(b) supports working with hapū to maintain their rangatiratanga, and cl. 10.3 allows Ngā Whenu to be established to hold, manage, or develop assets associated with particular hapū or kaupapa.</i> <i>This structure enables a distinction to be made between collective PSGE assets (held for all beneficiaries) and assets that the Trustees determine should be linked to a particular hapū, where a Whenu is established to administer them.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages clarity about collective versus hapū-specific assets and suggests that where hapū-linked redress is identifiable, settlement documents may record that purpose.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 10.3 • Red Book Pt 5 “Distinguishing Collective and Hapū Assets”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
3. Will hapū have the ability to administer and manage their own lands independently of the PSGE?	<i>For whenua and taonga that remain outside the settlement process, hapū continue to manage their own lands as they do now. In relation to settlement assets, the Takapau Whāriki PSGE Deed includes mechanisms that may support hapū involvement in management.</i> <i>Clauses 10–11 enable the creation of Ngā Whenu, subsidiary entities that can manage or develop assets for defined hapū or kaupapa, subject to PSGE group policies. Clause 2.3(b) also reflects the Trust’s intention to support hapū in maintaining and advancing their rangatiratanga.</i> <i>The Red Book supports the idea that PSGEs may delegate functions to hapū entities, provided accountability and reporting remain clear.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Delegation to Hapū Entities”

SECTION 5 – INCLUSION OF HAPŪ CONDITIONS OR PROVISIONS

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. Can hapū include their own conditions, terms, or protocols (tikanga-based clauses) within the settlement before it is finalised?	Yes. Hapū can and were able to influence both the Deed of Settlement (DoS) and the PSGE design during the settlement process. For the Deed of Settlement, hapū could raise tikanga-based conditions, cultural expectations, or relationship protocols through WLSNT during negotiations with the Crown. Hapū input informed cultural redress, relationship agreements, and acknowledgements. Any changes could only be included in the DoS if negotiated and agreed with the Crown before initialling and ratification. For the PSGE, the Working Group developed a recommended governance model and provided a report to the Trustees. The Trustees received that report and endorsed the recommended model. This endorsed PSGE proposal was then taken out to hapū through a series of PSGE presentations. At these hui, the draft Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed was shared with hapū and uri to allow feedback, suggested changes, and clarification of tikanga expectations prior to ratification. All feedback was considered, but not every proposed change could be adopted, as changes needed to remain consistent with settlement policy, the negotiated redress, and the structural integrity of the PSGE. Under clause 30.4 of the draft Trust Deed, Adult Registered Uri will also have an ongoing pathway to propose amendments to the PSGE Deed in future. Together, these processes provided genuine opportunities for hapū to propose and influence tikanga-based provisions in both the DeS and the PSGE, while ensuring changes could only be adopted where consistent with Crown policy, legal obligations, and the mandate. Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 30.4 (Amendments by Uri) • Red Book Pt 5 “Ratification, Tikanga and Customary Clauses”
2. Will there be an opportunity to append hapū-specific agreements or schedules that reflect our individual rights, history, and tikanga?	Yes. There are opportunities to include hapū-specific arrangements, but they sit in different places depending on timing and purpose. For the Deed of Settlement: During negotiations (before initialling), hapū may raise matters relating to cultural redress, historical acknowledgements, or relationship protocols. Any agreed hapū-specific arrangements would be included in the DoS or its schedules if agreed by the Crown before initialling. Once the DoS is initialled, no new schedules can be added.

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	For the PSGE: <i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed allows hapū-specific agreements or schedules to be added through Ngā Whenu (cls. 10–11). Each Whenu may have its own constitution or agreement, approved by Trustees, to manage hapū-level assets or relationships. Clause 35 (Deed Review) also provides an ongoing pathway for hapū to propose new schedules or amendments as tikanga or relationships evolve.</i> <i>The Red Book supports this flexible approach, recommending that PSGEs use appendices or substructures to reflect the diversity and needs of individual hapū.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 10–11 (Ngā Whenu), 35 (Review) • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Entities – Flexibility and Hapū Autonomy”
3. How will the PSGE accommodate multiple hapū mandates and governance structures without amalgamating or diminishing them?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed sets out the PSGE’s role to act for the collective and individual benefit of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui. Clause 2.3(b) signals an intention to support each hapū to maintain and advance its rangatiratanga. This is further supported through Mūmū (cl. 6), which provides a forum for hapū input, and Ngā Whenu (cls. 10–11), which may be established to support hapū-level asset management or governance.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that layered governance models — where hapū participate within a wider collective framework — are considered good practice for representing diverse hapū interests without forcing amalgamation.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b) (Support for Hapū Rangatiratanga), 6 (Mūmū – Hapū Forum), 10–11 (Ngā Whenu – Subsidiaries) • Red Book Pt 5 “Representation and Hapū Autonomy”

SECTION 6 – DECISION-MAKING AND CONSENT

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. What process is in place to ensure hapū consent is obtained prior to ratification?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed sets out that the PSGE acts for Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and their uri (cl. 2.3(a–b)). Engagement with hapū prior to ratification is carried out through hui, information sharing, submissions, and participation in Mūmū (cl. 6), which provides a mechanism for hapū input.</i> <i>The Red Book outlines that the ratification process must provide all members of the claimant community with a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate. This includes access to clear information, opportunities to engage, and accessible voting processes.</i> <i>While the Trust Deed supports hapū engagement, consent is ultimately expressed through the collective ratification process rather than any individual hapū veto.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 6 (Mūmū – Hapū Forum) • Red Book Pt 5 “Ratification Process”
2. If a hapū does not agree with the current mandate or PSGE model, how will its interests and rights be upheld and protected?	<i>The Deed supports ongoing hapū roles even where differences of view exist. Clause 2.3(b) signals the Trust’s intention to support each hapū to maintain and advance its rangatiratanga. Mechanisms such as Mūmū (cl. 6) and the potential establishment of Ngā Whenu (cls. 10–11) provide avenues for hapū involvement in decision-making and, where appropriate, asset or relationship management.</i> <i>The Red Book states that settlements do not extinguish the rights of non-consenting hapū. Their interests may be recognised through representation arrangements, relationship agreements, or other post-settlement mechanisms, depending on what is negotiated and agreed.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 6, 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Non-Consenting Hapū and Representation”
3. Can hapū opt out or seek an alternative settlement pathway if they are not satisfied with the collective approach?	<i>Hapū may choose not to support the collective approach during the mandate or ratification stages, and the Red Book recognises this as an alternative pathway before a settlement is finalised. Any hapū that does not support the collective model may raise this directly with WLSNT or the Crown during pre-ratification engagement.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	Once the Deed of Settlement is enacted, however, the Crown generally works only with the PSGE for settlement implementation, and an alternative settlement pathway is no longer available under standard Crown policy. Within that framework, the Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed provides mechanisms that maintain hapū rangatiratanga inside the collective structure. These include representation through Mūmū (cl. 6), the ability to establish Ngā Whenu subsidiaries (cls. 10–11) for hapū-specific assets or kaupapa, and the Trust’s commitment under clause 2.3(b) to support hapū decision-making and autonomy. These tools ensure hapū who disagree with the collective approach can continue to express their authority and maintain their roles within the PSGE environment. Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 6, 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Alternative Pathways and Mandate”

Section 7 – OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. What will happen to existing Wai claims and evidence once the settlement is signed — will they be extinguished even if hapū do not agree?	Once the Deed of Settlement is signed and then legislated, all historical Wai claims covered by the settlement are legally “full and final” under Crown settlement policy. This means the legal claims are extinguished, even if some hapū do not agree with the collective approach. This extinguishment applies only to the legal claim pathway — it does not extinguish hapū identity, tikanga, histories, or the right of hapū to continue expressing their rangatiratanga. The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed (cl. 2.3(b)) affirms that hapū continue to maintain and advance their own rangatiratanga after settlement, including their tikanga, whakapapa, and cultural responsibilities. These roles persist regardless of the legal finality of the historical claims. Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 2.3(b) (Support for Hapū Rangatiratanga) • Red Book Pt 5 “Settlement Finality and Claim Extinguishment”
2. How will the PSGE or Crown ensure that hapū identity, reo, and tikanga are not subsumed under a generic iwi framework?	Under the Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed, the PSGE’s purpose clause (2.3(a–b)) signals that its actions are intended to benefit hapū collectively and individually, and that it will work with hapū to maintain and advance their rangatiratanga. Mūmū (cl. 6) and the potential establishment of Ngā Whenu (cls. 10–11) provide structures that may support hapū in continuing to exercise their distinct roles and identities within the PSGE framework. The Red Book notes that PSGEs should reflect the diversity of their claimant communities and avoid collapsing hapū identities into a single generic structure. It provides guidance but does not create enforceable obligations beyond what is agreed in settlement documents. Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 6, 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Representation and Hapū Identity”
3. Will there be a review or dispute resolution process to address conflicts between hapū and the PSGE after settlement?	The Takapau Whāriki Trust Deed includes internal review and dispute-resolution mechanisms. Clause 35 provides for a five-year review of the Deed, including engagement with hapū and uri on governance performance. Clause 27 outlines an internal dispute-resolution pathway beginning with informal resolution and mediation, and, if required, progressing to independent facilitation or arbitration.

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	<i>The Red Book notes that regular review processes and clear dispute-resolution pathways are examples of good practice for PSGE structures.</i> <i>Reference</i> • PSGE Deed cls. 27 (Dispute Resolution), 35 (Review) • Red Book Pt 5 “Dispute Resolution and Review”
4. Is there a draft of the proposed governance model that hapū can review and provide written feedback on before any ratification?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE Trust Deed will be made publicly available to all hapū and uri before voting. This allows hapū to review the proposed governance arrangements, discuss them through hui and Mūmū, and provide feedback or recommendations.</i> <i>The Red Book requires that claimant communities have access to the full PSGE model and Trust Deed before any ratification vote, ensuring transparency and informed participation.</i> Reference • Red Book Pt 5 “Ratification and Governance Entities – Transparency”

WLSNT HUI QUESTIONS – PSGE GOVERNANCE, TRUST DEEDS, RESERVES, MUSEUMS & TE TOMOKANGA KI TE MATAPIHI

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
1. How will PSGE governance align with the Deed of Mandate, the Agreement in Principle, and Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE has been developed to align with the intent of the Deed of Mandate and Agreement in Principle. Its purpose clauses (cls. 2.1–2.3) reflect the hapū-led approach used throughout negotiations, and the values of Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi may guide how the PSGE engages and operates where adopted through the Trust Deed or policy.</i> <i>WLSNT oversees this alignment during the transition, with the PSGE responsible for carrying it into implementation.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that PSGEs should reflect the mandate and maintain continuity with arrangements negotiated during settlement, but it does not prescribe specific governance models.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed Preamble; cls. 2.1–2.3 (Purpose & Alignment); any Schedule referencing Te Tomokanga • Red Book Pt 5 “Mandate, Governance Entities and Continuity”
2. What mechanisms ensure transparent trustee decision-making and clear communication to Uri?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE Deed provides mechanisms that support transparency, including reporting obligations under cls. 14–15 and the role of Mūmū (cl. 6) as a forum for hapū input. Additional communication tools such as newsletters or online updates would be operational decisions for the PSGE to determine.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages PSGEs to maintain accessible information flows and demonstrate accountability, but the specific methods are determined by each PSGE.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Transparency and Accountability”
3. How often will PSGE report back to Uri, and in what formats (AGMs, newsletters, online updates)?	<i>Under the Takapau Whāriki Deed, the PSGE must hold at least one Annual General Meeting each year and provide annual reporting (cls. 14–15). Other updates—such as newsletters, online pānui, or hui—are operational decisions to be determined by the Trustees as part of their wider communication approach.</i> <i>The Red Book highlights that PSGEs should provide regular and accessible updates, but it does not specify the formats.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Transparency, Reporting and Accountability”
4. How will breaches of PSGE policies or conflicts of interest be dealt with?	<i>Trustees must declare and manage conflicts of interest under cl. 18 of the Trust Deed. Declarations are recorded in an interests register, and Trustees must follow the procedures for disclosure and recusal outlined in the Deed. Any further steps—such as internal review or escalation—are determined through PSGE policy and the dispute-resolution pathway in cl. 27.</i> <i>The Red Book supports transparent conflict-management processes but leaves the detail to each PSGE.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 18 (Conflicts), 27 (Dispute Resolution) • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Integrity and Conflicts Management”
5. In the Takapau Whariki Trust deed, trustees are indemnified if ‘acting in good faith.’ What safeguards ensure accountability if decisions still cause harm to hapu interests?	<i>While trustees are indemnified when acting in good faith (cl. 19), they must still comply with the Trust Deed, the Trusts Act 2019, and fiduciary duties to avoid negligence or breach of trust. Transparency mechanisms, including annual reporting and the role of Mūmū, provide avenues for oversight.</i> <i>The PSGE may also arrange independent audits and maintain risk-management systems as part of its operational responsibilities. Hapū or uri may raise concerns through hui, reporting processes, or by using the Special General Meeting provisions where applicable.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages independent audit and accountability structures but does not prescribe specific safeguards.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 14–15, 19 • Trusts Act 2019 (Trustee Duties) • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Integrity, Risk and Audit”
6. Since trustees are ‘not bound by AGM resolutions’ (s17.6 Takapau Whariki deed), how will Uri voices be meaningfully incorporated into decisions?	<i>While Trustees retain final decision-making authority, the PSGE Deed requires engagement with uri through AGMs, hui-ā-hapū, and Mūmū (cl. 6). Trustees are expected to consider feedback received through these processes and may document how views have been taken into account as part of their reporting obligations.</i> <i>The Red Book emphasises that governance entities should demonstrate meaningful beneficiary engagement and provide transparent information on how community views influence decisions.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 14–15, 35 (Review) • Red Book Pt 5 “Beneficiary Engagement and Decision-Making Transparency”

HAPŪ VOICE, REPRESENTATION, AND TIKANGA

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
7. How will hapū voices be represented fairly in PSGE governance and PSGE–Council engagement?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE structure supports hapū-at-place involvement, with Mūmū (cl. 6) providing a forum for hapū input and participation. Engagement arrangements may identify hapū entities relevant to particular kaupapa, helping maintain clarity and consistency.</i> <i>During transition, WLSNT negotiates these arrangements, and once established, the PSGE is responsible for maintaining hapū representation through its governance and partnership practices.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages PSGEs to include structures that reflect hapū-at-place interests and provide clear representation pathways.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 2.3(a–b) • Red Book Pt 5 “Representation of Hapū and Sub-lwi Interests”
8. Will hapū or marae have a direct role in PSGE–Council decision-making, or only through PSGE trustees?	<i>Relationship agreements after settlement will be entered into by the PSGE. Hapū input may continue through Mūmū (cl. 6) and local hapū leadership processes. Until the PSGE is established, WLSNT negotiates these arrangements on behalf of hapū.</i> <i>The balance between PSGE-level relationships and hapū-level participation will be shaped by the governance model and any operational policies developed by the PSGE.</i> <i>The Red Book supports arrangements where hapū roles are provided for in PSGE frameworks, but the exact form depends on what is negotiated and agreed.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 2.3(a–b) • Red Book Pt 5 “Post-Settlement Relationships and Hapū Participation”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
9. How will PSGE embed Ngā Mātāpono o Whanganui (Toitū te Kupu, Toitū te Mana, Toitū te Whenua) into its constitution and decision-making?	<i>Ngā Mātāpono o Whanganui may guide PSGE governance and relationships where incorporated into the Trust Deed or PSGE policies. Clauses 2.1–2.3 provide flexibility for values frameworks to inform decision-making, and any schedule that records these principles would guide operational practice once adopted.</i> <i>Embedding these values is an operational responsibility that the PSGE may implement through its governance policies, partnership agreements, and internal procedures.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages PSGEs to reflect claimant-developed cultural frameworks where the community supports them.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed Preamble; cls. 2.1–2.3; any Schedule outlining Ngā Mātāpono • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Values and Community-Developed Frameworks”
10. What accountability measures ensure Tupua te Kawa actively guides PSGE decisions, not just acknowledged in principle?	<i>The Trust Deed contains the PSGE’s accountability mechanisms, including reporting requirements (cls. 14–15) and scheduled review processes (cl. 35). Where relationship agreements include review clauses, these provide opportunities to assess alignment with shared principles such as Tupua te Kawa.</i> <i>Ensuring Tupua te Kawa informs practice is an operational responsibility for the PSGE, which must demonstrate alignment through reporting, hui, and review processes.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that regular reporting and periodic review are good-practice tools for maintaining alignment with agreed values.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–15, 35 • Relationship Agreements (review provisions) • Red Book Pt 5 “Accountability, Reporting and Values Alignment”
11. How will tikanga and kawa be consistently upheld in PSGE–Council engagements?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE structure supports engagement guided by local hapū kawa and leadership. Frameworks such as Toitū te Whānau or Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi may inform practice where adopted through the Deed or policies.</i> <i>During transition, WLSNT sets expectations with partners, and once established, the PSGE would be responsible for applying these frameworks consistently through its operational processes and relationship agreements.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	<i>The Red Book states that claimant-led tikanga frameworks should guide post-settlement governance where agreed by the community.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed Preamble; cls. 2.1–2.3, 6 • Red Book Pt 5 “Tikanga-Based Engagement and Hapū Representation”
12. In the Takapau Whāriki Trust, how will the Mūmū hapū forum be run to ensure fair nominations for trustees and avoid dominance by larger hapū?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki Deed provides that trustee nominations occur through hapū-led processes and the PSGE’s election procedures (cls. 8–10). Mūmū (cl. 6) provides a participation forum where hapū may engage in oversight and discussion of nomination processes.</i> <i>The design of specific nomination and election procedures is an operational responsibility of the PSGE once established, guided by the principles of fairness, transparency, and balanced participation.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages governance entities to use transparent, community-led nomination and election systems.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 8–10 • Red Book Pt 5 “Nomination, Election and Representation Processes”
13. What role will Te Kāhui Tairunga (tikanga guardians) have in binding trustee decisions, not just advisory input?	<i>The role of Te Kāhui Tairunga within the Takapau Whāriki PSGE has not yet been defined as having binding decision-making authority. Their role may be advisory or tikanga-informing, depending on how the PSGE develops its governance policies or structures.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that PSGEs may incorporate tikanga-based structures where supported by the claimant community, but the extent of their authority depends on what is agreed and adopted in the final governance arrangements.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 6 (as foundational tikanga mechanisms) • Red Book Pt 5 “Tikanga in Governance and Decision-Making”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
14. How will rangatahi representatives (15–25 years old) be supported to participate meaningfully and not tokenistically?	<i>Supporting meaningful rangatahi participation would involve operational measures developed by the PSGE, such as mentoring, training, observer roles, or dedicated rangatahi hui. Clause 2.3(a–b) supports participation by uri, and Mūmū (cl. 6) may provide pathways for rangatahi involvement through hapū processes.</i> <i>The PSGE would be responsible for designing and resourcing any rangatahi participation framework once established.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages claimant groups to build governance capability and succession pathways, including rangatahi involvement.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 6 • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Capability and Succession Development”

RISK MANAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
15. Does PSGE have a formal procurement policy – and can it be shared with beneficiaries?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE does not yet have a procurement policy, as such policies will be developed after the PSGE is formally established. The PSGE may choose to adopt a procurement policy as part of its operational framework to support transparency and good practice. Once adopted, the PSGE would determine how it is shared with beneficiaries.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages PSGEs to maintain transparent financial systems, which may include procurement procedures, but it does not prescribe specific policy requirements.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–15 (Reporting & Transparency), 18 (Conflicts) • Red Book Pt 5 “Financial Systems and Transparency”
16. What safeguards will ensure contracts and employment roles are awarded through open, competitive, and transparent processes?	<i>Safeguards for transparent contracting and employment will be developed by the PSGE as part of its operational policies. These may include open advertising, clear selection criteria, conflict-of-interest checks (cl. 18), and documented decision-making processes. Any inclusion of hapū in assessment processes would be an operational decision for the PSGE.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	<i>The Red Book highlights the importance of transparent procurement and appointment processes but leaves the method and detail to each PSGE.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–15, 18 • Red Book Pt 5 “Procurement and Fair Appointment Processes”
17. How will PSGE manage conflicts of interest in procurement and joint ventures?	<i>Conflicts of interest will be managed through the Trust Deed (cl. 18), which requires declaration of interests, maintaining an interests register, and recusal where appropriate. Additional procedures relating to procurement or joint ventures will be developed by the PSGE through future policies once operational.</i> <i>The Red Book reinforces the importance of strong conflict-of-interest systems, especially in commercial partnerships, but does not prescribe specific models.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 18, cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Financial Integrity and Conflict Management”
18. Will high-value procurement decisions be independently reviewed or externally audited?	<i>Under the Takapau Whāriki Deed, annual independent audits are required (cls. 14–15). These audits may include examination of procurement practices and major transactions, depending on the scope set by the PSGE and its auditor. The PSGE may also choose to include additional review thresholds or probity checks in its procurement policies once developed.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages independent audit and review mechanisms as good practice for PSGEs, while leaving the detailed approach to each entity.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Audit and Financial Oversight”
19. How will PSGE and Council ensure procurement for joint projects avoids nepotism or trustee whanau advantage?	<i>Safeguards will be guided by the Trust Deed’s conflict-of-interest provisions (cl. 18) and any procurement policies developed by the PSGE. Where joint projects occur, transparent selection criteria, competitive tendering, and conflict-management procedures can be applied. Any additional oversight, such as independent or Council-aligned panels, would be determined through negotiations and operational policy decisions.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	<i>The Red Book supports strong conflict-management processes, especially in joint public-entity arrangements, but does not prescribe specific systems.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 18, cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Procurement and Conflicts Management”
20. How will Nga Whenu entities (subsidiaries of the PSGE trust) be monitored to avoid misuse of settlement assets?	<i>Ngā Whenu may be established under cls. 10–11. Any Whenu entity would operate under a constitution approved by the PSGE and comply with PSGE group policies. Reporting requirements, including annual accounts or statements, would be set through the PSGE’s operational framework. The PSGE retains oversight and may undertake reviews or require improvements where necessary.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that subsidiary entities should have clear reporting lines and governance controls to ensure proper use of settlement assets, but the design is determined by the PSGE.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 10–11, 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Subsidiary Oversight and Asset Protection”

AVOIDING NEPOTISM AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
21. What policies will prevent nepotism in trustee, employee, or contractor appointments?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE may develop HR, recruitment, and procurement policies once established. These policies can include open advertising, transparent criteria, and documented decision-making. Clause 18 requires trustees to declare relevant interests and step aside from decisions where conflicts arise.</i> <i>The specific safeguards will be determined by the PSGE through its operational policies and procedures once it is fully functioning.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages PSGEs to adopt transparent, competitive, and conflict-aware processes as good practice.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 18; cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Fair Appointment Processes & Conflict Management”
22. How will PSGE ensure whānau of trustees / staff are only appointed through: competitive recruitment, independent oversight, and clear merit-based selection?	<i>Appointments involving whānau of trustees or staff would be managed under the PSGE’s recruitment and procurement policies once developed. These may include competitive advertising, merit-based criteria, and panel-based assessments. Clause 18 requires conflict disclosure and recusal wherever whānau or personal benefit may arise.</i> <i>Any additional oversight mechanisms would be determined by the PSGE as part of its operational framework.</i> <i>The Red Book supports transparent, competitive processes but leaves the detail to each PSGE.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 18; cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Fair Recruitment, Procurement & Conflicts Management”
23. Will PSGE establish an independent review panel or external auditor for related-party transactions?	<i>The Trust Deed requires annual independent audits (cls. 14–15), which may include review of related-party transactions depending on scope set by the PSGE and its auditor. The PSGE may also choose to establish an internal or independent review process for high-risk or related-party decisions, but this would be determined operationally once the PSGE is established.</i> <i>Clause 18 requires disclosure and recusal for any conflict-related matters.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	<i>The Red Book highlights independent audit and conflict controls as good practice but does not mandate specific structures such as panels.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 18; cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Financial Integrity & Related-Party Controls”
24. What safeguards will stop trustees influencing appointments or contracts that benefit their own whanau?	<i>Under the Trust Deed, trustees must declare any interest and recuse themselves from decisions where whānau links or personal benefit could arise (cl. 18). The PSGE may develop HR and procurement policies to support transparent, merit-based appointments, including documented criteria, panel assessments, and recording of decisions.</i> <i>These safeguards are operational decisions to be set by the PSGE once it is functioning.</i> <i>The Red Book recommends strong conflict-management systems but leaves the implementation approach to each PSGE.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 18; cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Conflicts Management & Appointment Integrity”
25. Under s18 of the Takapau Whariki Trust deed, trustees must disclose interests. What monitoring will ensure full transparency?	<i>Clause 18 requires trustees to disclose interests, and the PSGE will maintain a register of interests once established. Monitoring processes, such as regular review of the register, disclosure at meetings, recusal documentation, or audit sampling, will be developed by the PSGE as part of its governance and risk-management systems.</i> <i>Annual external audits (cls. 14–15) may also review aspects of conflict management depending on audit scope. Mūmū (cl. 6) provides a forum through which hapū may raise questions or concerns regarding reporting.</i> <i>The Red Book identifies strong conflict-management and reporting systems as good practice for PSGEs but does not prescribe specific monitoring methods.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 18; cls. 14–15, 6 • Red Book Pt 5 “Governance Integrity & Conflicts Management”

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
26. How will iwi aspirations and tikanga guide decisions about listed lands (Queens Park, Gonville Domain, Kai Iwi, lakes, landfill, etc.)?	<i>The PSGE's purpose clauses (2.1–2.3) provide flexibility for iwi aspirations, tikanga, and values frameworks, such as Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi or Toitū te Whānau, to guide decisions where adopted through PSGE policy or schedules. Hapū input may occur through Mūmū (cl. 6) and, where established, any Ngā Whenu entities (cls. 10–11), enabling site-specific kōrero from those with ahi kā and local knowledge.</i> <i>These approaches are operational matters to be developed by the PSGE once established.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 6, 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Cultural Redress & Tikanga Decision-Making”
27. How will uri be consulted on decisions around right of first refusal, leases, or acquisitions of council-owned land?	<i>Consultation pathways will be designed by the PSGE once operational. These may include hui-ā-hapū, Mūmū, pānui, and online channels. Where Ngā Whenu are established, they may provide input into localised matters. Reporting obligations under cls. 14–15 support transparency about decisions.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages accessible engagement processes but does not prescribe specific consultation methods.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 6, 10–11, 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Beneficiary Engagement”
28. What risk management policies ensure land negotiations are transparent and free of conflicts of interest?	<i>Land-related decisions will be subject to the Trust Deed's conflict-of-interest rules (cl. 18) and reporting requirements (cls. 14–15). Major transactions follow cl. 3.3, and disputes may be addressed under cl. 27. The PSGE may choose to establish an Audit & Risk Committee or adopt risk-management policies, but this would be determined operationally once the entity is formed.</i> <i>The Red Book identifies risk and audit oversight as good practice but does not mandate specific structures.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 3.3, 14–15, 18, 27 • Red Book Pt 5 “Risk & Conflict Management”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
29. For Te Whare Kaho o Whanganui (reserves governance): how will it operate?	<i>Details of Te Whare Kaho o Whanganui will depend on the final form of any co-governance arrangement agreed through the settlement process. PSGE appointees may draw on hapū input through Mūmū and other engagement processes. Frameworks such as Tupua te Kawa or Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi may guide practice where adopted through PSGE policy or relationship agreements.</i> <i>Operation and reporting arrangements will be confirmed once the PSGE is in place and any co-governance documentation is finalised.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 6, 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Joint Governance & Reserves Management”
30. How will hapū voices feed into Board decisions when PSGE only appoints 3 members?	<i>Hapū input may occur through Mūmū (cl. 6), which provides a forum for kōrero and recommendations. Trustees appointed to joint bodies remain accountable to the PSGE and will determine how they seek direction and report back through PSGE policies and communication processes.</i> <i>The PSGE may choose to use working groups or expert advice as part of its operational approach, but this would be determined after establishment.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that PSGE representation should reflect claimant-community interests but does not prescribe the number of appointees.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 8–10, 2.3(b) • Red Book Pt 5 “Representation in Joint Governance”
31. How will management plans for reserves reflect tikanga and hapū aspirations, not just Council policy?	<i>Management plans may incorporate tikanga frameworks and hapū aspirations where agreed by the PSGE and Council and supported through PSGE policy or relationship agreements. Engagement with hapū may occur through Mūmū or other PSGE-led processes as part of plan development.</i> <i>Final content will depend on co-governance arrangements and operational decisions once the PSGE is in place.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed Preamble; cls. 2.1–2.3, 6, 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Tikanga Integration in Reserve Management”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
32. What safeguards ensure revenue from reserves is ring-fenced and reported transparently?	<i>The PSGE may establish cost-centres or accounting processes to separate revenue streams, but this would be an operational decision made after the PSGE is established. Annual reporting and independent audits (cls. 14–15) support transparency.</i> <i>Any ring-fencing arrangements would depend on the governance framework adopted by the PSGE and any legal requirements contained within final co-governance agreements.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 10–11, 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Financial Integrity & Reporting”
33. How will disputes be managed if Council members outnumber hapū perspectives?	<i>Dispute-resolution processes will follow the arrangements agreed in any final co-governance documentation and the PSGE's own dispute-resolution procedures (cl. 27). Tikanga-based wānanga and mediation may be incorporated where parties agree. Any escalation or voting rules will be determined through finalised agreements between PSGE and Council.</i> <i>The Red Book supports tikanga-informed approaches but leaves the design of co-governance dispute systems to the parties involved.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 6, 27, 35 • Red Book Pt 5 “Dispute Resolution in Co-Governance”

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND BENEFICIARY PROTECTION

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
34. Given recent financial deficits, what new measures will strengthen fiscal responsibility in the PSGE?	<i>As the PSGE has not yet been established, there are no financial deficits. Once formed, the PSGE will be responsible for developing its own financial systems and controls.</i> <i>The Trust Deed provides a framework that can support strong fiscal management, including annual independent audits (cls. 14–15), annual planning and budgeting, delegation of financial authority, and major transaction controls (cl. 3.3). The PSGE may also choose to establish subcommittees, such as an Audit & Risk Committee, under cl. 12.7.</i> <i>These mechanisms provide a foundation for prudent and transparent financial management, with the details determined by the PSGE once operational.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 12.7, 14–15, 3.3 • Red Book Pt 5 “Financial Integrity & Audit Oversight”
35. How will PSGE ensure operational/staffing costs don’t outweigh benefits to uri?	<i>Operational and staffing costs will be managed through the Annual Plan and Distribution Plan processes (cls. 13.2–13.3). These plans allow the PSGE to prioritise expenditure and demonstrate how resources are being applied towards beneficiary outcomes.</i> <i>Annual reporting and independent audits (cls. 14–15) support transparency and allow uri to understand how operational costs relate to overall PSGE activity.</i> <i>Specific thresholds or caps would be operational decisions made by the PSGE once established.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 13.2–13.3, 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Accountability & Beneficiary Benefit Tests”
36. Will PSGE commit to regular independent audits — and will these be made fully available to uri?	<i>Annual independent audits are required under the Trust Deed (cls. 14–15). Audit findings must be reported at the AGM. How audit documents are shared more broadly will be determined by the PSGE through its communication and reporting policies once operational.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages openness and transparency around financial performance but does not prescribe the form of audit publication.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Audit & Transparency”
37. How will PSGE ensure resources are allocated fairly across hapū (clause 38 resourcing)?	<i>Annual independent audits are required under the Trust Deed (cls. 14–15). Audit findings must be reported at the AGM. How audit documents are shared more broadly will be determined by the PSGE through its communication and reporting policies once operational.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages openness and transparency around financial performance but does not prescribe the form of audit publication.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Audit & Transparency”

FOR TOITŪ TE WHĀNAU CHARITABLE TRUST:

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
38. How will uri be consulted on priorities for education and charitable distributions?	<i>Uri engagement will occur through processes established by the PSGE and Toitū te Whānau once both entities are operating. These may include Annual Planning, hui-ā-hāpū, guidance received through Mūmū (cl. 6), and targeted engagement such as surveys, rangatahi forums, or kaupapa-based workshops.</i> <i>Under the Toitū te Whānau Charitable Trust Deed, charitable purposes focus on uri and hapū wellbeing. Trustees must report annually on grants and distributions through their Annual Report. How consultation is carried out in practice will be determined by the Trust through policy and engagement planning.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages claimant groups to ensure beneficiaries have opportunities to provide input into planning and distribution processes, but it does not prescribe specific methods.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 13–15 (Planning, Distribution, Reporting) • Toitū te Whānau Deed – Charitable Purposes & Annual Reporting clauses • Red Book Pt 5 “Beneficiary Engagement & Consultation”
39. How will transparency be ensured around Council-appointed trustees (2 of 9), to avoid Council influence over hapū priorities?	<i>All trustees, regardless of whether they are elected, nominated, or appointed, are required to act in accordance with the PSGE’s purposes and for the collective benefit of Ngā Hapū o te Iwi o Whanganui (cls. 2.3(a–b)). This includes mandatory conflict-of-interest declarations (cl. 18) and adherence to fiduciary duties under trust law.</i> <i>Transparency is supported by annual reporting, audited financial statements, and AGMs (cls. 14–15), which allow uri to understand how decisions have been made. Council-appointed trustees are bound by the same duties and decision-making obligations as all other trustees.</i> <i>Under the Toitū te Whānau Charitable Trust Deed, trustees must act solely for the charitable purposes of the Trust, independent of the interests of any appointing organisation. Conflict-of-interest procedures and reporting requirements reinforce this.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that trustees of governance entities must act independently of external parties, regardless of how they are appointed.</i>

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
	Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 18, 14–15 • Toitū te Whānau Charitable Trust – Trustee Duties, Conflicts, Annual Reporting • Red Book Pt 5 “Trustee Duties & Independence from External Parties”

RELATIONSHIP HEALTH AND REVIEW

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
40. How will the PSGE measure the ‘health of the relationship’ with Council in annual reviews?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE may adopt relationship-review criteria once operational. These could draw on values-based frameworks referenced in the Deed (cls. 2.1–2.3), including tikanga and engagement expectations where incorporated into PSGE policy or relationship agreements. Indicators may include quality of engagement, responsiveness to issues raised, progress on joint work, and outcomes of dispute-resolution processes.</i> <i>Findings would be reported through existing PSGE reporting processes, such as the Annual Report (cls. 14–15), with discussion occurring through Mūmū (cl. 6) where appropriate.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages PSGEs to review external relationships periodically but leaves the design of review criteria to each entity.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 6, 14–15 • Relationship Agreements – review clauses (where agreed) • Red Book Pt 5 “Relationship Management & Review”
41. What happens if hapū feel their own Council agreements (clause 36) are undermined by PSGE’s framework?	<i>Clause 36 supports hapū maintaining their own direct relationships with Council where these exist. If concerns arise, hapū may raise them through Mūmū (cl. 6), request consideration through the Deed review process (cl. 35), or use the PSGE dispute-resolution pathway (cl. 27). These mechanisms provide avenues for discussion and clarification but do not override trustee decision-making powers.</i> <i>The PSGE’s purpose clause (2.3(b)) signals an intention to support hapū to maintain and advance their rangatiratanga, including in external relationships, but the specifics of how hapū and PSGE agreements interact will depend on future operational policies and partnership arrangements.</i>

	Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 6, 27, 35, 36
42. Will PSGE establish independent monitoring/reporting so uri can assess if the relationship is operating as intended?	<i>Independent oversight occurs through the annual audit process (cls. 14–15). Additional monitoring, such as external relationship reviews or an independent assessment panel—may be considered by the PSGE as part of its operational design once established, depending on resourcing and priorities.</i> <i>Updates on PSGE–Council relationships may be shared through AGMs, Annual Reports, or Mūmū discussions, but the content and frequency of this reporting will be decided by the PSGE.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages transparent reporting and periodic assessments but does not mandate independent monitoring bodies.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 14–15 • Relationship Agreements – review mechanisms (if agreed) • Red Book Pt 5 “Transparency & Independent Assessment”
43. How will PSGE commitments under Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi complement existing hapū–Council agreements?	<i>Where Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi or similar values frameworks are adopted through PSGE policy or schedules, they can provide a consistent approach to engagement across the rohe. These values would sit alongside, not replace, any direct hapū–Council relationships supported through cl. 36.</i> <i>The PSGE has an overarching purpose to act for the collective and individual benefit of hapū (cls. 2.1–2.3), and may use shared values frameworks to strengthen alignment while respecting hapū-led relationships established independently of the PSGE.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that tikanga-based engagement can support cohesive post-settlement relationships, but the form and application of such frameworks depend on what is agreed by the PSGE and relevant partners.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed Preamble; cls. 2.1–2.3, 6, 36 • Red Book Pt 5 “Tikanga-Based Engagement & Hapū Representation”

DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
44. If disputes arise between hapū, PSGE, and Council, how will tikanga-based processes be prioritised before mediation or legal processes?	<i>The Takapau Whāriki PSGE Deed allows tikanga to guide engagement and dispute discussions (cls. 2.1–2.3). In practice, matters may first be addressed through kōrero at hapū-at-place, wānanga, or Mūmū discussions (cl. 6), before parties consider using the formal dispute-resolution pathway in cl. 27.</i> <i>Relationship agreements may also include tikanga-first steps where agreed by the parties.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages the use of tikanga processes early, but the approach taken will depend on the nature of the dispute and the parties involved.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 6, 27 • Red Book Pt 5 “Tikanga-Based Dispute Resolution”
45. What safeguards ensure trustees with family or commercial interests in disputes step aside from decision-making?	<i>Clause 18 requires trustees to disclose any conflict of interest, including whānau or commercial links, and to withdraw from all discussions, documentation, and decisions relating to that matter. Conflicts must be recorded in the Register (cl. 18), which is subject to independent audit under cls. 14–15.</i> <i>Any policy adopted by the PSGE may further strengthen these procedures once operational.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 18, cls. 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Conflicts Management & Governance Integrity”
46. For PSGE disputes (s33 Takapau Whāriki Deed): how will these be handled?	<i>Section 33 outlines a process for disputes related to whakapapa, tikanga, and other specified matters. These processes generally begin with internal discussions consistent with the PSGE’s values (cls. 2.1–2.3), followed, if unresolved, by mediation, independent facilitation, or arbitration under cl. 27.</i> <i>The Red Book acknowledges this staged approach as an example of best practice but does not prescribe the exact sequence.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed s33, cls. 2.1–2.3, 27 • Red Book Pt 5 “Structured Dispute Processes”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
47. How will dispute committees be made independent and representative of all hapū?	<i>Where a dispute committee is required under s33 or cl. 27, its composition will follow the processes set out in the Deed. Mūmū (cl. 6) may provide advice or assist in identifying appropriate representatives where relevant, and the PSGE may include independent expertise to support neutrality.</i> <i>The exact structure of any committee will depend on the nature of the dispute and the processes adopted by the PSGE once operational.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 27, 33 • Red Book Pt 5 “Independent Review & Hapū Representation”
48. What recourse will uri have if they disagree with trustee decisions on whakapapa or tikanga matters?	<i>Uri may raise concerns through Mūmū (cl. 6) or request consideration through the Deed review process (cl. 35). For disputes covered by cl. 27 or s33—including issues relating to whakapapa, tikanga, or other matters specified in the Deed—uri may initiate the dispute pathway. Where required, matters can progress to mediation, independent facilitation, or arbitration.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that PSGEs must provide accessible dispute-resolution pathways, but the specific steps depend on the Deed and any PSGE policies adopted over time.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 27, 33, 35 • Red Book Pt 5 “Beneficiary Rights & Tikanga Processes”

COMMUNICATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
49. How will uri be kept informed about PSGE activities beyond the AGM (e.g., newsletters, online updates, hui-ā-hapu)?	<i>The PSGE intends to provide ongoing updates through regular newsletters, online platforms, pānui, and hui-ā-hapū, supported by communication pathways established through Mūmū (cl. 6). Annual Plans, Annual Reports, and major decisions must be published and made accessible throughout the year in accordance with the PSGE's reporting and transparency obligations.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages post-settlement entities to maintain clear, accessible communication with beneficiaries to support transparency and engagement.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 14–15, 16 • Red Book Pt 5 “Beneficiary Engagement & Transparency”
50. Will financial/governance documents be made accessible well before hui?	<i>The PSGE must make Annual Plans, audited accounts, and relevant reporting available to uri in advance of AGMs and other hui, as required under cls. 14–16. These materials may be shared online, by pānui, or through hui-ā-hapū to support informed participation.</i> <i>The Red Book supports this approach, noting that beneficiaries should have reasonable access to information before key decisions are made.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 14–15, 16 • Red Book Pt 5 “Accessible Information & Pre-Hui Disclosure”
51. How will cross-cultural information sharing (clause 26) be implemented in practice?	<i>Cross-cultural information sharing under cl. 26 may be implemented through joint wānanga, PSGE–Council workshops, shared training opportunities, kaumātua guidance, or co-governance engagement processes aligned with hapū kawa. The PSGE will give effect to these expectations through its annual planning and relationship agreements once established.</i> <i>The Red Book describes information-sharing and relationship-building as important components of post-settlement partnerships.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cl. 26, cls. 2.1–2.3 • Relationship Agreements (where applicable) • Red Book Pt 5 “Cross-Cultural Engagement & Relationship Building”

52. How will reports from Ngā Whenua entities be made available for inspection, as required in the Trust Deed?	<i>Ngā Whenua entities must provide annual reports and financial statements to the PSGE under cls. 10–11. The PSGE is then responsible for making these available for uri inspection through hui-ā-hapū, online publication, or access upon request, consistent with the transparency obligations in cls. 14–16.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages clear oversight of subsidiary entities and accessible reporting to beneficiaries.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 10–11, 14–16 • Red Book Pt 5 “Subsidiary Oversight & Transparency”
--	--

CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPLOYMENT:

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
53. What policies ensure uri get first opportunities for jobs, training, and contracts through PSGE and Council projects?	<i>The PSGE will be responsible for developing its own policies and frameworks to ensure uri have fair and prioritised access to employment, training, and contracting opportunities. These will reflect the PSGE’s purpose to advance uri wellbeing and support hapū capability once it is operational. Any PSGE–Council project agreements may incorporate these expectations, subject to negotiation and capacity.</i> <i>The Red Book encourages post-settlement entities to support beneficiary advancement and capability-building, while ensuring transparent and fair processes.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b) (Support for Uri & Hapū Advancement), 6, 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “Beneficiary Advancement & Capability Development”
54. How will PSGE balance building local uri capacity with using external consultants?	<i>The PSGE will design processes that prioritise developing uri capability, with external consultants engaged only where specialist skills are required. Any external expertise may be used to complement internal capacity and support long-term capability-building for uri and hapū. Annual planning will outline priorities once the PSGE is fully established.</i> <i>The Red Book notes that post-settlement entities should build local capability while</i>

	<i>accessing external expertise where necessary.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 13 • Red Book Pt 5 “Local Capability & Succession Building”
55. Will PSGE establish leadership development pathways for rangatahi representatives who attend trustee meetings?	<i>Yes. The PSGE will be responsible for developing rangatahi participation and leadership pathways such as mentoring, training opportunities, observer roles, and dedicated rangatahi hui. These pathways are designed to support meaningful engagement and long-term succession once the PSGE is operational.</i> <i>The Red Book supports leadership and succession planning to help young people participate confidently in post-settlement governance.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 6, 13 • Red Book Pt 5 “Succession Planning & Young Leadership Development”

CROWN AND COUNCIL RELATIONSHIPS

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
56. How will PSGE safeguard its independence from Crown influence while still meeting obligations under the AIP and Deed of Settlement?	<i>The PSGE safeguards its independence because, once established, it operates solely under its Trust Deed and is accountable only to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui, not to the Crown. Obligations under the AIP and Deed of Settlement relate only to the transfer and management of redress; all governance and decision-making authority sits entirely with the PSGE. Independence is further supported through hapū oversight via Mūmū and transparent reporting to uri.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 2.3(a–b), 6, 14–15 • Red Book Pt 5 “PSGE Independence & Accountability to Beneficiaries”
57. What mechanisms will allow PSGE agreements with Council to be reviewed, amended, or renegotiated if uri are dissatisfied?	<i>PSGE–Council agreements will include review and amendment clauses, allowing adjustments based on hapū or uri feedback. Concerns may be raised through Mūmū, escalated via the PSGE’s dispute-resolution pathway (cl. 27), or considered during the five-year Deed Review (cl. 35). Hapū retain their independent authority under cl. 36 to maintain and advocate for their direct Council agreements alongside PSGE arrangements.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 6, 27, 35, 36 • Red Book Pt 5 “Review Mechanisms & Adaptive Co-Governance”
58. How will PSGE–Council uphold the premise of Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi as a gateway of respect, integrity, and partnership?	<i>PSGE–Council relationships will be guided by Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi, which provides a shared values framework for integrity, authority, and collective purpose. The PSGE must reflect these principles in annual planning, joint work programmes, relationship agreements, and dispute processes. Hapū input through Mūmū ensures decisions remain grounded in tikanga and hapū-at-place relationships. Council–PSGE agreements will reference these values to support consistent practice.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed Preamble; cls. 2.1–2.3, 6 • Relationship Agreements – Values Clauses • Red Book Pt 5 “Values-Based Engagement & Tikanga in Governance”

MUSEUM OPERATIONS, TAONGA & KAITIAKITANGA

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
59. What assurances guarantee that collections remain under iwi authority, even if Council takes over museum operations?	<i>Iwi authority over taonga is protected through PSGE ownership and governance mandates. Even where Council may undertake day-to-day operations, decisions affecting taonga must align with iwi values, tikanga, and direction provided through Mūmū or relevant Whenu entities. Authority flows from the PSGE Trust Deed, not from the operational provider.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 2.3(a–b), 6 • Red Book Pt 5 “Cultural Redress & Retention of Iwi Authority”
60. How will whānau/hapū retain kaitiakitanga responsibilities if Council manages day-to-day operations?	<i>Kaitiakitanga remains with hapū and iwi through advisory roles, access arrangements, tikanga protocols, and decision-making expectations that can be incorporated into the operating agreement. Council undertakes administrative functions; kaitiakitanga remains with iwi.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 6 • Red Book Pt 5 “Iwi Kaitiakitanga in Cultural Arrangements”
61. What decision-making authority will hapū/uri have over operational matters that affect taonga (e.g., conservation schedules, exhibition use, access protocols)?	<i>Operational matters relating to taonga must be guided by hapū/uri direction under tikanga. Decisions about conservation, exhibitions, handling, or access should occur in consultation with the PSGE and hapū representatives. These expectations can be written into the operating agreement to ensure practical effect.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, 6, 10–11 • Red Book Pt 5 “Tikanga-Driven Operational Governance”
62. How will tikanga be embedded in staff training, exhibition development, and visitor interactions under Council management?	<i>The PSGE can require tikanga-based expectations in the operating agreement, including cultural competency training, exhibition review processes with hapū experts, and agreed tikanga protocols for visitor engagement. Hapū advisors can be appointed to support ongoing practice.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3, Preamble, 6 • Red Book Pt 5 “Embedding Tikanga in Cultural Operations”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
63. How will PSGE ensure whānau maintain cultural access to taonga for karakia, handling, or ceremonial use?	<i>Access rights can be protected through clauses requiring the operator (Council) to facilitate whānau/hapū access for karakia, handling, wānanga, and ceremonial use. These rights sit with iwi and are not displaced by operational arrangements.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(b), 6, 16 • Red Book Pt 5 “Cultural Access Rights & Iwi Authority”
64. What processes will resolve disputes if Council staff and hapū/whānau disagree over tikanga in operations?	<i>Disputes about tikanga in operational matters must follow a tikanga-first pathway. This includes wānanga, hapū-at-place kōrero, and guidance through the PSGE’s tikanga provisions (cls. 2.1–2.3) and hapū forums (cl. 6).</i> <i>If the issue remains unresolved, the matter can be escalated through the PSGE’s dispute-resolution process under cl. 27, which includes mediation or independent facilitation. Any future operating agreements with Council may include a joint tikanga advisory panel or similar mechanism to support early resolution, but these arrangements would be confirmed post-settlement.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.1–2.3 (Tikanga & Values), 6 (Hapū Voice), 27 (Dispute Resolution) • Red Book Pt 5 “Tikanga-Based Dispute Management”
65. If iwi establish their own whare taonga later, what clauses guarantee a smooth transfer of operations without disrupting uri access to collections?	<i>PSGE–Council agreements can include a “future transfer” clause enabling an orderly handover if iwi choose to assume full operational control later. This can protect uninterrupted uri access, care standards, and taonga integrity.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 6, 35 • Red Book Pt 5 “Future-Proofing Cultural Redress Arrangements”
66. Will PSGE negotiate a standing clause allowing iwi to reclaim operational control if Council arrangements prove unsatisfactory?	<i>Yes. The PSGE may negotiate a termination or reversion clause that allows iwi to assume operational control if agreed values, obligations, or tikanga expectations are not upheld. This ensures iwi authority over taonga remains protected.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 27, 35 • Red Book Pt 5 “Protection of Iwi Authority in Governance Arrangements”

Pātai / Question	Whakautu / Answer
67. How will PSGE ensure uri are prioritised for employment in operational roles relating to taonga care and education?	<i>The PSGE can incorporate employment expectations into operating agreements to ensure uri have prioritised pathways into training, internships, and operational roles, while still using transparent, merit-based selection. This supports capability building for uri and hapū.</i> Reference • PSGE Deed cls. 2.3(a–b), 6 • Red Book Pt 5 “Capability Building & Local Employment Pathways”

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Me](#)
To: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Cc: [Tracey Waitokia](#); [Mitchell, James](#); [Smits, Victoria](#); [Illana, Caryl](#); [Wikaira, Rachel](#); [Cameron, Tania](#); [aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz](#); [Ken Mair](#)
Subject: Re: Response to your various correspondence.
Date: Wednesday, 3 December 2025 4:03:16 pm

First, there is no single hapū to which we exclusively whakapapa.

Our whakapapa extends along the Awa, from the mountain to the sea. Any misunderstanding or lack of knowledge regarding our whakapapa rests with you; it is not our responsibility to correct.

Further, we have not been informed of any representative for a number of our marae, nor have we nominated any such person. Your assertions regarding representation do not align with our knowledge or involvement.

I also request clarification as to the authority under which you consider yourself able to call hui or meet on matters affecting our hapū/iwi. We have not granted any mandate or endorsement for you to act in this way.

It is also necessary to note that your conduct in other spaces has raised significant concern among our people about your credibility.

Allegations you have made about a respected kaumātua have been widely challenged on public platforms, and your continued refusal, as a trustee of an iwi entity, to provide financial breakdowns to the hapū/iwi has contributed further to mistrust.

A petition supported by a broad section of the claimant community is currently circulating, and it would be prudent for you to focus on the issues within your own sphere of responsibility.

Your communication in this forum is neither required nor appropriate.

On Wed, 3 Dec 2025 at 15:35, [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) wrote:

Kia Ora,

Thank you for the response. I am at this moment unsure on who you are and your relationship with me but trust you would be open to meeting so I can better understand.

In our meeting, I'd like clarity on who you are. What is your relationship to my hapū (hopefully this reveals which ones you refer to as well)? I am a holder of hapū and iwi whakapapa so can assist in this regard, and are you the recognised hapū representative to be receiving these records? I have been at hapū hui confirming the representatives will, and then from the representatives their respective hapū members can peruse the information from there. The claimant community, as in the delegated hapū representatives, are on board with the progression so I am unsure of who you refer to as "claimant community" and suggest you clarify this with who you represent.

Members of hapū have the formal right to vote against it in the ratification stage, and members of hapū such as [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) have already held this process up without eventuation or permission / hapū endorsement. In an attempt to singlefy the benefit to

one hapū, which is not kotahitanga at all.

Because of this, I will bring your correspondence forward to a hapū hui, and discuss how, if at all, these concerns are legitimate amongst those of us who travel to Wellington tomorrow.

On Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 12:56 PM Me s9(2)(a) wrote:

Kia ora,

I am writing to clarify that you, s9(2)(a), are included in these discussions as a member of the claimant community. Your inclusion reflects a commitment to transparency and ensures that a range of perspectives is considered, regardless of whether you support moving forward or not.

I also note that there are members of your hapū who do not support progressing at this stage due to a lack of clear information. Despite requests, clarification has not been provided regarding the number of individuals who mandated the negotiation body. No mandate, hui minutes, attendance records, or supporting documentation have been supplied to confirm this.

If there has been no confirmation of the mandate numbers, it raises the question of whether you have personally sighted this information and on what basis you are supporting the process to move forward.

These matters require resolution to allow the claimant community to make informed decisions.

Ngā mihi

On Tue, 2 Dec 2025 at 12:43, s9(2)(a) wrote:

Tēnā tātau,

I do not know why I am included in this correspondence thread. As I do not recognise this forum or concerns and or complainants, and am not a responsible governor of this issue I am needing to be brought up to speed and asked for in person, as to what and or how you'd like me to be involved in this forum.

Until then, I support moving forward and hope we can all do so together.

s9(2)(a)

From: Me **s9(2)(a)**
Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2025 2:05:46 AM
To: Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz>
Cc: James Mitchell <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>; Victoria Smits <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Caryl Illana <Caryl.Illana@whakatau.govt.nz>; Rachel Wikaira <Wikaira.Rachel@whakatau.govt.nz>; Cameron, Tania <Tania.Cameron@whakatau.govt.nz>; aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz <aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>; Ken Mair **s9(2)(a)**
Subject: Re: Response to your various correspondence.

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you, Tracey, for sending the email on behalf of the trustees and acknowledging that they were formally advised of the correspondence on 3 November 2025 by Te Tari Whakatau.

I would like to clarify that this was not a complaint to Te Tari Whakatau, but rather a raising of concerns regarding the settlement process and the obligations of the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation trustees and the Crown in relation to claimant participation and settlement entitlements.

The claimant group has always been defined by descent. Participation and entitlement in the settlement process derive from whakapapa, not registration. It is *important to note* that beneficiary registration rolls are a PSGE governance administrative tool, not a requirement. The Crown and the WLSN trustees had a duty to communicate this to the claimant community clearly. This also applies to special voting mechanisms.

Reference 9 in the response pertains to governance terms imposed by the WLSN trustees, who will be the initial trustees *and* Settlers of Takapau Whariki Trust. A broad percentage of the claimant community has expressed a desire to change these terms of the deed before ratification.

For context, The Crown acts as the Settlor, and it establishes the trust by transferring the settlement property. Once the transfer is complete, it ceases to own or control the property, has no authority over how the trustees manage or distribute the property, and cannot direct trustees, interfere in governance, or withdraw any property. The PSGE then becomes irrevocable, meaning it can't be amended, cancelled, or the terms cannot be changed.

The WLSN trustees will serve as the initial trustees for six months following the approval of Takapau Whariki by the claimant community. They should not act as settlers of this trust, as specified in the deed. Having the same individuals perform both roles is akin to allowing someone to both make the rules and act as the referee. This creates a serious conflict of interest and concentrates undue *power* in the hands of the initial trustees, compromising fairness, accountability, and the independence of the trust. A straightforward lesson in NZ trust law.

Reference 11 in your email should note that the claimant community is not restricted

from convening their own hui and discussing any matters or concerns relating to the settlement; attendance at the hui was recorded, the information was treated as confidential to those who whakapapa, but the questions raised were not received until 28 November 2025, despite having ample time to respond.

Reference 12: There was no misunderstanding. I, along with other descendants, were not permitted to join the hui despite members already in the Zoom session notifying the Trustees that additional whānau were waiting to be admitted. Written confirmation of this is documented in the Zoom chat, which contradicts the response provided.

Reference 14: Clause 15 of the WLSNT deed stipulates that all mandate hui held across the various regions were to be video recorded. The claimant community has made repeated requests for access to these recordings, all of which have been denied. This constitutes a clear breach of the obligations set out in the deed.

Reference 22: It is unclear where it was stated that the correspondence in question was *private* and *confidential*. Aimee, in her capacity as a hapū member, appears to have relayed information inaccurately. Ngāti Pāmoana explicitly invited all members of the claimant community to attend the hui and did not restrict attendance to those deemed appropriate by Ngāti Pāmoana. This constitutes a clear misrepresentation of the facts, irrespective of Aimee's position as Executive Assistant for WLSNT.

Reference 24: The allegations of online attacks lack credibility and are entirely unsubstantiated. Any such occurrences are beyond my control and influence, and there is no evidence linking them to my actions, rendering the claim baseless.

Reference 25: Those alleging harm bear the burden of proof. Claims of misinformation have been directly rebutted with documented evidence and references in previous communications demonstrating the assertions to be false, thereby establishing that the allegations are unsubstantiated and without merit.

In future, I would appreciate a direct response from the trustees themselves, not from an AI-generated source. I have software in place that identifies such correspondence.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On Fri, 28 Nov 2025 at 20:27, Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz> wrote:
sent on behalf of the WLSNT Trustess

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Re: Your correspondence dated 30/10/25 (Zoom hui – ultra vires), 31/10/25 (Urgent complaint to Te Tari Whakatau), and 03/11/25 (Concerns Regarding Misinformation and Trust Engagement)

1. WLSNT acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated 30 October 2025 and 3 November 2025 and notes that you sent a further letter dated 31 October 2025 titled “*URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention*” directly to Te Tari Whakatau. WLSNT was formally advised of this complaint by Te Tari Whakatau on 3

November 2025.

2. This response addresses the matters you have raised in relation to the hui-ā-iwi, the authority and obligations of the Trust, the misrepresentation and circulation of Aimee Simon's private hapū correspondence, and your notification that you no longer wish to communicate directly with WLSNT.

Clarification of Registration, Eligibility and Recent Hui Discussions

3. Thank you for your email and for raising these matters. We provide the following clarification to ensure consistency and transparency for all of our hapū and uri.

Information Previously Shared

4. The only information WLSNT shared regarding registration and recorded details was the summary table that had been provided to us to support communication about voting and ratification pack pathways. This table was shared exactly as received.
5. Te Tari Whakatau has since issued updated guidance refining the earlier information. WLSNT will update all public material to reflect this most current advice.

Beneficiary Eligibility

6. Te Tari Whakatau has now confirmed that registration is not required to benefit from the settlement. All uri who descend from a Whanganui tūpuna are entitled to benefit.

Ratification Participation

7. There is no change to the ratification process previously discussed at hapū hui:
 - All uri aged 18+ may vote
 - Registered or recorded uri will receive voting packs early
 - Unregistered uri may vote by special vote
 - Packs will be available at ratification hui and upon request
8. This ensures that all uri are able to participate fully and fairly in the ratification process.

PSGE Governance Rights (Post-Settlement)

9. Registration becomes relevant only for PSGE governance after settlement. Once the PSGE is established, only adult registered members (uri aged 18+ who are registered with the PSGE) will have governance rights to:
 - Vote at AGMs and SGMs (including trustee elections)
 - Stand or nominate candidates
 - Propose amendments
 - Decide major transactions
 - Appoint an auditor
 - Determine trustee remuneration

10. These rights relate to governance processes, not entitlement to benefit from

the settlement. Anyone who is a beneficiary may register at any time to participate in these governance processes.

Ngāti Pāmoana Hui-ā-Hapū Q&A

11. The earlier online hui was organised independently by Ngāti Pāmoana, not by WLSNT. WLSNT attended solely to answer questions and had no control over attendance or participant identity. A confidentiality disclosure was therefore required in accordance with our Terms of Negotiation and Crown confidentiality expectations.

Online Hui for Registered Members

12. There has been some misunderstanding regarding this hui. For clarity:
 - It is not a negotiations update
 - It contains no new information
 - It is the same presentation delivered at the hapū roadshow
 - It ensures registered uri who could not attend in person can access the same kōrero
 - It concludes the claimant-community roadshow that commenced in March 2025
13. This temporary restriction applied only to this single session and does not affect hapū voice, nor does it limit any uri from participating in the ratification process.

Mandate and Transparency

14. No mandate concerns have been raised with WLSNT by Te Tari Whakatau. WLSNT continues to operate within our Crown-recognised mandate and to meet all requirements regarding engagement, reporting, and confidentiality.
15. Our Chair has consistently offered an open-door opportunity for kōrero on any matters raised. While some have chosen not to engage directly, that invitation remains open to all uri.
16. We remain committed to providing accurate, consistent information and will update all materials to reflect the Crown's latest advice.

Clarification Regarding Authority and the Hui-ā-Iwi

17. WLSNT holds a Crown-recognised mandate under the Terms of Negotiation (TON) and Deed of Mandate approved by Te Tari Whakatau. This mandate includes responsibility for all engagement, information-sharing, and confidentiality requirements during Treaty settlement negotiations.
18. The hui was initially requested and coordinated by Ngāti Pāmoana following the hapū roadshows. It was originally understood to be a hui for Ngāti Pāmoana uri only. It has since been clarified that while Ngāti Pāmoana coordinated the arrangements, the hui was in fact a Hui-ā-Iwi initiated by Ngāti Pāmoana for wider claimant participation.
19. The Zoom link was distributed by Ngāti Pāmoana, not WLSNT. Because WLSNT had no control over who received it, confidentiality requirements were essential to protect Crown-sensitive information and maintain negotiation integrity.
20. These actions were fully within WLSNT's mandate and responsibilities.
21. For completeness, we note that a number of WLSNT hui have been arranged

separately by WLSNT for the benefit of our hapū and whānau members, and we have remained open to queries and feedback from our hapū and whānau throughout the settlement negotiations.

Misrepresentation and Unauthorised Use of Aimee's Hapū Correspondence

22. The email you cited was private hapū correspondence shared within a Ngāti Hineoneone/Atene communication thread. It was written by Aimee in her capacity as a hapū member responding to internal enquiries. It was not a WLSNT statement or communication.
23. Sharing private correspondence outside its intended context and purpose raises significant concerns under the Privacy Act 2020 (Principle 11: Limits on Disclosure). Attributing statements to a person or to WLSNT that were not made creates avoidable harm and is not behaviour we support or condone.
24. We also note that the sharing of this correspondence has been followed by online attacks targeting Aimee. Regardless of where these originated, such consequences are unacceptable and demonstrate why private hapū kōrero must remain in their proper context.
25. To prevent further misinformation or harm we request that Aimee's correspondence not be circulated, quoted, or attributed to WLSNT in future communication. Only official WLSNT communications carry the authority of the Trust; all other commentary must not be regarded as representing WLSNT.

Withdrawal from Communication

26. While WLSNT remain open to all of our claimant group, we acknowledge your decision to cease direct communication with WLSNT and your decision to raise your concerns with Te Tari Whakatau.
27. WLSNT will continue to progress negotiations and will respond to Te Tari Whakatau through formal channels as required. Engagement with hapū and uri will continue through recognised collective processes, hui-ā-iwi, and established communication pathways.
28. On that basis, the above constitutes WLSNT's response to the matters you have raised, unless further clarification is requested by Te Tari Whakatau.

Nāku noa, nā
Ken Mair
Chairman

Tracey Waitokia

Project Manager | Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust | Tupoho
House - 249 Victoria Ave | PO Box 4262 | Whanganui 4540 | Aotearoa | Cell+ 027
467 7111. | www.wlsnt.maori.nz

From: s9(2)(a)
To: Me; enquiries@whakatupuranga.com
Cc: Tracey Waitokia; Mitchell, James; Smits, Victoria; Illana, Caryl; Wikaira, Rachel; Cameron, Tania; aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz; Ken Mair
Subject: Re: Response to your various correspondence.
Date: Friday, 5 December 2025 11:12:09 am

Kia Ora,

Me tō kore mana nei, ka aroha hoki ki a koe.

I will await for a good time to meet and hear in on what you have to say face to face. Until then, those who actually do the mahi for our people will continue to do so.

And those who heckle from the sidelines, like yourself, can continue to do so also. I runga i te aroha, ma koke tonu ngā mahi.

I note also you did not answer a single one of my questions. Because you have no mana here.

I highly encourage you call your hapū hui, and ensure all peoples can attend also. Being behind the scenes misleading people to sign a petition, is a colonised way of acting. I hope your colonised hurt can come to our people sometime soon, as we are here to help and heal when ready.

WLSNT is doing a great job. Unlike you, and your kore mana nei. I have some tea towels waiting for you at the marae.

Ngā manaakitanga,

s9(2)(a)

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 4:46:40 PM
To: enquiries@whakatupuranga.com <enquiries@whakatupuranga.com>
Cc: Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz>; James Mitchell <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>; Victoria Smits <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Caryl Illana <Caryl.Illana@whakatau.govt.nz>; Rachel Wikaira <Wikaira.Rachel@whakatau.govt.nz>; Cameron, Tania <Tania.Cameron@whakatau.govt.nz>; aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz <aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>; Ken Mair s9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Response to your various correspondence.

There are also many within our hapū/iwi who have no intention of attending the initialling, noting that this stage carries no legal effect or binding authority. In addition, the mandate

for the negotiation body has yet to be sighted, verified, or confirmed by a broad section of the claimant community. For clarity, I hold written consent from our whānau, including our kaumātua, which has been appropriately sighted by those who are required to see it.

On Wed, 3 Dec 2025 at 15:35, enquiries@whakatupuranga.com

s9(2)(a) wrote:

Kia Ora,

Thank you for the response. I am at this moment unsure on who you are and your relationship with me but trust you would be open to meeting so I can better understand.

In our meeting, I'd like clarity on who you are. What is your relationship to my hapū (hopefully this reveals which ones you refer to as well)? I am a holder of hapū and iwi whakapapa so can assist in this regard, and are you the recognised hapū representative to be receiving these records? I have been at hapū hui confirming the representatives will and then from the representatives their respective hapū members can peruse the information from there. The claimant community, as in the delegated hapū representatives, are on board with the progression so I am unsure of who you refer to as "claimant community" and suggest you clarify this with who you represent

Members of hapū have the formal right to vote against it in the ratification stage, and members of hapū such as s9(2)(a) have already held this process up without eventuation or permission / hapū endorsement. In an attempt to singlefy the benefit to one hapū, which is not kotahitanga at all

Because of this, I will bring your correspondence forward to a hapū hui, and discuss how, if at all, these concerns are legitimate amongst those of us who travel to Wellington tomorrow.

On Tue, Dec 2 2025 at 12:56 PM Me s9(2)(a) wrote:

Kia ora,

I am writing to clarify that you, s9(2)(a), are included in these discussions as a member of the claimant community. Your inclusion reflects a commitment to transparency and ensures that a range of perspectives is considered, regardless of whether you support moving forward or not.

I also note that there are members of your hapū who do not support progressing at this stage due to a lack of clear information. Despite requests, clarification has not been provided regarding the number of individuals who mandated the negotiation body. No mandate, hui minutes, attendance records, or supporting documentation have been supplied to confirm this.

If there has been no confirmation of the mandate numbers, it raises the question of whether you have personally sighted this information and on what basis you are supporting the process to move forward.

These matters require resolution to allow the claimant community to make informed decisions.

Ngā mihi

On Tue, 2 Dec 2025 at 12:43, s9(2)(a) wrote:

Tēnā tātau,

I do not know why I am included in this correspondence thread. As I do not recognise this forum or concerns and or complainants, and am not a responsible governor of this issue I am needing to be brought up to speed and asked for in person, as to what and or how you'd like me to be involved in this forum.

Until then, I support moving forward and hope we can all do so together.

s9(2)(a)

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Saturday, November 29, 2025 2:05:46 AM

To: Tracey Waitokia <whanganui_s@xtra.co.nz>

Cc: James Mitchell <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>; Victoria Smits <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Caryl Illana <Caryl.Illana@whakatau.govt.nz>; Rachel Wikaira <Wikaira.Rachel@whakatau.govt.nz>; Came on, Tania <Tania.Cameron@whakatau.govt.nz>; aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz <aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>; Ken Mair s9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Response to your various correspondence.

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you, Tracey, for sending the email on behalf of the trustees and acknowledging that they were formally advised of the correspondence on 3 November 2025 by Te Tari Whakatau.

I would like to clarify that this was not a complaint to Te Tari Whakatau, but rather a raising of concerns regarding the settlement process and the obligations of the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation trustees and the Crown in relation to claimant participation and settlement entitlements.

The claimant group has always been defined by descent. Participation and entitlement in the settlement process derive from whakapapa, not registration. It is *important to note* that beneficiary registration rolls are a PSGE governance administrative tool, not a requirement. The Crown and the WLSN trustees had a duty to communicate this to the claimant community clearly. This also applies to special voting mechanisms.

Reference 9 in the response pertains to governance terms imposed by the WLSN trustees, who will be the initial trustees *and* Settlers of Takapau Whariki Trust. A broad percentage of the claimant community has expressed a desire to change these terms of the deed before ratification.

For context, The Crown acts as the Settlor, and it establishes the trust by transferring the settlement property. Once the transfer is complete, it ceases to own or control the property, has no authority over how the trustees manage or distribute the property, and cannot direct trustees, interfere in governance, or withdraw any property. The PSGE then becomes irrevocable, meaning it can't be amended, cancelled, or the terms cannot be changed.

The WLSN trustees will serve as the initial trustees for six months following the approval of Takapau Whariki by the claimant community. They should not act as settlers of this trust, as specified in the deed. Having the same individuals perform both roles is akin to allowing someone to both make the rules and act as the referee. This creates a serious conflict of interest and concentrates undue *power* in the hands of the initial trustees, compromising fairness, accountability, and the independence of the trust. A straightforward lesson in NZ trust law.

Reference 11 in your email should note that the claimant community is not restricted from convening their own hui and discussing any matters or concerns relating to the settlement; attendance at the hui was recorded, the information was treated as confidential to those who whakapapa, but the questions raised were not received until 28 November 2025, despite having ample time to respond.

Reference 12: There was no misunderstanding. I, along with other descendants, were not permitted to join the hui despite members already in the Zoom session notifying the Trustees that additional whānau were waiting to be admitted. Written confirmation of this is documented in the Zoom chat, which contradicts the response provided.

Reference 14: Clause 15 of the WLSNT deed stipulates that all mandate hui held across the various regions were to be video recorded. The claimant community has made repeated requests for access to these recordings, all of which have been denied. This constitutes a clear breach of the obligations set out in the deed.

Reference 22: It is unclear where it was stated that the correspondence in question was *private* and *confidential*. Aimee, in her capacity as a hapū member, appears to have relayed information inaccurately. Ngāti Pāmoana explicitly invited all members of the claimant community to attend the hui and did not restrict attendance to those deemed appropriate by Ngāti Pāmoana. This constitutes a clear misrepresentation of the facts, irrespective of Aimee's position as Executive Assistant for WLSNT.

Reference 24: The allegations of online attacks lack credibility and are entirely unsubstantiated. Any such occurrences are beyond my control and influence, and there is no evidence linking them to my actions, rendering the claim baseless.

Reference 25: Those alleging harm bear the burden of proof. Claims of misinformation

have been directly rebutted with documented evidence and references in previous communications, demonstrating the assertions to be false, thereby establishing that the allegations are unsubstantiated and without merit.

In future, I would appreciate a direct response from the trustees themselves, not from an AI-generated source. I have software in place that identifies such correspondence.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On Fri, 28 Nov 2025 at 20:27, Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz> wrote:
sent on behalf of the WLSNT Trustess

Tēnā koe e s9(2)(a)

Re: Your correspondence dated 30/10/25 (Zoom hui – ultra vires), 31/10/25 (Urgent complaint to Te Tari Whakatau), and 03/11/25 (Concerns Regarding Misinformation and Trust Engagement)

1. WLSNT acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated 30 October 2025 and 3 November 2025 and notes that you sent a further letter dated 31 October 2025 titled “*URGENT: Loss of Confidence in WLSNT Trustees and Request for Government Intervention*” directly to Te Tari Whakatau. WLSNT was formally advised of this complaint by Te Tari Whakatau on 3 November 2025.
2. This response addresses the matters you have raised in relation to the hui-ā-iwi, the authority and obligations of the Trust, the misrepresentation and circulation of Aimee Simon’s private hapū correspondence, and your notification that you no longer wish to communicate directly with WLSNT.

Clarification of Registration, Eligibility and Recent Hui Discussions

3. Thank you for your email and for raising these matters. We provide the following clarification to ensure consistency and transparency for all of our hapū and uri.

Information Previously Shared

4. The only information WLSNT shared regarding registration and recorded details was the summary table that had been provided to us to support communication about voting and ratification pack pathways. This table was shared exactly as received.
5. Te Tari Whakatau has since issued updated guidance refining the earlier information. WLSNT will update all public material to reflect this most current advice.

Beneficiary Eligibility

6. Te Tari Whakatau has now confirmed that registration is not required to benefit from the settlement. All uri who descend from a Whanganui tūpuna are entitled to benefit.

Ratification Participation

7. There is no change to the ratification process previously discussed at hapū

hui:

- All uri aged 18+ may vote
- Registered or recorded uri will receive voting packs early
- Unregistered uri may vote by special vote
- Packs will be available at ratification hui and upon request

8. This ensures that all uri are able to participate fully and fairly in the ratification process.

PSGE Governance Rights (Post-Settlement)

9. Registration becomes relevant only for PSGE governance after settlement. Once the PSGE is established, only adult registered members (uri aged 18+ who are registered with the PSGE) will have governance rights to:

- Vote at AGMs and SGMs (including trustee elections)
- Stand or nominate candidates
- Propose amendments
- Decide major transactions
- Appoint an auditor
- Determine trustee remuneration

10. These rights relate to governance processes, not entitlement to benefit from the settlement. Anyone who is a beneficiary may register at any time to participate in these governance processes.

Ngāti Pāmoana Hui-ā-Hapū Q&A

11. The earlier online hui was organised independently by Ngāti Pāmoana, not by WLSNT. WLSNT attended solely to answer questions and had no control over attendance or participant identity. A confidentiality disclosure was therefore required in accordance with our Terms of Negotiation and Crown confidentiality expectations.

Online Hui for Registered Members

12. There has been some misunderstanding regarding this hui. For clarity:

- It is not a negotiations update
- It contains no new information
- It is the same presentation delivered at the hapū roadshow
- It ensures registered uri who could not attend in person can access the same kōrero
- It concludes the claimant-community roadshow that commenced in March 2025

13. This temporary restriction applied only to this single session and does not affect hapū voice, nor does it limit any uri from participating in the ratification process.

Mandate and Transparency

14. No mandate concerns have been raised with WLSNT by Te Tari Whakatau. WLSNT continues to operate within our Crown-recognised mandate and to

- meet all requirements regarding engagement, reporting, and confidentiality.
15. Our Chair has consistently offered an open-door opportunity for kōrero on any matters raised. While some have chosen not to engage directly, that invitation remains open to all uri.
 16. We remain committed to providing accurate, consistent information and will update all materials to reflect the Crown's latest advice.

Clarification Regarding Authority and the Hui-ā-Iwi

17. WLSNT holds a Crown-recognised mandate under the Terms of Negotiation (TON) and Deed of Mandate approved by Te Tari Whakatau. This mandate includes responsibility for all engagement, information-sharing, and confidentiality requirements during Treaty settlement negotiations.
18. The hui was initially requested and coordinated by Ngāti Pāmoana following the hapū roadshows. It was originally understood to be a hui for Ngāti Pāmoana uri only. It has since been clarified that while Ngāti Pāmoana coordinated the arrangements, the hui was in fact a Hui-ā-Iwi initiated by Ngāti Pāmoana for wider claimant participation.
19. The Zoom link was distributed by Ngāti Pāmoana, not WLSNT. Because WLSNT had no control over who received it, confidentiality requirements were essential to protect Crown-sensitive information and maintain negotiation integrity.
20. These actions were fully within WLSNT's mandate and responsibilities.
21. For completeness, we note that a number of WLSNT hui have been arranged separately by WLSNT for the benefit of our hapū and whānau members, and we have remained open to queries and feedback from our hapū and whānau throughout the settlement negotiations.

Misrepresentation and Unauthorised Use of Aimee's Hapū Correspondence

22. The email you cited was private hapū correspondence shared within a Ngāti Hineoneone/Atene communication thread. It was written by Aimee in her capacity as a hapū member responding to internal enquiries. It was not a WLSNT statement or communication.
23. Sharing private correspondence outside its intended context and purpose raises significant concerns under the Privacy Act 2020 (Principle 11: Limits on Disclosure). Attributing statements to a person or to WLSNT that were not made creates avoidable harm and is not behaviour we support or condone.
24. We also note that the sharing of this correspondence has been followed by online attacks targeting Aimee. Regardless of where these originated, such consequences are unacceptable and demonstrate why private hapū kōrero must remain in their proper context.
25. To prevent further misinformation or harm, we request that Aimee's correspondence not be circulated, quoted, or attributed to WLSNT in future communication. Only official WLSNT communications carry the authority of the Trust; all other commentary must not be regarded as representing WLSNT.

Withdrawal from Communication

26. While WLSNT remain open to all of our claimant group, we acknowledge your decision to cease direct communication with WLSNT and your decision to raise your concerns with Te Tari Whakatau.
27. WLSNT will continue to progress negotiations and will respond to Te Tari

Whakatau through formal channels as required. Engagement with hapū and uri will continue through recognised collective processes, hui-ā-iwi, and established communication pathways.

28. On that basis, the above constitutes WLSNT's response to the matters you have raised, unless further clarification is requested by Te Tari Whakatau.

Nāku noa, nā
Ken Mair
Chairman

Tracey Waitokia

Project Manager | Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust | Tupoho
House - 249 Victoria Ave | PO Box 4262 | Whanganui 4540 | Aotearoa | Cell+ 027
467 7111. www.wlsnt.maori.nz

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Smits, Victoria](#)
To: [Me](#)
Cc: [Mitchell, James](#)
Subject: RE: Subject: Questions Regarding Settlement Voting Process
Date: Thursday, 5 February 2026 4:31:00 pm

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thanks for your email. ElectionNZ (election service provider) will be managing the majority of the tasks for the ratification process, including the publication of public notices and the distribution of the voting packs (to both registered and recorded members). This is standard practice.

I am also aware that WLSNT will be posting public notices on their social media platforms replicating what was in the newspaper notice advising of the ratification hui in the near future.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 5 February 2026 4:15 pm
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Subject: Questions Regarding Settlement Voting Process

Kia Ora Victoria,

Can I please seek some clarity surrounding this ratification process because the information is conflicting. Received this email today from the Project Manager at WLSNT.

In November last year you emailed stating WLSNT were to provide special voting packs for those who did not wish to register or have their details recorded. Has this changed? WLSNT have put a public notice in the local newspaper which was published Monday 2nd Feb. But there is nothing on their social media platforms informing the claimant community. Not many read newspapers nowadays.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s9(2)(a)
Date: Thu, 5 Feb 2026, 15:46
Subject: Fwd: Subject: Questions Regarding Settlement Voting Process
To: s9(2)(a)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tracey Waitokia** <whanganui.ls@extra.co.nz>

Date: Thu, 5 Feb 2026 at 3:37 PM

Subject: Re: Subject: Questions Regarding Settlement Voting Process

To: s9(2)(a)

Cc: Ken Mair s9(2)(a), Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

In response to your queries

1. I can confirm that the Trust has set a ratification threshold of not less than 80% of valid votes cast being in favour.
2. To receive a voting pack, each uri must either register as a member or request that their details be recorded for the purpose of receiving a voting pack. Voting packs are issued to individuals only. Voting packs cannot be collected or submitted on behalf of groups, whānau, or other collectives. Each uri must be registered or recorded as an individual voter, consistent with standard electoral practice. An independent election service provider, Electionz, has been engaged to administer the ratification process. Voting packs will be distributed directly by Electionz. The Trust will not receive or distribute voting packs

Nga mihi

Tracey

On 05/02/2026 11:27 NZDT s9(2)(a)

wrote:

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you are doing well. I have two brief questions regarding the Settlement voting process:

1. Acceptance Threshold: Has the 80% acceptance threshold required to finalise the Settlement changed?
2. Voting Materials:
 - o After seeing the Whanganui Chronicle advertisement for Marae

Presentations, could you please share electronic copies of the voting forms for Uri? (*Note: Uri wishes to vote but does not intend to register with WLSNT.*)

- Can I collect 50 physical voting packs?

Thank you so much for your help. I really appreciate your guidance on these things.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

Tracey Waitokia

Project Manager | Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust | Tupoho House -
[249 Victoria Ave](#) | PO Box 4262 | Whanganui 4540 | Aotearoa | Cell+ 027 467
7111. | www.wlsnt.maori.nz

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: Me
 To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
 Subject: Re: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity
 Date: Thursday, 5 February 2026 5:06:07 pm
 Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Awesome thank you so much for clearing this up. **Out of scope**

On Thu, 5 Feb 2026, 17:04 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora anō

There will be a contact number for electionz as part of the ratification material. This is not yet scheduled to go out as far as I am aware. The ratification material should also be available online closer to the date - refer my previous email.

Regards

Victoria

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Me **s9(2)(a)**
 Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 4:42:23 PM
 To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
 Subject: Fwd: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

This is the email I received from you last year. I assume we can't directly contact electionz for voting packs. So how is this going to work? You haven't really answered my question in relation to the special voting.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
 Date: Tue, 25 Nov 2025, 15:29
 Subject: RE: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

s9(2)(a)

whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz>

Kia ora **s9(2)(a)**

Thank you for your email seeking clarification on the below matters. The document previously provided to WLSNT, and who forwarded this on to yourselves, was only partially correct.

Please see the updated guidance as follows:

Beneficiaries

Registration is not required to benefit from the settlement. Everyone who descends from a Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui tupuna is entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ratification

To receive ratification packs (including a voting form) before ratification begins, you must be either *registered* with WLSNT or have their details *recorded* with WLSNT for the sole purpose of receiving a ratification pack prior to ratification beginning.

However, those that are not registered or recorded **are eligible to participate** in the ratification process and voting by way of a special vote (whakapapa to vote). Voting packs will be available to those who request one from WLSNT or in person at ratification hui.

Registering with the Post-Settlement Governance Entity (subject to a successful ratification)

Registering with the PSGE provides all adult registered members with the right to:

- a. decide the trustees' remuneration
- b. attend Annual General Meeting (AGM);
- c. appoint an auditor;
- d. call and attend Special General Meetings (SGM);
- e. vote at any AGM or SGM;
- f. put forward for consideration proposals for amendments to the Trust Deed;
- g. terminate or dissolve the Trust by special resolution;
- h. decide on major transactions;
- i. nominate and vote in trustee elections; and
- j. be nominated for election and hold office as trustee (if he or she is eligible).

The above details are included in the draft PSGE trust deed, which will be part of the ratification materials.

Nga mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits ([she/her](#))

KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

CEL: DD: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, [19 Aitken Street](#), SX10111, Wellington 6011

If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Sent: Sunday, 23 November 2025 3:56 pm

To: Illana, Caryl <caryl.illana@whakatau.govt.nz>; Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>

s9(2)(a)

Subject: Formal Concern: Contradictory Information Affecting Mandate Integrity

Tēnā koutou,

We have identified material inconsistencies between the information provided by the trustees and the information provided by the Crown regarding participation and entitlements in the settlement process.

Specifically:

1. *The trustees have stated that individuals must be registered to benefit from the settlement, while not needing to be registered or recorded by whakapapa in order to participate in ratification.*

2. *The Crown has stated* that registration is *not* required to benefit from the settlement, but that individuals must be registered or recorded by whakapapa to participate in ratification.

These contradictory statements *cannot* both be correct. This represents a clear failure to provide accurate, consistent, and reliable information to the claimant community. Such misinformation undermines the credibility of the trustees and breaches the standards of transparency required in a mandated negotiation process.

Accordingly, we request that:

1. *All descendants* of Whanganui tūpuna be permitted to attend the WLSNT update hui scheduled for; Wednesday, 26 November 2025, at 6:00pm via Zoom, with no restrictions on entry, or registration.
2. The WLSNT trustees and Crown provide formal clarification addressing the inconsistencies outlined above.
3. The trustees confirm how they intend to ensure that all future information provided to the claimant community is *accurate, consistent*, inclusive to all, and aligned with Crown process requirements.

The issues listed above provide a clear and reasonable basis for the claimant community to lose confidence in the WLSNT trustees' mandate. If the mandate requires resetting to restore integrity to the process, then that outcome must be accepted.

This correspondence may be shared (with descendants) as the inconsistent information provided to the claimant community is having a direct and adverse impact on those entitled to benefit from the settlement.

Ngā mihi

From: [Me](#)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Subject: Subject: Clarification: Special Voting Process & 80% Threshold
Date: Thursday, 5 February 2026 5:42:06 pm

Kia ora ano Victoria,

Thank you for clarifying the special voting pathway for uri who do not wish to register or be recorded.

After careful consideration;

To ensure all eligible uri – including those not confident engaging directly with WLSNT – can participate, please provide the following:

1. Practical Access to Special Votes:

What is the direct contact method (phone/email/form) for uri to request a special voting form from Electionz?

What whakapapa evidence is required for this request?

Will these instructions be clearly published on social media and WLSNT's website?

2. Neutral Support Pathway:

Can you provide an appropriate, neutral contact (e.g., at Whakatau or Electionz) to assist uri who are uncomfortable approaching WLSNT directly?

3. Confirmation of Binding Threshold:

Please provide written confirmation that the legally binding ratification threshold for this settlement is 80% of valid votes cast.

This confirmation should clarify that this WLSNT-set threshold, as approved in the Ratification Plan, supersedes the Crown's general 51% policy for this specific settlement.

We also request a copy of the relevant section of the signed Ratification Plan that enshines this 80% condition

Timely and clear publication of this information is essential.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Cc: [Tracey](#)
Subject: Re: Subject: Questions Regarding Settlement Voting Process
Date: Monday, 9 February 2026 11:04:15 am

Thank you for your assistance.

On Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 10:34 AM, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email. I will come back to you with a response later today.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 9 February 2026 10:18 am
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Tracey <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Subject: Questions Regarding Settlement Voting Process

Kia ora Victoria,

I have been forwarded your contact details. If you are not the correct person to address this matter, please forward my query to the appropriate colleague within your organisation.

On behalf of my Hapū, I wish to clarify the special voting pathway for uri who do not want to register directly with the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT).

To ensure every eligible uri can participate with confidence, we would like precise, publicly available details on the following points.

1. Access to the Special Voting Process

Please provide the specific, practical steps for uri to request a special

voting form from the independent electoral service provider (e.g., ElectionNZ):

- **Direct Contact Method:** What is the dedicated phone number, email address, or online form for special vote requests?
- **Whakapapa Verification:** What specific evidence of whakapapa will be required to process these requests?
- **Public Communication:** Will these instructions be clearly published and promoted on official WLSNT social media channels and website?

2. Neutral Support for Voters

Please identify an appropriate, neutral contact person (e.g., within the Office of Treaty Settlements/Te Arawhiti or the independent electoral service) who can assist uri who are uncomfortable engaging directly with WLSNT for support with the voting process.

3. Confirmation of the 80% Ratification Threshold

We would like written confirmation that the legally binding ratification threshold for this settlement is **80% of valid votes cast**, as set by WLSNT and approved in the formal Ratification Plan.

This confirmation should explicitly state that this WLSNT-set 80% threshold supersedes the Crown's general 51% policy for this settlement. We would also like to request a copy of the relevant section of the signed Ratification Plan that enshrines this condition.

Timely publication of this clear information is essential for an informed and accessible ratification process.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

Ko niniti Marae Māori Reservation Trust.

Chairperson.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz>

Date: Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 3:37 PM

Subject: Re: Subject: Questions Regarding Settlement Voting Process

To: s9(2)(a)

Cc: Ken Mair s9(2)(a), Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

In response to your queries

1. I can confirm that the Trust has set a ratification threshold of not less than 80% of valid votes cast being in favour.
2. To receive a voting pack, each uri must either register as a member or request that their details be recorded for the purpose of receiving a voting pack. Voting packs are issued to individuals only. Voting packs cannot be collected or submitted on behalf of groups, whānau, or other collectives. Each uri must be registered or recorded as an individual voter, consistent with standard electoral practice. An independent election service provider, Electionz, has been engaged to administer the ratification process. Voting packs will be distributed directly by Electionz. The Trust will not receive or distribute voting packs.

Nga mihi

Tracey

On 05/02/2026 11:27 NZDT s9(2)(a)
rote:

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you are doing well. I have two brief questions regarding the Settlement voting process:

1. Acceptance Threshold: Has the 80% acceptance threshold required to finalise the Settlement changed?
2. Voting Materials:
 - o After seeing the Whanganui Chronicle advertisement for Marae Presentations, could you please share electronic copies of the voting forms for Uri? (Note: Uri wishes to vote but does not

- intend to register with WLSNT.)*
- Can I collect 50 physical voting packs?

Thank you so much for your help. I really appreciate your guidance on these things.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

Tracey Waitokia

Project Manager | Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust | Tuporo House -
[249 Victoria Ave](#) | PO Box 4262 | Whanganui 4540 | Aotearoa | Cell+ 027 467
7111. | www.wlsnt.maori.nz

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: Me
To: Smits, Victoria
Cc: s9(2)(a); Tracey
Subject: Re: Subject: Clarification: Special Voting Process & 80% Threshold
Date: Monday, 9 February 2026 3:51:34 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thank you for the information provided.

Could you please clarify whether those who need to vote online as a special vote are required to register or provide any personal or private details in order to do so?

We appreciate your clarification on this. No registration or recording of details is the only way some will participate so it must be implemented into this ratification.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On Mon, 9 Feb 2026, 15:08 Smits, Victoria, <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora kōrua

Thank you for your queries. In response, please see the below information:

Practical Access to Special Votes	What is the direct contact method (phone/email/form) for uri to request a special voting form from Electionz?	ElectionNZ – 0800 666 028 or vote@ElectionNZ.com
	What whakapapa evidence is required for this request?	There will be a whakapapa form alongside the special voting form to complete, which will be verified by Te Ranga Pakiaka (Whakapapa Committee) prior to the vote being accepted. The details must show whakapapa to one (or more) of the tupuna as detailed in the Deed of Settlement (refer clauses 11.7 – 11.10 of the Deed of Settlement - Historical Claims available at Te Tari Whakatau - Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui).
	Will these instructions be clearly published on social media and WLSNT's website?	The special voting guidelines and instructions are included in the ratification booklet, which will be available online at www.wlsnt.maori.nz or available in hard copy through ElectionNZ. Limited copies will be available at the ratification hui.
Neutral Support Pathway	Can you provide an appropriate, neutral contact (e.g., at Whakatau or Electionz) to assist uri who are uncomfortable approaching WLSNT directly?	Either ElectionNZ (refer contact details above) for anything relating to the ratification hui or vote processes. For anything else, please contact me directly at Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz .
Confirmation of Binding Threshold	Please provide written confirmation that the legally binding ratification threshold for this settlement is 80% of valid votes cast.	There is no specific threshold number as there are various factors that inform the final Crown assessment of votes. The decisions Ministers make on accepting results rely on a range of factors including percentage support and includes voter participation and other qualitative factors.
	This confirmation should clarify that this WLSNT-set threshold, as	There is no 51% policy for ratification voting processes.

	approved in the Ratification Plan, supersedes the Crown's general 51% policy for this specific settlement.	
	We also request a copy of the relevant section of the signed Ratification Plan that enshrines this 80% condition.	There are no written records of the 80% threshold; it was an aspirational threshold discussed by WLSNT trustees in informal settings. As a verbal agreement amongst the trust, I believe the Chair has shared that aspiration continuously since 2023 at various pre-ratification hui.

Ngā mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits ([she/her](#))

KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

DOE: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, [19 Aitken Street](#), SX10111, Wellington 6011

Rāhina



Rātū



Rāapa



Rāpare



Rāmere



If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

From: s9(2)(a)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Subject: Blocked access to Pūtiki Ratification Hui Whanganui
Date: Friday, 20 February 2026 11:44:46 am
Importance: High

Tēnā koe Victoria; I am uri of Te Paku o Te Rangi at Pūtiki in Whanganui. I am also the co-applicant of a Māori Land Court hearing to remove trustees. Out of scope

[REDACTED]

My cousins trespassed my from our marae reservation, where I grew up. This is the response to anyone who requests transparency and accountability, and an attempt to silence me.

I would like to attend the ratification hui; it is important that I can speak on behalf of multiple whānau; otherwise, they too are silenced. WLSNT haven't had any other hui yet; this week has all been cancelled.

Does that extend the voting period?

My understanding was that no one can be prevented from attending a ratification hui at their marae?

please advise

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
 To: Info
 Cc: WDC Information Request: Smits, Victoria
 Subject: URGENT - voting for ratification closes end of march - Whanganui District council refuses request
 Date: Monday, 23 February 2026 11:57:37 am
 Attachments: image002.png
 image003.png
 Importance: High

Kia Ora team - I have just spoken to someone on the phone regarding the urgency of this request. It pertains to the Whanganui Treaty Settlement. Ratification has commenced and closes at the end of March 2026.

Why we seek urgent review by the Ombudsman and concerns with the Whanganui District Council's response to requests for information.

"Ratification" has started for the Whanganui Land Treaty settlement; this means all negotiations have finished.

Therefore, continuing negotiations are not mandated by hapū or whānau. Nor have we been informed.

As the example below demonstrates, WDC has made advanced loans that will be repaid upon settlement. Or "offered to the PSGE" for first right of refusal, i.e. paid out of our settlement without consultation with whānau. The trustees who negotiated this loan will be the trustees on the new PSGE, also.

Whānau have the right to full transparency to make an informed voting decision; we have the right to know what is being negotiated with WDC, now unmandated.

It appears important information is being withheld until after ratification closes. This impacts whānau rangatiratanga by leaving them not fully informed and requires urgent consideration:

I requested the following information from Whanganui District Council:

"Can you please also provide the terms of the 23 September 2022 loan of 1.4 million to Tūpoho Investments, please - i couldn't find it in the LTP"

WDC response

This relates to the purchase of Council-owned land by Tūpoho Investments Ltd for the purpose of developing papakāinga housing. However, due to Tūpoho Investments Ltd being unable to access development funding until the Treaty Settlement is finalised, in order to enable the purchase to proceed, Council agreed to advance the purchase price by way of a vendor mortgage. There is no funding agreement but the terms of the loan are recorded in the further terms of the **Agreement for Sale and Purchase** which has been provided to you (uploaded to OneDrive folder).

Since this agreement was signed the repayment time frame has been extended, this is recorded in the **Agreement to Vary Term** document uploaded to the OneDrive folder.

"Please can I request copies of all communications (including emails, letters, internal memos, and meeting notes, MoU agreements, between Hone Tamahana, Tamahau Rowe, or anyone representing Pūtiki Ngati Tupoho, Ngati Tumango, or Ken Mair, Wlsmt. In reference to the return of airport lands / Whanganui Harbour board, and concerning Landguard Bluff, for the past 5 years, please"

WDC Response

We hold a range of material within the scope of your request, including workshop reports, Council reports and notes relating to meetings held between Council representatives and Tupoho representatives. Negotiations in respect of the return of former Harbour Board land near the airport are progressing, but very much ongoing, and no final Council decision has been made. The release of any information in respect of these negotiations risks undermining the progress made to date and jeopardises the negotiating position of both parties. For that reason we are refusing your request for the following reasons: Pursuant to Section 7(2)(i) of LGOIMA which provides that the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage, as per the reasons set out above.

Pursuant to Section 7(2)(c)(ii) of LGOIMA - Council consider that the information requested is information that was provided subject to a mutually agreed obligation of confidence. This confidence plays a key role in achieving agreement in these negotiations, and there is a public interest benefit to be gained in protecting that confidentiality. The release of confidential information will create mistrust between negotiating parties.

ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

----- Original Message -----

From: WDC Information Request <InformationRequest@whanganui.govt.nz>
 To: s9(2)(a)
 Date: 19/02/2026 12:31 NZDT
 Subject: LGOIMA : 28 Maria Place

Hi s9(2)(a)

The email to the Councillors was in the folder it was dated 4 February 2026. Your request was for 'emails and reports relating to the decision to give notice' what was provided was all the information that fell within scope of your request.

I have since discussed this matter with staff and been informed that this matter is subject to an ongoing investigation. For that reason, I have removed the documents from the One Drive folder and am withholding all information relating to 28 Maria Place pursuant to Section 6(c) of LGOIMA. This section provides that there is a *conclusive reason for withholding information if the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.*

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me on 06 349 0001 or by return email.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Fitzgerald



Whanganui Information Request | LGOIMA Request
P: +64 6 349 0001 | M: +64 6 349 0001
www.whanganui.govt.nz
101 Guyton Street | Whanganui 4500

Please consider the environment before printing this email

CAUTION: This correspondence is confidential and intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you are not the named recipient and receive this correspondence in error, you must not copy, distribute or take action in reliance on it and should delete it from your system and notify the sender immediately. Views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the organisation.

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 11:48 am
To: WDC Information Request <InformationRequest@whanganui.govt.nz>
Subject: 28 Maria Place,

Kia Ora Hayley, I don't think you have released everything; where is the email informing the councillors of the situation?

Where are the emails confirming MSD Health etc involvement - this is mentioned in their emails, so obviously comms has occurred?

There must also have been previous concerns raised prior to the eviction.

Please send all information, minutes of the hui, emails, etc., including information following the eviction, for all involved in this process.

There must be comms from the Community Wellbeing Manager, surely?

People's Centre?

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On 19/02/2026 09:13 NZDT WDC Information Request <informationrequest@whanganui.govt.nz> wrote:

Dear s9(2)(a)

I refer to your official information request dated 8 and 9 February 2026 and the 23 December 2025. Apologies for the delay in getting this information to you I was having trou

The information you have requested is as follows.

1. Can we OIA all documents; emails and reports leading up to the decision to give 24 hours notice to the tenants of the Maria Place building; prior to a public holiday when all services are closed.

A Fire Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) Report (email dated 4 February 2026) was provided to Council and a number of internal emails were sent that fall within scope of your request – this information has been uploaded to the following OneDrive folder. s9(2)(a)

2. We also request the People Centre reports - particularly the ones where they have place whanau in this building can you forward the current contract to the Peoples centre please advice who your contact at MSD has been for this kaupapa also We have uploaded to the same OneDrive folder the Whanganui Peoples Centre Contract and the Annual report for the year ended June 2025. These reports do not go into the detail that you have mentioned above. There is no particular person who Council deals with at MSD. Council's work under this contract is restricted only to homeless people who are found on Council sites or in Council premises, Council then contact the People's Centre who step in.
3. Last kaupapa; why has there been no update reports on safer whanganui?

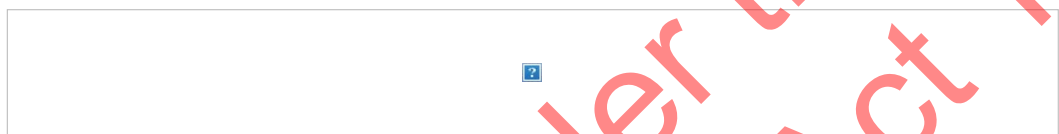
4. please forward through reports on this from the Community Manager

Safer Whanganui reports have previously gone to the Projects and Grants Committee, due to recent committee structure changes these reports will now go to the Operations and Performance Committee – the regular reporting may have skipped during this changeover but all reports can be located at the Council and Committee Meetings and Minutes page on the Council website. Please see the following link to the last Safer Whanganui minutes that went up to Council via the Projects & Grants committee [Projects and Grants Committee - 29 July 2025](#) – Feb & April 2025 minutes. A meeting was held in June & September & Dec 2025 but as there were no Projects & Grants Committee meetings after 29 after that date the reporting has not yet been published.

5. we hear WDC has given a loan to WLSNT to complete their ratification road shows we would like all emails; letters; contract anything to do with this kaupapa please.

Council do not hold any information in respect of a loan to the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust for this purpose. We are refusing your request for supporting documentation pursuant to Section 17(e) of LGOIMA as the information does not exist.

6. Can you please also provide the terms of the 23 September 2022 loan of 1.4 million to Tūpoho Investments, please - i couldnt find it in the LTP



This relates to the purchase of Council-owned land by Tūpoho Investments Ltd for the purpose of developing papakāinga housing. However, due to Tūpoho Investments Ltd being unable to access development funding until the Treaty Settlement finalised, in order to enable the purchase to proceed, Council agreed to advance the purchase price by way of a vendor mortgage. There is no funding agreement but the terms of the loan are recorded in the further terms of the **Agreement for Sale and Purchase** which has been provided to you (uploaded to OneDrive folder).

Since this agreement was signed the repayment time frame has been extended, this is recorded in the **Agreement to Vary Term** document uploaded to the OneDrive folder.

7. Please can I request copies of all communications (including emails, letters, internal memos, and meeting notes, MoU agreements, between Tamehana, Tamahau Rowe, or anyone representing Pūtiki Ngati Tupoho, Ngati Tumango, or Ken Mair, Wlsnt. In reference to the return of airport lands / Whanganui Harbour board, and concerning Landguard Bluff, for the past 5 years, please.

We hold a range of material within the scope of your request, including workshop reports, Council reports and notes relating to meetings held between Council representatives and Tupoho representatives. Negotiations in respect of the return of former Harbour Board land near the airport are progressing, but very much ongoing, and no final Council decision has been made. The release of any information in respect of these negotiations risks undermining the progress made to date and jeopardises the negotiating position of both parties. For that reason we are refusing your request for the following reasons;

Pursuant to Section 7(2)(i) of LGOIMA which provides that the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage, as per the reasons set out above.

Pursuant to Section 7(2)(c)(ii) of LGOIMA - Council consider that the information requested is information that was provided subject to a mutually agreed obligation of confidence. This confidence plays a key role in achieving agreement in these negotiations, and there is a public interest benefit to be gained in protecting that confidentiality. Release of confidential information will create a mistrust between negotiating parties.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me on 06 349 0001 or by return email.

Yours sincerely,



Whanganui Information Request | LGOIMA Request

P: +64 6 349 0001 | M: +64 6 349 0001

www.whanganui.govt.nz

101 Guyton Street | Whanganui 4500

Please consider the environment before printing this email

CAUTION: This correspondence is confidential and intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you are not the named recipient and receive this correspondence in error, you must not copy, distribute or take action in reliance on it and should delete it from your system and notify the sender immediately. Views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the organisation.

Ngā mihi



Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Cc: vote@electionz.com
Subject: RE: URGENT WHANGANUI RATIFICATION HUI WHANAU ARE SHUT DOWN - RESPONSE REQUIRED
Date: Monday, 23 February 2026 2:12:19 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Aroha mai, Victoria, you are not listening to Uri.

The TPK observers are biased - one was used to remove a cousin from a previous hui - he is the son-in-law of s9(2)(a); the other, s9(2)(a), is spreading defamatory remarks online. They can hardly be considered objective. Objective staff can be sought elsewhere such as Palmerston North.

There may be 10 Ratification hui, but I WANT to attend our hui at Pūtiki - this is intentional exclusion and we have concerns with their pre-deals.

We request the Observers' report from Friday and all reports under the OIA; please send them through as they come, also request the "strat plan for ratification" (again)

The Crown is biased also - therefore, how can you be objective on the information provided?

The Trespass matter is not for the courts; furthermore, the trustees are not legal trustees to even issue the trespass.

I have also informed you that there is a large population who haven't been informed - you ignore this.

We would like voting at a place that is accessible for this population - they do not have Zoom or vehicles to travel to the hui. I would like you to go back to WLSNT again with our requests, particularly the koha shed; we have been working our butts off, as WLSNT has not done its job. Of course, they will say differently.

I would also like you to acknowledge that whānau have the right to stand and speak, to discuss and debate if they feel the need, because this is not happening.

Isn't this supposed to be a safe and objective process?

Our concerns are recorded, and if we are shut down again tonight, we will contact you.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On 23/02/2026 12:36 NZDT Smits, Victoria
 <victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

Please see our responses as below:

Concern	Details	Crown comment
Independent oversight		We have been in touch with TPK leadership and they have processes in place to manage conflicts of interest. Most

		ratification hui have more than one Crown observer and those with relationships with trustees are asked to declare this at the beginning of any hui. the observer on Friday declared this relationship and offered to stand down if there were objections but none were raised by those present. Where there is a conflict of interest, these observers will not be preparing the observer reports. We are satisfied that these measures to manage conflicts are appropriate.
Ratification processes	(Suppression of debate, accuracy of information, aggressive responses, fair opportunity to be heard)	This is a process concern and will be reported on through the observer reports. We will carefully consider these as they come through.
Trespassed uri		This is a matter to be managed by WLSNT and the marae. We note that there are 10 ratification hui and that this should present opportunities for anyone unable to attend a particular hui because they have been trespassed to still participate in the ratification process.
The Red Book	Mandate maintenance	The maintenance of the mandate will be tested, among other things, through the results of the ratification process.

Requests:	1. Provide the Observer Report: for the Huriharama Hui 20 Feb 2026; and minutes.	<i>Observer reports, like all Crown records, are subject to Official Information Act requests to TPK.</i>
	2. Confirm the status of the ratification strategy for this settlement.	<i>The ratification strategy was approved by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister for Māori Development.</i>
	3. Halt any progress towards initialling a Deed of Settlement until a transparent, Crown-monitored ratification process is publicly announced.	<i>The deed was initialled in December 2025. The results of the ratification vote will indicate if the Crown proceeds to sign a deed with WLSNT.</i> <i>We do not consider, based on the information you have provided, that the ratification process has lacked transparency.</i>
	4. Ensure that independent observers (free from whānau conflicts) are appointed to oversee the entire ratification phase	<i>We have reviewed TPK's processes with them in response to your email and are satisfied that they have processes and measures in place that ensure conflicts of interests are managed appropriately.</i>
	5. Uri who have been trespassed from their marae are allowed to attend the ratification hui.	<i>A trespass order is a matter for the Courts, and we do not have the authority to override it.</i> <i>As noted above there will be other hui through which the individuals concerned can participate in the process.</i>
Voting	...open a polling station at the Koha Shed. There have been no efforts from WLSNT to	<i>We consider WLSNT have met the Crown requirements for socialising information in relation to the ratification and the</i>

	include all whānau.	settlement package through public advertising and social media channels but will pass on your request to WLSNT. The voting process is run through ElectionNZ.com, an independent election service provider. Those that wish to, including those that visit the Koha Shed, can access information on the WLSNT social media channels and their website, or by attending one of the publicly advertised hui. Ratification voting information and forms are also able to be obtained by getting in touch with ElectionNZ.com directly.
Broken registration link		As a matter of urgency, we will be liaising with WLSNT to get this fixed as soon as possible. As the ratification process does not close for another 5 weeks, we consider this sufficient time for the fact that the website is down to be remedied without prejudicing the ratification process (Crown requirement is 4 weeks).

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 8:28 am

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; vote@electionz.com

Subject: URGENT WHANGANUI RATIFICATION HUI WHANAU ARE SHUT DOWN -

RESPONSE REQUIRED

Importance: High

Subject: URGENT: Failure to Implement Ratification Process – Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust

I am writing to express grave concern regarding the progress of the Whanganui Land Settlement negotiations. We attended the first hui on Friday, 20th Feb 26. It appears the mandated representatives are attempting to bypass the formal ratification phase as required by the Red Book (2025). Under these guidelines, the Crown requires that claimants be given a genuine opportunity to discuss and debate the settlement.

Hapū concerns as follows:

- **Suppression of Debate:** Closing down a presentation of concerns and treating those with questions as "disruptors" contradicts the requirement for an "informed" vote.
- **Accuracy of Information:** Guidelines require that the mandate group provide clear, accurate information. Documents that contradict their statements are raising "Red Flags" regarding the voters' informed consent. We were shut down by WLSNT. (? Insert 1.4 million) (!% of acreage).
- **Aggressive responses from WLSNT Trustees** towards those asking questions.
- **Fair Opportunity to be Heard:** Te Arawhiti (The Office for Māori Crown Relations) generally expects hui to provide a safe environment for robust debate. This did not occur; we were not allowed to speak freely or raise clear inconsistencies.
- **Independent Oversight:** TPK (Te Puni Kōkiri) observers were present; however, they are Uri, they are also whānau of trustees, and they are openly pro-settlement. Due to divisions within whānau, they refused to greet some of us who reject the settlement.
- **Given that they are tasked with reporting on the "tone" and "fairness" of the meeting, there is a clear conflict of interest; this is intimidating for whānau and is not acceptable.**
- **Uri have been trespassed from their marae for seeking transparency; meaning they and their whānau, whom they represent, are punitively excluded.**

The Red Book 2025:

I draw your attention to Pages 29–31 and 39–47 of the 2025 Red Book, which mandate that a group must maintain its accountability to claimants throughout the process. Bypassing

Bypassing critical Ratification steps is a direct breach of the Crown's own policy for reaching a fair and durable settlement. The Crown's recognition of a mandate is conditional on the representatives remaining accountable to the claimant group; it is not a one-time "blank cheque." If the "mandated" group are obstructing the ratification process, they are failing to "maintain" that mandate as per Crown expectations. Page 73 refers to "Communication must also be open enough to make sure that all members of the claimant group, including those who live outside their rohe, can take a full part in the discussion that is part of this final decision-making stage". There has been a failure to ensure the "distinct recognition of hapū and whānau interests" has been occurring within the wider settlement package. Page 69

The Crown has a duty of Active Protection to ensure that settlement processes are not captured by a small group of individuals at the expense of the wider iwi and hapū. We formally request that Te Arawhiti:

1. Provide the Observer Report: for the Huriharama Hui 20 Feb 2026; and minutes.
1. Confirm the status of the ratification strategy for this settlement.
2. Halt any progress toward initialling a Deed of Settlement until a transparent, Crown-monitored ratification process is publicly announced.
3. Ensure that independent observers (free from whānau conflicts) are appointed to oversee the entire ratification phase.
4. Uri who have been trespassed from their marae are allowed to attend the ratification hui.

Voting:

It has come to our attention that there is a large population that have been completely omitted from the Settlement. The Koha Shed provides free kai, and support for Whanganui families; they have approximately 100-150 families through each day. We have been canvassing them to ask if they know anything about the settlement. They do not. Many whanau are disconnected from Marae; how are they included?

We would like to open a polling station at the Koha Shed. There have been no efforts from WLSNT to include all whānau.

Given our next Ratification hui is tonight, this email requires urgent attention

Furthermore, the link to register for WLSNT is broken and has been down for the last week. Does this indicate a need to extend the timeframe for voting? we think it should.

Please phone me today.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Cc: vote@electionz.com
Subject: Feedback from last night WLSNT ratification hui
Date: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 8:39:33 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Tēnā Koe Victoria;

We spoke with ElectionNZ last night, and he said he had been included in my email strand from yesterday and hopes this can be arranged. It is not appropriate that after a charity identifies a clear and large gap of whānau not being reached, to then expect that Charity to tautoko whānau without the resources contracted for WLSNT. If WLSNT had intended to reach all whānau, they would have planned for this. Can you forward the Ratification Strat plan that you approved, or acknowledge my OIA for this, please?

I'm pleased to report that the non-objective TPK observers were removed last night. Instead, they sat on the floor next to the Observers, shouting abuse at us instead, proving our concerns and need for removal were correct.

I look forward to hearing from you and ElectionNZ. I really must insist on a timeframe, given the urgency of this matter and would appreciate an answer and a plan for The Koha Shed by the end of the week. Thank you for your understanding.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On 23/02/2026 12:36 NZDT Smits, Victoria
 <victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

Please see our responses as below:

Concern	Details	Crown comment
Independent oversight		<i>We have been in touch with TPK leadership and they have processes in place to manage conflicts of interest. Most ratification hui have more than one Crown observer and those with relationships with trustees are asked to declare this at the beginning of any hui. the observer on Friday declared this relationship and offered to stand down if there were objections but none were raised by those present. Where there is a conflict</i>

		<i>of interest, these observers will not be preparing the observer reports.</i> <i>We are satisfied that these measures to manage conflicts are appropriate.</i>
Ratification processes	(Suppression of debate, accuracy of information, aggressive responses, fair opportunity to be heard)	<i>This is a process concern and will be reported on through the observer reports</i> <i>We will carefully consider these as they come through.</i>
Trespassed uri		<i>This is a matter to be managed by WLSNT and the marae.</i> <i>We note that there are 10 ratification hui and that this should present opportunities for anyone unable to attend a particular hui because they have been trespassed to still participate in the ratification process.</i>
The Red Book	Mandate maintenance	<i>The maintenance of the mandate will be tested, among other things, through the results of the ratification process.</i>
Requests	1. Provide the Observer Report: for the Huriharama Hui 20 Feb 2026; and minutes.	<i>Observer reports, like all Crown records, are subject to Official Information Act requests to TPK.</i>
	2. Confirm the status of the ratification strategy for this settlement.	<i>The ratification strategy was approved by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister for Māori</i>

		<i>Development.</i>
	3. Halt any progress towards initialling a Deed of Settlement until a transparent, Crown-monitored ratification process is publicly announced.	<i>The deed was initialled in December 2025. The results of the ratification vote will indicate if the Crown proceeds to sign a deed with WLSNT.</i> <i>We do not consider, based on the information you have provided, that the ratification process has lacked transparency</i>
	4. Ensure that independent observers (free from whānau conflicts) are appointed to oversee the entire ratification phase	<i>We have reviewed TPK's processes with them in response to your email and are satisfied that they have processes and measures in place that ensure conflicts of interests are managed appropriately</i>
	5. Uri who have been trespassed from their marae are allowed to attend the ratification hui.	<i>A trespass order is a matter for the Courts, and we do not have the authority to override it.</i> <i>As noted above there will be other hui through which the individuals concerned can participate in the process.</i>
Voting	...open a polling station at the Koha Shed. There have been no efforts from WLSNT to include all whānau.	<i>We consider WLSNT have met the Crown requirements for socialising information in relation to the ratification and the settlement package through public advertising and social media channels but will pass on your request to WLSNT.</i> <i>The voting process is run through ElectionNZ.com, an independent election service provider. Those</i>

		that wish to, including those that visit the Koha Shed, can access information on the WLSNT social media channels and their website, or by attending one of the publicly advertised hui. Ratification voting information and forms are also able to be obtained by getting in touch with ElectionNZ.com directly.
Broken registration link		As a matter of urgency, we will be liaising with WLSNT to get this fixed as soon as possible. As the ratification process does not close for another 5 weeks, we consider this sufficient time for the fact that the website is down to be remedied without prejudicing the ratification process (Crown requirement is 4 weeks).

Ngā mihi

Victoria

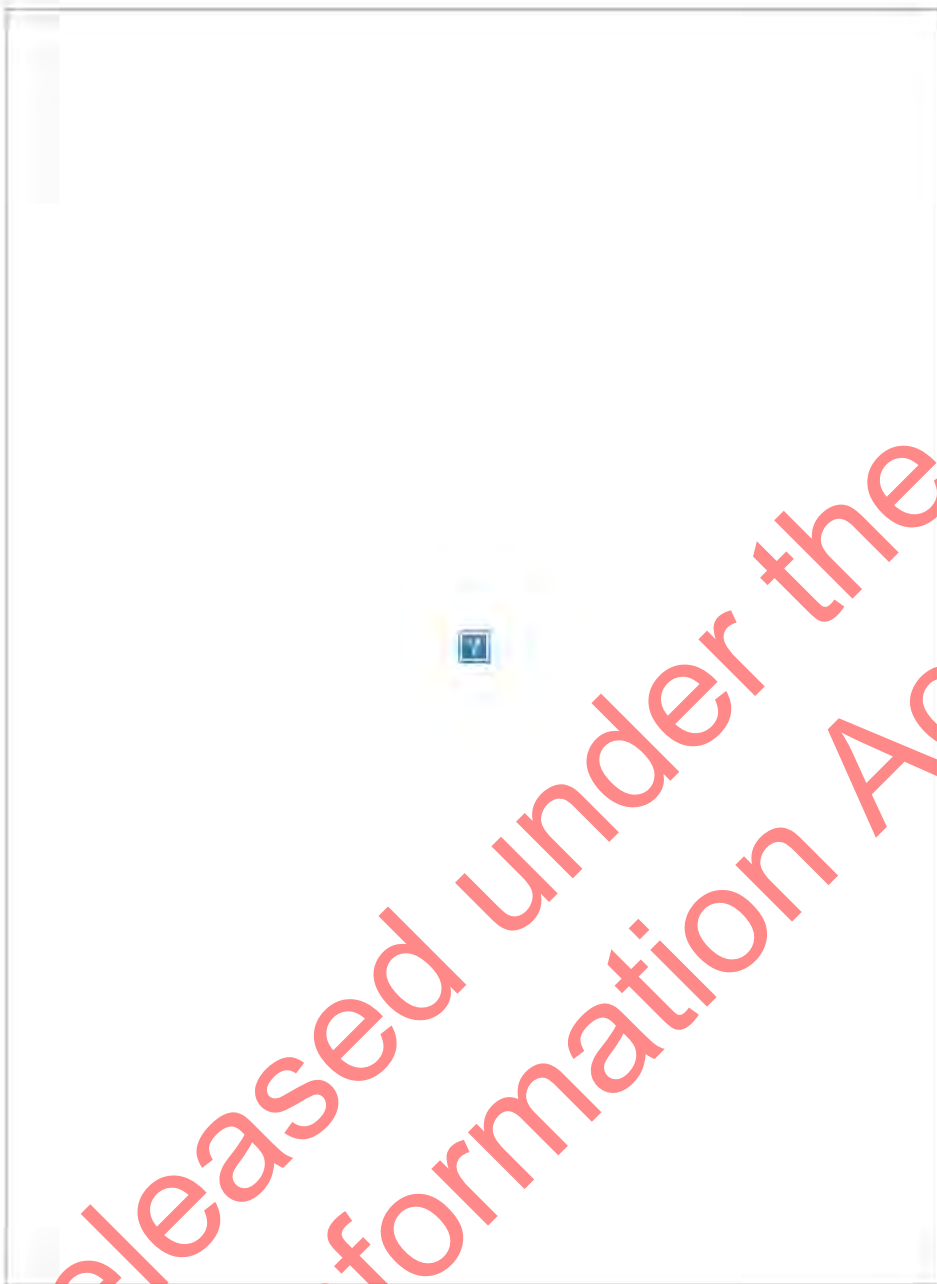
From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 8:28 am

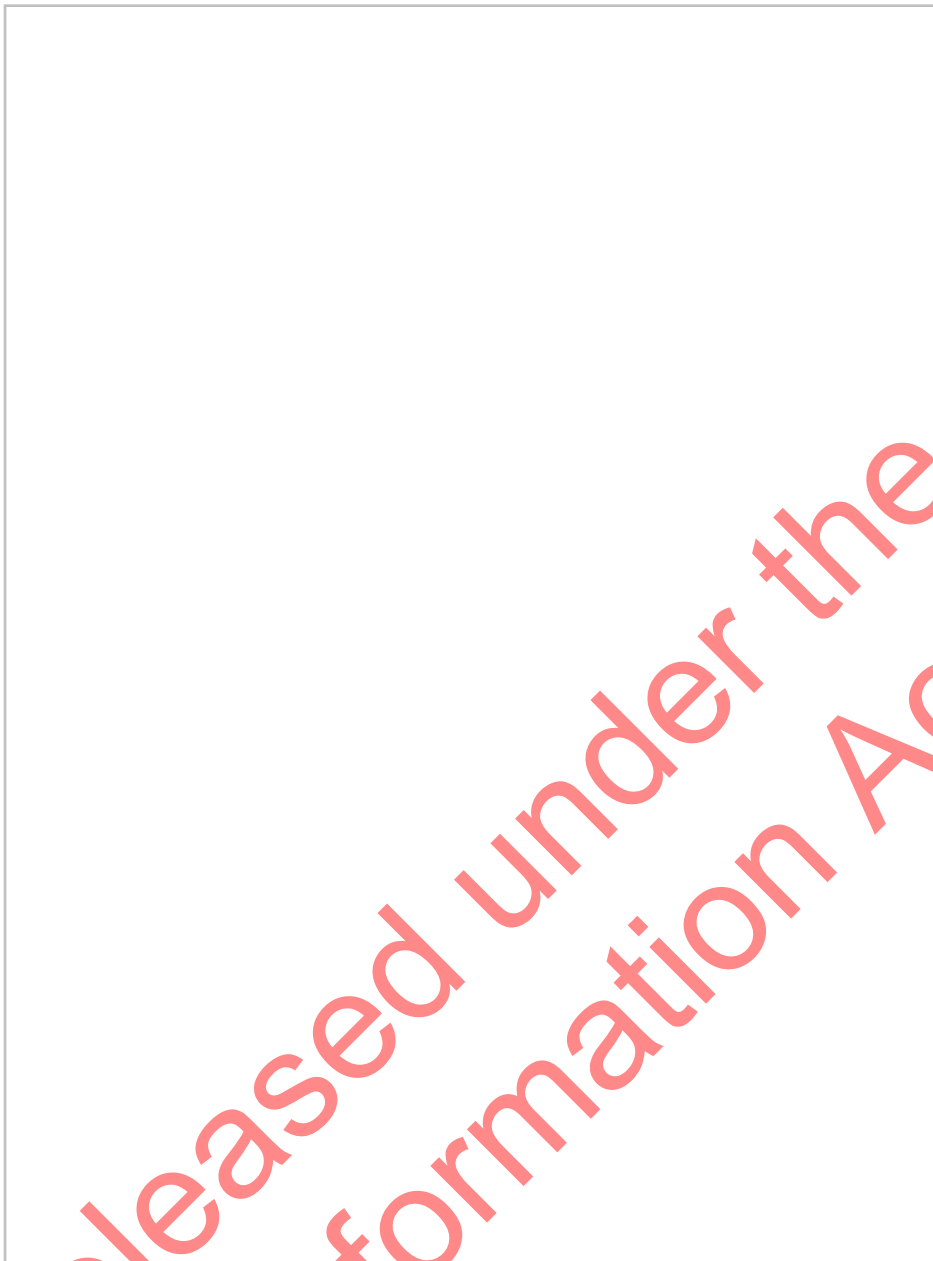
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; vote@electionz.com

Subject: URGENT WHANGANUI RATIFICATION HUI WHANAU ARE SHUT DOWN - RESPONSE REQUIRED

Importance: High



Released under the
Official Information Act 1982



Given our next Ratification hui is tonight, this email requires urgent attention

Furthermore, the link to register for WLSNT is broken and has been down for the last week. Does this indicate a need to extend the timeframe for voting? we think it should.

Please phone me today.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Smits, Victoria](#)
To: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Cc: vote@electionz.com
Subject: RE: Feedback from last night WLSNT ratification hui
Date: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 11:45:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Acknowledgement of your email below and OIA request from yesterday, 23 February.

We will provide a response in line with our obligations under the OIA in due course.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 8:39 am
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: vote@electionz.com
Subject: Feedback from last night WLSNT ratification hui

Tēnā Koe Victoria;

We spoke with ElectionNZ last night, and he said he had been included in my email strand from yesterday and hopes this can be arranged. It is not appropriate that after a charity identifies a clear and large gap of whānau not being reached, to then expect that Charity to tautoko whānau without the resources contracted for WLSNT. If WLSNT had intended to reach all whānau, they would have planned for this. Can you forward the Ratification Strat plan that you approved, or acknowledge my OIA for this, please?

I'm pleased to report that the non-objective TPK observers were removed last night. Instead, they sat on the floor next to the Observers, shouting abuse at us instead, proving our concerns and need for removal were correct.

I look forward to hearing from you and ElectionNZ. I really must insist on a timeframe, given the urgency of this matter and would appreciate an answer and a plan for The Koha Shed by the end of the week. Thank you for your understanding.

Ngā mihi

[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

On 23/02/2026 12:36 NZDT Smits, Victoria
<victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

Please see our responses as below:

Concern	Details	Crown comment
Independent oversight		<i>We have been in touch with TPK leadership and they have processes in place to manage conflicts of interest. Most ratification hui have more than one Crown observer and those with relationships with trustees are asked to declare this at the beginning of any hui. the observer on Friday declared this relationship and offered to stand down if there were objections but none were raised by those present. Where there is a conflict of interest, these observers will not be preparing the observer reports.</i> <i>We are satisfied that these measures to manage conflicts are appropriate.</i>
Ratification processes	(Suppression of debate, accuracy of information, aggressive responses, fair opportunity to be heard)	<i>This is a process concern and will be reported on through the observer reports.</i> <i>We will carefully consider these as they come through.</i>
Trespassed uri		<i>This is a matter to be managed by WLSNT and the marae.</i> <i>We note that there are 10 ratification hui and that this should present opportunities for anyone unable to attend a particular hui because they have</i>

		<i>been trespassed to still participate in the ratification process.</i>
The Red Book	Mandate maintenance	<i>The maintenance of the mandate will be tested, among other things, through the results of the ratification process.</i>
Requests:	1. Provide the Observer Report: for the Huriharama Hui 20 Feb 2026; and minutes.	<i>Observer reports, like all Crown records, are subject to Official Information Act requests to TPK.</i>
	2. Confirm the status of the ratification strategy for this settlement.	<i>The ratification strategy was approved by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister for Māori Development.</i>
	3. Halt any progress towards initialling a Deed of Settlement until a transparent, Crown monitored ratification process is publicly announced.	<i>The deed was initialled in December 2025. The results of the ratification vote will indicate if the Crown proceeds to sign a deed with WLSNT. We do not consider, based on the information you have provided, that the ratification process has lacked transparency.</i>
	4. Ensure that independent observers (free from whānau conflicts) are appointed to oversee the entire ratification phase	<i>We have reviewed TPK's processes with them in response to your email and are satisfied that they have processes and measures in place that ensure conflicts of interests are managed appropriately.</i>
	5. Uri who have been trespassed from their marae are allowed to attend the ratification hui.	<i>A trespass order is a matter for the Courts, and we do not have the authority to override it. As noted above there will be other hui through which the individuals concerned can participate in the process.</i>

Voting	...open a polling station at the Koha Shed. There have been no efforts from WLSNT to include all whānau.	<i>We consider WLSNT have met the Crown requirements for socialising information in relation to the ratification and the settlement package through public advertising and social media channels but will pass on your request to WLSNT.</i> <i>The voting process is run through ElectionNZ.com, an independent election service provide . Those that wish to, including those that visit the Koha Shed can access information on the WLSNT social media channels and their website, or by attending one of the publicly advertised hui. Ratification voting information and forms are also able to be obtained by getting in touch with ElectionNZ.com directly.</i>
Broken registration link		<i>As a matter of urgency, we will be liaising with WLSNT to get this fixed as soon as possible.</i> <i>As the ratification process does not close for another 5 weeks, we consider this sufficient time for the fact that the website is down to be remedied without prejudicing the ratification process (Crown requirement is 4 weeks).</i>

Ngā mihi

Victoria

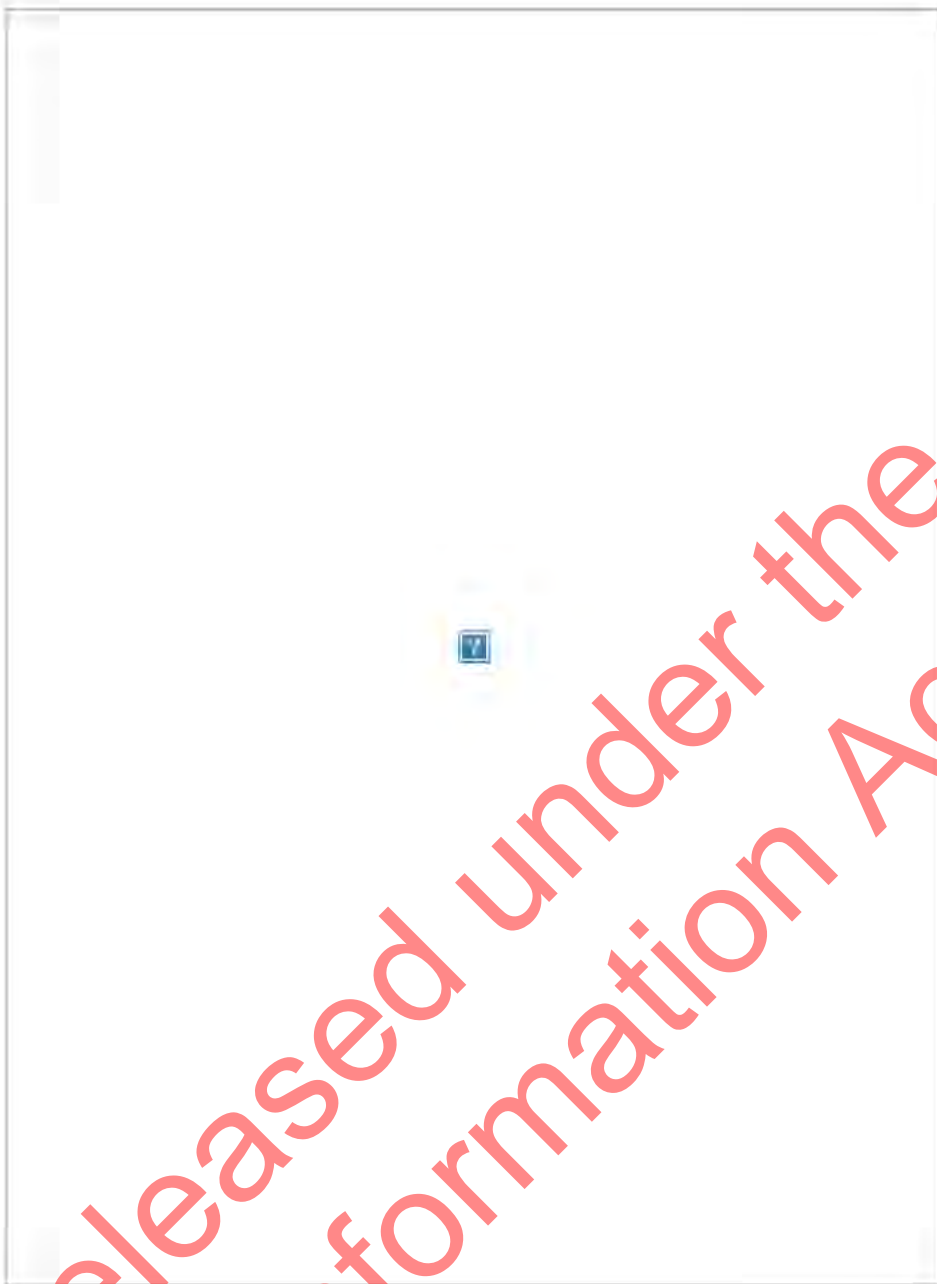
From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 8:28 am

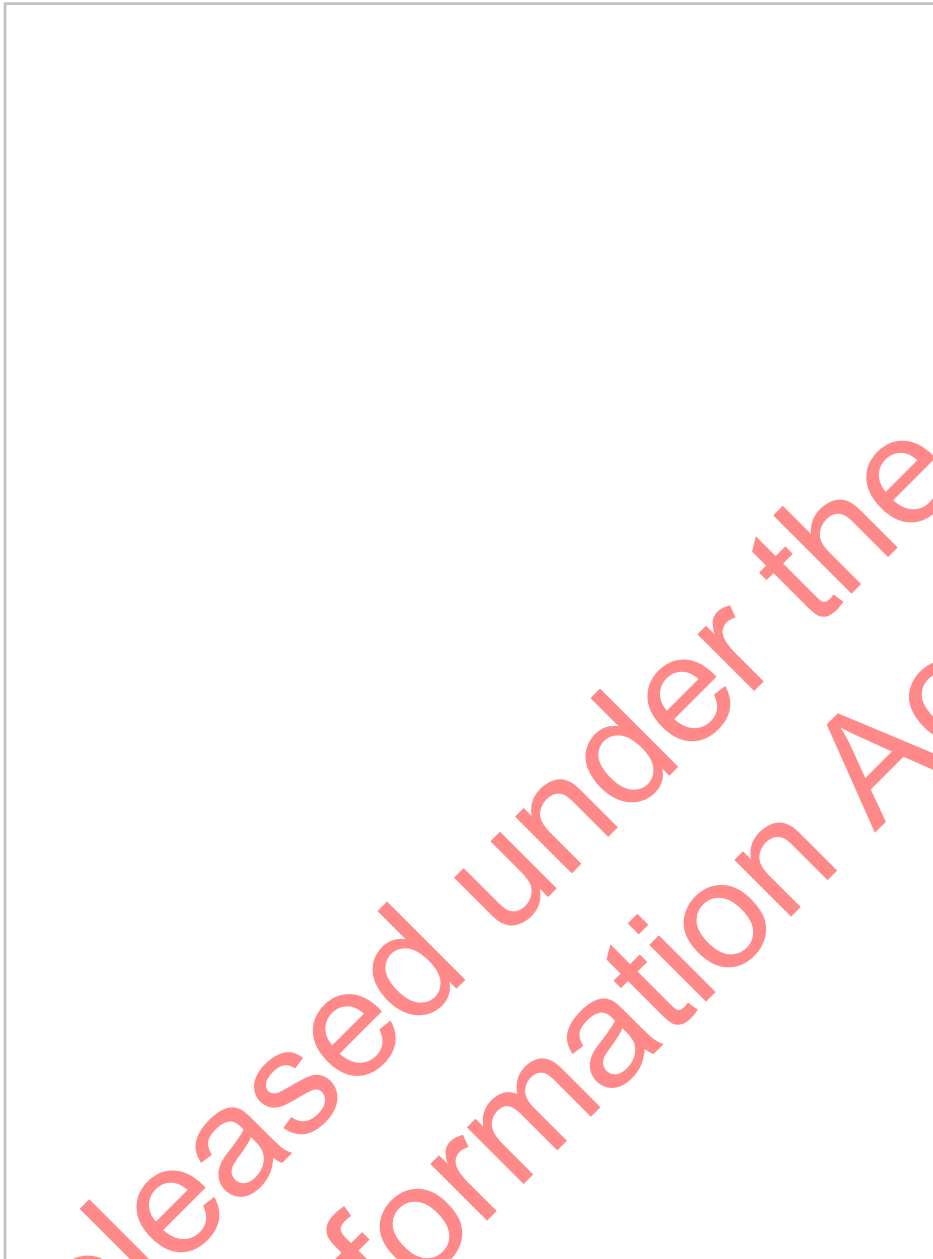
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; vote@electionz.com

Subject: URGENT WHANGANUI RATIFICATION HUI WHANAU ARE SHUT DOWN - RESPONSE REQUIRED

Importance: High



Released under the
Official Information Act 1982



Given our next Ratification hui is tonight, this email requires urgent attention

Furthermore, the link to register for WLSNT is broken and has been down for the last week. Does this indicate a need to extend the timeframe for voting? we think it should.

Please phone me today.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

[Redacted signature block]

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Me](#)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Cc: [WLSNT Comms](#)
Subject: Ratification process concern
Date: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:43:59 pm
Attachments: [IMG_4096.jpeg](#)
[IMG_4097.jpeg](#)

Kia Ora,

I have bcc'd my whānau and a wide number of claimant members which this report will concern.

This report raises procedural concerns in relation to the conduct of a ratification hui and its alignment with the ratification standards, in particular the requirements for informed decision-making, transparency, accessibility, and 'meaningful participation' by claimant members.

During the formal presentation, one trustee was observed asleep for a period of time. As trustees are the mandated governance body and the accountable entity to beneficiaries, visible disengagement during proceedings is inconsistent with the standard of active and direct accountability anticipated within the ratification process.

A WLSNT contracted administrator responded to a claimant member on matters relating to accountability and intent. These matters sit within the fiduciary responsibility of trustees and are not appropriately addressed by individuals who do not hold governance authority or mandate. This created uncertainty as to who was exercising decision-making responsibility.

While a claimant member was presenting concerns, the project manager and administrator were engaged in a separate conversation, and a trustee made audible sarcastic remarks. This occurred during the ratification hui and limited the ability of members to present and have their concerns received in a manner consistent with fair and effective engagement.

Claimant members were directed that they were permitted to ask questions only and were not allowed to make statements. This restriction constrained the ability of members to formally articulate positions and reasoning, which is a 'key component' of informed participation and transparent process under ratification principles.

The attendance of the local koha shed manager, who was present to get information for uri experiencing homelessness and limited access to participation resources, highlighted barriers to equitable engagement. The response from some claimant members did not support an inclusive process for those affected members. She is now subject to online attacks encouraged by a WLSNT trustee and contractor. Disgraceful display in a public forum. She was supported by a member who raised the same concern for the homeless.

Several substantive questions were raised, including clarification of the voting threshold required for ratification. There were visible indications of uncertainty among attendees, suggesting that key elements of the proposed arrangements were not clearly understood.

Given the volume and complexity of the 292 pages of deeds and associated agreements, and noting that requests for independent legal resourcing were declined by the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust and the existing PSGE, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, there is a material concern as to whether beneficiaries are being adequately supported to make an informed decision as contemplated by ratification policy.

This was the first ratification hui I attended; however, I had previously received consistent reports that similar issues were present at an earlier hui, which indicates a potential pattern rather than an isolated occurrence.

Based on these observations, there is a process concern as to whether the current ratification approach meets the Red Book standard for a fair, transparent, well-informed, and accessible decision-making process for all members.

Further, in light of previous online hui where the Zoom chat function was not effectively facilitated to enable meaningful participation by claimant members, I do not hold confidence that the forthcoming online hui will provide an adequately managed or equitable forum for engagement.

There were observable tensions within the hui environment, WLSNT contractors, and trustees that appeared dismissive of, or adverse to, those claimant members who were raising concerns regarding risk. This had the effect of discouraging the open expression of legitimate issues and is inconsistent with the requirement for a fair, inclusive, and safe forum for beneficiary participation during a ratification process. It is a disgraceful display from mandated representatives and their contractors.

If the official crown observer reports do not reflect the matters outlined above, this would indicate a material inconsistency between those reports and the events as they occurred. Such an omission would raise further process concerns in relation to the accuracy and reliability of the reporting relied upon to assess whether the ratification standard of a fair, transparent, and well-informed process has been met.

My whānau and I do not have confidence in any of these ratification hui.

Ngā mihi
URI

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Me](#)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Cc: [WLSNT Comms](#)
Subject: Re: Ratification process concern
Date: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 5:57:39 pm
Attachments: [IMG_4099.jpeg](#)

Thank you for your efficient and timely response. Your prompt engagement is appreciated.

Please find attached a comment from a WLSNT trustee which directly references claimant members. The content demonstrates a complete disregard for the principle of impartiality, a core statutory obligation under the Trusts Act 2019. Such conduct raises significant concerns regarding the discharge of fiduciary duties and the maintenance of equitable treatment for all members.

More broadly, there appears to be a pattern of toxic trustee conduct across a number of governance entities within our rohe. WLSNT trustees are not exempt from this dynamic. This has materially contributed to the absence of confidence among claimant members—particularly those who were not afforded a genuine opportunity to participate in the purported mandate process.

This environment has the practical effect of deterring meaningful participation. Members are disinclined to engage where there is a foreseeable risk of being discredited, marginalised, or subjected to intimidation for expressing legitimate alternative viewpoints. Such conditions are fundamentally inconsistent with the standards of good faith, natural justice, and accountable governance.

Furthermore, the overlapping relationships between Tūpōho and WLSNT present a significant and unresolved conflict of interest, symptomatic of wider structural governance dysfunction. Should Resolution 2 be approved, these same governance arrangements will effectively be transposed into the proposed PSGE.

This represents a demonstrable and substantial risk to claimant members.

These matters go directly to issues of process integrity, beneficiary protection, and compliance with statutory and fiduciary obligations.

Ngā mihi



On Tue, 24 Feb 2026 at 17:03, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora

I email in acknowledgement of your email below, noting the points you have raised.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Mes9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:43 pm
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>
Subject: Ratification process concern

Kia Ora,

I have bcc'd my whānau and a wide number of claimant members which this report will concern.

This report raises procedural concerns in relation to the conduct of a ratification hui and its alignment with the ratification standards, in particular the requirements for informed decision-making, transparency, accessibility, and 'meaningful participation' by claimant members.

During the formal presentation, one trustee was observed asleep for a period of time. As trustees are the mandated governance body and the accountable entity to beneficiaries, visible disengagement during proceedings is inconsistent with the standard of active and direct accountability anticipated within the ratification process.

A WLSNT contractor administrator responded to a claimant member on matters relating to accountability and intent. These matters sit within the fiduciary responsibility of trustees and are not appropriately addressed by individuals who do not hold governance authority or mandate. This created uncertainty as to who was exercising decision-making responsibility.

While a claimant member was presenting concerns, the project manager and administrator were engaged in a separate conversation, and a trustee made audible sarcastic remarks. This occurred during the ratification hui and limited the ability of members to present and have their concerns received in a manner consistent with fair and effective engagement.

Claimant members were directed that they were permitted to ask questions only and were not allowed to make statements. This restriction constrained the ability of members to formally articulate positions and reasoning, which is a 'key component' of informed participation and transparent process under ratification principles.

The attendance of the local koha shed manager, who was present to get information for uri experiencing homelessness and limited access to participation resources, highlighted barriers to equitable engagement. The response from some claimant members did not support an inclusive process for those affected members. She is now subject to online attacks encouraged by a WLSNT trustee and contractor. Disgraceful display in a public

forum. She was supported by a member who raised the same concern for the homeless.

Several substantive questions were raised, including clarification of the voting threshold required for ratification. There were visible indications of uncertainty among attendees, suggesting that key elements of the proposed arrangements were not clearly understood.

Given the volume and complexity of the 292 pages of deeds and associated agreements, and noting that requests for independent legal resourcing were declined by the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust and the existing PSGE, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, there is a material concern as to whether beneficiaries are being adequately supported to make an informed decision as contemplated by ratification policy.

This was the first ratification hui I attended; however, I had previously received consistent reports that similar issues were present at an earlier hui, which indicates a potential pattern rather than an isolated occurrence.

Based on these observations, there is a process concern as to whether the current ratification approach meets the Red Book standard for a fair, transparent, well-informed, and accessible decision-making process for all members.

Further, in light of previous online hui where the Zoom chat function was not effectively facilitated to enable meaningful participation by claimant members, I do not hold confidence that the forthcoming online hui will provide an adequately managed or equitable forum for engagement.

There were observable tensions within the hui environment, WLSNT contractors, and trustees that appeared dismissive of, or adverse to, those claimant members who were raising concerns regarding risk. This had the effect of discouraging the open expression of legitimate issues and is inconsistent with the requirement for a fair, inclusive, and safe forum for beneficiary participation during a ratification process. It is a disgraceful display from mandated representatives and their contractors.

If the official crown observer reports do not reflect the matters outlined above, this would indicate a material inconsistency between those reports and the events as they occurred. Such an omission would raise further process concerns in relation to the accuracy and reliability of the reporting relied upon to assess whether the ratification standard of a fair, transparent, and well-informed process has been met.

My whānau and I do not have confidence in any of these ratification hui.

Ngā mihi

URI

From: s9(2)(a)
 To: Me; Smits, Victoria; s9(2)(a)
 Cc: WLSNT Comms
 Subject: Re: Ratification process concern
 Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 9:12:35 am

Victoria is biased by her very crown position
 this whole process is a farce and unsafe.

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: Me s9(2)(a)
 Date: 25/02/2026 9:03 am (GMT+12:00)
 To: "Smits, Victoria" <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> s9(2)(a)
 Cc: WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>
 Subject: Re: Ratification process concern

Tēnā koe Victoria,

I write to seek clarification on a matter of process that raises significant concern. By what authority was a chairperson delegated to facilitate the second ratification hui in the absence of an explicit mandate from claimant members? This arrangement did not occur at the first hui, nor at the third held last evening, which suggests an inconsistency in procedural application that requires a formal explanation.

For your reference, I have attached anonymised feedback which I have permission to share. Identifying details have been deliberately withheld to protect contributors from the conduct that has previously arisen when individuals have expressed legitimate views.

It has also been reported that one claimant member was afforded approximately fifteen minutes to deliver a statement. On what principled basis are some claimants permitted extended speaking rights while others are not? Such differential treatment is difficult to reconcile with any standard of good faith.

Regrettably, the overall character of these hui gives the appearance of a perfunctory, "tick-box" exercise rather than a robust ratification process. There has been no substantive discussion of risk management, nor the provision of independent legal guidance to claimant members so that informed decisions can be made. In its present form, the process does not reflect a standard that could reasonably be described as pono.

Fortunately, I am able to access independent legal guidance from my academic tutor, a certified and practising specialist in trust law, and I therefore have a clear understanding of both the process by which trust deeds are constructed and the function those drafting them are engaged to serve.

This constitutes compelling evidence of a conflict of interest that is directly material to the integrity and validity of the current ratification process. (Tupoho).

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)

On Tue, 24 Feb 2026 at 17:03, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora

I email in acknowledgement of your email below, noting the points you have raised.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:43 pm

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Cc: WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>

Subject: Ratification process concern

Kia Ora,

I have bcc'd my whānau and a wide number of claimant members which this report will concern.

This report raises procedural concerns in relation to the conduct of a ratification hui and its alignment with the ratification standards, in particular the requirements for informed decision-making, transparency, accessibility, and 'meaningful participation' by claimant members.

During the formal presentation, one trustee was observed asleep for a period of time. As trustees are the mandated governance body and the accountable entity to beneficiaries, visible disengagement during proceedings is inconsistent with the standard of active and direct accountability anticipated within the ratification process.

A WLSNT contracted administrator responded to a claimant member on matters relating to accountability and intent. These matters sit within the fiduciary responsibility of trustees and are not appropriately addressed by individuals who do not hold governance authority or mandate. This created uncertainty as to who was exercising decision-making

responsibility.

While a claimant member was presenting concerns, the project manager and administrator were engaged in a separate conversation, and a trustee made audible sarcastic remarks. This occurred during the ratification hui and limited the ability of members to present and have their concerns received in a manner consistent with fair and effective engagement.

Claimant members were directed that they were permitted to ask questions only and were not allowed to make statements. This restriction constrained the ability of members to formally articulate positions and reasoning, which is a 'key component' of informed participation and transparent process under ratification principles.

The attendance of the local koha shed manager, who was present to get information for uri experiencing homelessness and limited access to participation resources, highlighted barriers to equitable engagement. The response from some claimant members did not support an inclusive process for those affected members. She is now subject to online attacks encouraged by a WLSNT trustee and contractor. Disgraceful display in a public forum. She was supported by a member who raised the same concern for the homeless.

Several substantive questions were raised, including clarification of the voting threshold required for ratification. There were visible indications of uncertainty among attendees, suggesting that key elements of the proposed arrangements were not clearly understood.

Given the volume and complexity of the 292 pages of deeds and associated agreements, and noting that requests for independent legal resourcing were declined by the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust and the existing PSGE, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, there is a material concern as to whether beneficiaries are being adequately supported to make an informed decision as contemplated by ratification policy.

This was the first ratification hui I attended; however, I had previously received consistent reports that similar issues were present at an earlier hui, which indicates a potential pattern rather than an isolated occurrence.

Based on these observations, there is a process concern as to whether the current ratification approach meets the Red Book standard for a fair, transparent, well-informed, and accessible decision-making process for all members.

Further, in light of previous online hui where the Zoom chat function was not effectively facilitated to enable meaningful participation by claimant members, I do not hold confidence that the forthcoming online hui will provide an adequately managed or equitable forum for engagement.

There were observable tensions within the hui environment, WLSNT contractors, and trustees that appeared dismissive of, or adverse to, those claimant members who were raising concerns regarding risk. This had the effect of discouraging the open expression of legitimate issues and is inconsistent with the requirement for a fair, inclusive, and safe forum for beneficiary participation during a ratification process. It is a disgraceful display from mandated representatives and their contractors.

If the official crown observer reports do not reflect the matters outlined above, this would indicate a material inconsistency between those reports and the events as they occurred. Such an omission would raise further process concerns in relation to the

accuracy and reliability of the reporting relied upon to assess whether the ratification standard of a fair, transparent, and well-informed process has been met.

My whānau and I do not have confidence in any of these ratification hui.

Ngā mihi

URI

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Me](#)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Cc: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) [WLSNT Comms](#)
Subject: Re: Ratification process concern
Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 10:13:27 am

Thank you Victoria. It's refreshing dealing with you.

Ngā mihi

On Wed, 25 Feb 2026 at 10:06, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora anō

All available information will be assessed and summarised in a report to the Ministers for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and Māori Development for their consideration alongside the results of the ratification vote.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 9:50 am
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) [WLSNT Comms](#) <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ratification process concern

Tēnā koe Victoria,

Thank you for your response and for outlining the components of the ratification hui process.

For the avoidance of doubt, the concerns raised by claimant members have been formally recorded. However, it is our considered view that the Crown Observer reports do not accurately reflect the substance and character of what has occurred at the hui. While the procedural elements you list may have been present in a technical sense, the manner in which they have been implemented has resulted in claimant concerns being marginalised rather than meaningfully engaged with.

This raises a broader issue of whether the process is meeting not only its basic

procedural obligations, but also the underlying standard of informed participation, equity of engagement, and good faith that the Crown's ratification guidelines are intended to safeguard.

Given the materiality of these matters to the integrity of the ratification, I respectfully request confirmation of how such discrepancies between claimant accounts and observer reporting are assessed and addressed by Te Tari Whakatau.

Ngā mihi

On Wed, 25 Feb 2026 at 09:41, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

We have discussed the processes with TPK and WLSNT and are satisfied both parties are adhering to the Crown guidelines and requirements for the ratification process.

The ratification hui process:

- **consists of a presentation led by the WLSNT Board Members and or specialist advisors;**
- **provides uri with the opportunity for a question and answer session;**
- **enables uri to cast their vote in a secure ballot box, or if unregistered cast a special vote; and**
- **ensures uri have the opportunity to register, update their contact details, and take information booklets and other information with them.**

Any concerns will be fed through to Te Tari Whakatau by way of the Crown observer reports.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 9:04 am

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)

Cc: WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Ratification process concern

Tēnā koe Victoria,

I write to seek clarification on a matter of process that raises significant concern. By what authority was a chairperson delegated to facilitate the second ratification hui in the absence of an explicit mandate from claimant members? This arrangement did not occur at the first hui, nor at the third held last evening, which suggests an inconsistency in procedural application that requires a formal explanation.

For your reference, I have attached anonymised feedback which I have permission to share. Identifying details have been deliberately withheld to protect contributors from the conduct that has previously arisen when individuals have expressed legitimate views.

It has also been reported that one claimant member was afforded approximately fifteen minutes to deliver a statement. On what principled basis are some claimants permitted extended speaking rights while others are not? Such differential treatment is difficult to reconcile with any standard of good faith.

Regrettably, the overall character of these hui gives the appearance of a perfunctory, “tick-box” exercise rather than a robust ratification process. There has been no substantive discussion of risk management, nor the provision of independent legal guidance to claimant members so that informed decisions can be made. In its present form, the process does not reflect a standard that could reasonably be described as pono.

Fortunately, I am able to access independent legal guidance from my academic tutor, a certified and practising specialist in trust law, and I therefore have a clear understanding of both the process by which trust deeds are constructed and the function those drafting them are engaged to serve.

This constitutes compelling evidence of a conflict of interest that is directly material to the integrity and validity of the current ratification process. (Tupoho).

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)

On Tue, 24 Feb 2026 at 17:03, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora

I email in acknowledgement of your email below, noting the points you have raised.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:43 pm

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Cc: WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>

Subject: Ratification process concern

Kia Ora,

I have bcc'd my whānau and a wide number of claimant members which this report will concern.

This report raises procedural concerns in relation to the conduct of a ratification hui and its alignment with the ratification standards, in particular the requirements for informed decision-making, transparency, accessibility, and 'meaningful participation' by claimant members.

During the formal presentation, one trustee was observed asleep for a period of time. As trustees are the mandated governance body and the accountable entity to beneficiaries, visible disengagement during proceedings is inconsistent with the standard of active and direct accountability anticipated within the ratification process.

A WLSNT contracted administrator responded to a claimant member on matters relating to accountability and intent. These matters sit within the fiduciary responsibility of trustees and are not appropriately addressed by individuals who do

not hold governance authority or mandate. This created uncertainty as to who was exercising decision-making responsibility.

While a claimant member was presenting concerns, the project manager and administrator were engaged in a separate conversation, and a trustee made audible sarcastic remarks. This occurred during the ratification hui and limited the ability of members to present and have their concerns received in a manner consistent with fair and effective engagement.

Claimant members were directed that they were permitted to ask questions only and were not allowed to make statements. This restriction constrained the ability of members to formally articulate positions and reasoning, which is a 'key component' of informed participation and transparent process under ratification principles.

The attendance of the local koha shed manager, who was present to get information for uri experiencing homelessness and limited access to participation resources highlighted barriers to equitable engagement. The response from some claimant members did not support an inclusive process for those affected members. She is now subject to online attacks encouraged by a WLSNT trustee and contractor. Disgraceful display in a public forum. She was supported by a member who raised the same concern for the homeless.

Several substantive questions were raised, including clarification of the voting threshold required for ratification. There were visible indications of uncertainty among attendees, suggesting that key elements of the proposed arrangements were not clearly understood.

Given the volume and complexity of the 292 pages of deeds and associated agreements, and noting that requests for independent legal resourcing were declined by the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust and the existing PSGE, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, there is a material concern as to whether beneficiaries are being adequately supported to make an informed decision as contemplated by ratification policy.

This was the first ratification hui I attended; however, I had previously received consistent reports that similar issues were present at an earlier hui, which indicates a potential pattern rather than an isolated occurrence.

Based on these observations, there is a process concern as to whether the current ratification approach meets the Red Book standard for a fair, transparent, well-informed, and accessible decision-making process for all members.

Further, in light of previous online hui where the Zoom chat function was not effectively facilitated to enable meaningful participation by claimant members, I do not hold confidence that the forthcoming online hui will provide an adequately managed or equitable forum for engagement.

There were observable tensions within the hui environment, WLSNT contractors, and trustees that appeared dismissive of, or adverse to, those claimant members who were raising concerns regarding risk. This had the effect of discouraging the open expression of legitimate issues and is inconsistent with the requirement for a fair, inclusive, and safe forum for beneficiary participation during a ratification process. It is a disgraceful display from mandated representatives and their contractors.

If the official crown observer reports do not reflect the matters outlined above, this would indicate a material inconsistency between those reports and the events as they occurred. Such an omission would raise further process concerns in relation to the accuracy and reliability of the reporting relied upon to assess whether the ratification standard of a fair, transparent, and well-informed process has been met.

My whānau and I do not have confidence in any of these ratification hui.

Ngā mihi

URI

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
To: Smits, Victoria; s9(2)(a); vote@electionz.com
Subject: RE: WLSNT registration still down
Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 1:26:57 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

no Victoria not good enough whanau will not go to a place where they do not feel safe. you are excluding them from this process

WLSNT are the same people as Tupoho social services. whanau do not feel safe with these people, nor do they have transport.

they come to the koha shed for food. this is the most appropriate place to set up

why are you excluding whānau?

we request election nz at koha shed

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: "Smits, Victoria" <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Date: 24/02/2026 4:03 pm (GMT+12:00)
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: WLSNT registration still down

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your emails.

We have discussed the processes with TPK and WLSNT and are satisfied both parties are adhering to the Crown guidelines and requirements for the ratification process. We consider there is sufficient opportunity for all uri of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui to participate in this ratification process. We have also checked the registration link and it is working from various browsers ([Member Register - Whanganui Land Settlements Trust Provided by Tiki Systems](#)).

We are aware that some TPK kaimahi may attend ratification hui as uri, not in an official capacity, which they are well within their rights to do. They will not be part of any reporting process from the TPK official Crown observers, who, as is standard process, change for each hui depending on availability.

ElectionNZ are neutral in this process and are only contracted to provide specific services at each ratification hui.

The ratification hui process:

consists of a presentation led by the WLSNT Board Members and/or specialist advisors;

provides uri with the opportunity for a question and answer session;

enables uri to cast their vote in a secure ballot box, or if unregistered cast a special vote; and

ensures uri have the opportunity to register, update their contact details, and take information booklets and other information with them.

Any concerns will be fed through to Te Tari Whakataū by way of the Crown observer reports.

Ngā mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits (she/her)

KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

DDI: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—
Te Tari Whakataū**

Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

Rāhina



Rātū



Rāapa



Rāpare



Rāmere



If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 3:10 pm

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Subject: WLSNT registration still down

Sent from my Galaxy

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Smits, Victoria](#)
To: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Subject: RE: Ratification process concern
Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 1:43:00 pm

Mitchell, James James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz

From: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 1:34 pm
To: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#); Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
 WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ratification process concern

as per our phone call

Regarding wlsnt saying thry have no voting forms due to no wifi

forward me yr manager im over wasting time with you

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Date: 25/02/2026 10:13 am (GMT+12:00)
To: "Smits, Victoria" <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
 WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ratification process concern

Thank you Victoria. It's refreshing dealing with you.

Ngā mihi

On Wed, 25 Feb 2026 at 10:06, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora anō

All available information will be assessed and summarised in a report to the Ministers for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and Māori Development for their consideration alongside the results of the ratification vote.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 9:50 am
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: s9(2)(a)
WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ratification process concern

Tēnā koe Victoria,

Thank you for your response and for outlining the components of the ratification hui process.

For the avoidance of doubt, the concerns raised by claimant members have been formally recorded. However, it is our considered view that the Crown Observer reports do not accurately reflect the substance and character of what has occurred at the hui. While the procedural elements you list may have been present in a technical sense, the manner in which they have been implemented has resulted in claimant concerns being marginalised rather than meaningfully engaged with.

This raises a broader issue of whether the process is meeting not only its basic procedural obligations, but also the underlying standard of informed participation, equity of engagement, and good faith that the Crown's ratification guidelines are intended to safeguard.

Given the materiality of these matters to the integrity of the ratification, I respectfully request confirmation of how such discrepancies between claimant accounts and observer reporting are assessed and addressed by Te Tari Whakatau.

Ngā mihi

On Wed 25 Feb 2026 at 09:41, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

We have discussed the processes with TPK and WLSNT and are satisfied both parties are adhering to the Crown guidelines and requirements for the ratification process.

The ratification hui process:

- **consists of a presentation led by the WLSNT Board Members and/or specialist advisors;**
- **provides uri with the opportunity for a question and answer session;**
- **enables uri to cast their vote in a secure ballot box, or if unregistered cast a special vote; and**
- **ensures uri have the opportunity to register, update their contact details, and take information booklets and other information with them**

Any concerns will be fed through to Te Tar Whakatau by way of the Crown observer reports.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me **s9(2)(a)**

Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 9:04 am

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; **s9(2)(a)**

Cc: WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Ratification process concern

Tēnā koe Victoria

I write to seek clarification on a matter of process that raises significant concern. By what authority was a chairperson delegated to facilitate the second ratification hui in the absence of an explicit mandate from claimant members? This arrangement did not occur at the first hui, nor at the third held last evening, which suggests an inconsistency in procedural application that requires a formal explanation.

For your reference, I have attached anonymised feedback which I have permission to share. Identifying details have been deliberately withheld to protect contributors from the conduct that has previously arisen when individuals have expressed

legitimate views.

It has also been reported that one claimant member was afforded approximately fifteen minutes to deliver a statement. On what principled basis are some claimants permitted extended speaking rights while others are not? Such differential treatment is difficult to reconcile with any standard of good faith.

Regrettably, the overall character of these hui gives the appearance of a perfunctory, “tick-box” exercise rather than a robust ratification process. There has been no substantive discussion of risk management, nor the provision of independent legal guidance to claimant members so that informed decisions can be made. In its present form, the process does not reflect a standard that could reasonably be described as pono.

Fortunately, I am able to access independent legal guidance from my academic tutor, a certified and practising specialist in trust law, and I therefore have a clear understanding of both the process by which trust deeds are constructed and the function those drafting them are engaged to serve.

This constitutes compelling evidence of a conflict of interest that is directly material to the integrity and validity of the current ratification process. (Tupoho).

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)

On Tue, 24 Feb 2026 at 17:03 Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora

I email in acknowledgement of your email below, noting the points you have raised.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Me s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:43 pm

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Cc: WLSNT Comms <info.wlsnt@gmail.com>

Subject: Ratification process concern

Kia Ora,

I have bcc'd my whānau and a wide number of claimant members which this report will concern.

This report raises procedural concerns in relation to the conduct of a ratification hui and its alignment with the ratification standards, in particular the requirements for informed decision-making, transparency, accessibility, and 'meaningful participation' by claimant members.

During the formal presentation, one trustee was observed asleep for a period of time. As trustees are the mandated governance body and the accountable entity to beneficiaries, visible disengagement during proceedings is inconsistent with the standard of active and direct accountability anticipated within the ratification process.

A WLSNT contracted administrator responded to a claimant member on matters relating to accountability and intent. These matters sit within the fiduciary responsibility of trustees and are not appropriately addressed by individuals who do not hold governance authority or mandate. This created uncertainty as to who was exercising decision-making responsibility.

While a claimant member was presenting concerns, the project manager and administrator were engaged in a separate conversation, and a trustee made audible sarcastic remarks. This occurred during the ratification hui and limited the ability of members to present and have their concerns received in a manner consistent with fair and effective engagement.

Claimant members were directed that they were permitted to ask questions only and were not allowed to make statements. This restriction constrained the ability of members to formally articulate positions and reasoning, which is a 'key component' of informed participation and transparent process under ratification principles.

The attendance of the local koha shed manager, who was present to get information for uri experiencing homelessness and limited access to participation resources, highlighted barriers to equitable engagement. The response from some claimant members did not support an inclusive process for those affected members. She is now subject to online attacks encouraged by a WLSNT trustee and contractor. Disgraceful display in a public forum. She was supported by a member who raised the same concern for the homeless.

Several substantive questions were raised, including clarification of the voting

threshold required for ratification. There were visible indications of uncertainty among attendees, suggesting that key elements of the proposed arrangements were not clearly understood.

Given the volume and complexity of the 292 pages of deeds and associated agreements, and noting that requests for independent legal resourcing were declined by the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust and the existing PSGE, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, there is a material concern as to whether beneficiaries are being adequately supported to make an informed decision as contemplated by ratification policy.

This was the first ratification hui I attended; however, I had previously received consistent reports that similar issues were present at an earlier hui, which indicates a potential pattern rather than an isolated occurrence.

Based on these observations, there is a process concern as to whether the current ratification approach meets the Red Book standard for a fair, transparent, well-informed, and accessible decision-making process for all members.

Further, in light of previous online hui where the Zoom chat function was not effectively facilitated to enable meaningful participation by claimant members, I do not hold confidence that the forthcoming online hui will provide an adequately managed or equitable forum for engagement.

There were observable tensions within the hui environment, WLSNT contractors, and trustees that appeared dismissive of, or adverse to, those claimant members who were raising concerns regarding risk. This had the effect of discouraging the open expression of legitimate issues and is inconsistent with the requirement for a fair, inclusive, and safe forum for beneficiary participation during a ratification process. It is a disgraceful display from mandated representatives and their contractors.

If the official crown observer reports do not reflect the matters outlined above, this would indicate a material inconsistency between those reports and the events as they occurred. Such an omission would raise further process concerns in relation to the accuracy and reliability of the reporting relied upon to assess whether the ratification standard of a fair, transparent, and well-informed process has been met.

My whānau and I do not have confidence in any of these ratification hui.

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Mitchell, James](#)
To: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#); [Smits, Victoria](#)
Subject: Re: lack of action by Whakatau which impacts on Uri rangatiratanga
Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 8:32:23 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#),

Thank you for your email. I have reviewed all of the correspondence that Victoria has provided to you with regard to the ratification process and endorse the information and the positions she has provided you. We have also been in touch with TPK managers in light of your earlier messages, and I am satisfied that they have taken an appropriate approach to their role as observers.

I understand that as part of the ballot, voter forms are individually numbered and cannot be photocopied. This aligns with best practice for elections run by independent organisations such as Electionz.

The WLSNT are taking an approach to the election including locations and means of voting agreed with the Crown before they started as being appropriate. We have not asked them to include the Koha Shed as part of this and do not intend to shift our goalposts by changing our requirements to insist on in halfway through the process.

Nga mihi,
James

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:45 PM
To: Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>; Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#); [vote@electionz.com](#) <[vote@electionz.com](#)>;
[Paul.Goldsmith@parliament.govt.nz](#) <[Paul.Goldsmith@parliament.govt.nz](#)>
Subject: lack of action by Whakatau which impacts on Uri rangatiratanga

Tēnā koe James, Victoria tells me, as her manager, you have been involved with receiving the multiple emails of concern regarding WLSNT rats hui.

We have been requesting that ElectionNZ set up at the koha shed - this is the "invisible" population that has been excluded from all hui. They come to the Koha shed for their kai,

they trust us (as per email sent below). They will not go to WLSNT. WLSNT are the same people as Tupoho Social Services. **Out of scope**

I have been to WLSNT today to get registration forms - they say their Wi-Fi is down and they don't know when it will be fixed. Am I to assume they had at least one copy they could have photocopied?

Furthermore, we do not trust WLSNT to **collect** any completed forms. It is evident they are intentionally excluding a large group of uri. We do not trust them to pass them on.

Once again, we urgently request that Election NZ come to the Koha Shed. Our whānau won't go to Pākaitore now either, because that is where the incidents with WLSNT/Tupoho staff occurred.

When are you going to listen to Uri? Who gives the right to exclude Uri based on what you have been told by WLSNT? They are hardly objective and are pro-settlement. Of course, WLSNT and TPK will tell you they are following the guidelines. They are not.

Victoria informed me that the Friday night crown observers were objective; however, after our complaints, they were removed for the Monday hui. They sat next to the observers and shouted at us to sit down and made other insults. Thus proving our point and showing that Victoria was wrong, based on information from TPK and WLSNT. How can they be objective when they are WLSNT kids?

We would like to have Election NZ come to the Koha Shed - you cannot expect a charity to do WLSNT work by filling out potentially a few hundred forms. This way, they can register AND vote at the same time. They do not have access to wifi; they do not have transport, and they will not access anything by people how have abused them.

Surely we can get this set up for next week at the Koha Shed? I don't accept your excuses. This is urgent; we have had a week of the reg link broken; we now cannot get forms, and you think this is acceptable?

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

----- Original Message -----

From: s9(2)(a)

To: "Smits, Victoria" <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

CC: "vote@electionz.com" <vote@electionz.com>

Date: 24/02/2026 13:08 NZDT

Subject: RE: Feedback from last night WLSNT ratification hui

fyi this morning at least 20-30 whānau needing to register and vote at the Koha shed.

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: "Smits, Victoria" <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Date: 24/02/2026 11:45 am (GMT+12:00)

To: s9(2)(a)

Cc: vote@electionz.com

Subject: RE: Feedback from last night WLSNT ratification hui

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Acknowledgement of your email below and OIA request from yesterday 23 February.

We will provide a response in line with our obligations under the OIA in due course.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 8:39 am

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Cc: vote@electionz.com

Subject: Feedback from last night WLSNT ratification hui

Tēnā Koe Victoria;

We spoke with ElectionNZ last night, and he said he had been included in my email strand from yesterday and hopes this can be arranged. It is not appropriate that after a charity identifies a clear and large gap of whānau not being reached, to then expect that Charity to tautoko whānau without the resources contracted for WLSNT. If WLSNT had intended to reach all whānau, they would have planned for this. Can you forward the Ratification Strat plan that you approved, or acknowledge my OIA for this, please?

I'm pleased to report that the non-objective TPK observers were removed last night. Instead, they sat on the floor next to the Observers, shouting abuse at us instead, proving our concerns and need for removal were correct.

I look forward to hearing from you and ElectionNZ. I really must insist on a timeframe, given the urgency of this matter and would appreciate an answer and a plan for The Koha Shed by the end of the week. Thank you for your understanding.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On 23/02/2026 12:36 NZDT Smits Victoria
<victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

Please see our responses as below:

Concern	Details	Crown comment
Independent oversight		<i>We have been in touch with TPK leadership and they have processes in place to manage conflicts of interest. Most ratification hui have more than one Crown observer and those with relationships with trustees are asked to declare this at the</i>

		beginning of any hui. the observer on Friday declared this relationship and offered to stand down if there were objections but none were raised by those present. Where there is a conflict of interest, these observers will not be preparing the observer reports. We are satisfied that these measures to manage conflicts are appropriate.
Ratification processes	(Suppression of debate, accuracy of information, aggressive responses, fair opportunity to be heard)	This is a process concern and will be reported on through the observer reports. We will carefully consider these as they come through.
Trespassed uri		This is a matter to be managed by WLSNT and the marae. We note that there are 10 ratification hui and that this should present opportunities for anyone unable to attend a particular hui because they have been trespassed to still participate in the ratification process.

The Red Book	Mandate maintenance	<i>The maintenance of the mandate will be tested, among other things, through the results of the ratification process.</i>
Requests:	1. Provide the Observer Report: for the Huriharama Hui 20 Feb 2026; and minutes.	<i>Observer reports, like all Crown records, are subject to Official Information Act requests to TPK.</i>
	2. Confirm the status of the ratification strategy for this settlement.	<i>The ratification strategy was approved by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister for Māori Development</i>
	3. Halt any progress towards initialing a Deed of Settlement until a transparent, Crown-monitored ratification process is publicly announced.	<i>The deed was initialled in December 2025. The results of the ratification vote will indicate if the Crown proceeds to sign a deed with WLSNT.</i> <i>We do not consider, based on the information you have provided, that the ratification process has lacked transparency.</i>
	4. Ensure that independent observers (free from whānau conflicts) are appointed to oversee the entire ratification phase	<i>We have reviewed TPK's processes with them in response to your email and are satisfied that they have processes and measures in place that ensure conflicts of interests are managed appropriately.</i>
	5. Uri who have been trespassed	<i>A trespass order is a matter for the Courts,</i>

	from their marae are allowed to attend the ratification hui.	<i>and we do not have the authority to override it.</i> <i>As noted above there will be other hui through which the individuals concerned can participate in the process.</i>
Voting	...open a polling station at the Koha Shed. There have been no efforts from WLSNT to include all whānau.	<i>We consider WLSNT have met the Crown requirements for socialising information in relation to the ratification and the settlement package through public advertising and social media channels but will pass on your request to WLSNT.</i> <i>The voting process is run through ElectionNZ.com, an independent election service provider. Those that wish to, including those that visit the Koha Shed, can access information on the WLSNT social media channels and their website, or by attending one of the publicly advertised hui. Ratification voting information and forms are also able to be obtained by getting in touch with ElectionNZ.com directly.</i>
Broken registration link		<i>As a matter of urgency, we will be liaising with WLSNT to get this fixed</i>

		as soon as possible. As the ratification process does not close for another 5 weeks, we consider this sufficient time for the fact that the website is down to be remedied without prejudicing the ratification process (Crown requirement is 4 weeks).
--	--	---

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 8:28 am
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>;
vote@electionz.com
Subject: URGENT WH NGANUI RATIFICATION HUI WHANAU ARE SHUT DOWN - RESPONSE REQUIRED
Importance: High

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982



Given our next Ratification hui is tonight, this email requires urgent attention

Furthermore, the link to register for WLSNT is broken and has been down for the last week. Does this indicate a need to extend the timeframe for voting? we think it should.

Please phone me today.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted signature line]

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)



Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Me](#)
To: comms@maori.nz
Cc: [Smits, Victoria](#); [Mitchell, James](#); electionz.com
Subject: Concerns with Special Voting and verification of whakapapa
Date: Thursday, 26 February 2026 3:10:22 pm

Tēnā koutou,

This correspondence formally confirms our participation in the special voting process for the Whanganui settlement ratification and our unequivocal intention to exercise our right to vote.

Our entitlement to participate arises from whakapapa and is an inherent right. It is not conditional upon registration on any database, nor upon the compulsory provision or retention of personal information. Any administrative process that attempts to impose such a requirement is ultra vires in effect and cannot operate to qualify or extinguish that right. Participation under compulsion or administrative 'duress' will not be accepted and will be recorded for remedial purposes.

Uri were clearly advised that verification of whakapapa would rest with the recognised kaumātua of the respective hapū. That is the only process consistent with tikanga and with the representations made to our people. The involvement of the settlor of the Whanganui Land Settlement Trust, or any current trustee of that entity, in determining eligibility is a patent conflict of interest and fundamentally compromises the integrity of the ratification. Those who are institutionally invested in securing a particular outcome cannot assume the role of arbiter of who may participate in that decision.

You will therefore need to implement an alternative, independent, and tikanga-consistent mechanism for verification that does not require registration with your entity. Our position is final. We will participate in the special vote and we will do so without submitting to a process that purports to place our identity, our rights, or our participation under the control of the very body whose mandate is in question.

Ngā mihi
s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#)
Subject: Re: URGENT _ Unable to Register WLSNT
Date: Thursday, 26 February 2026 3:29:58 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora Victoria,

Just a FYI - I have exhausted all options that you have provided for me to vote. I have also sent an email to iro@electionz.com. Unfortunately, I continue to hit roadblocks.

Nga mihi nui

s9(2)(a)

On Tue, Feb 24, 2026 at 2:26 PM s9(2)(a) wrote:
 Thank you kindly

On Tue, 24 Feb 2026 at 2:25 pm, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

If you are not yet registered, you might want to get in touch with the independent returning officer, at vote@elections.com, and request a special voting form (which you should be able to complete online).

You can access the relevant ratification information here: [Tanga Publications | Whanganui Land Settlement Trust](#). Refer page 27 of the ratification booklet for information on Special votes.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 5:12 pm
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: URGENT _ Unable to Register WLSNT

Kia ora Victoria,

Thank you for your speedy response.

I have done both - signed up online (no information is attainable on the site).

I have also sent an email to the email address you provided requesting assistance on how can I vote?

Do you know of a straightforward process of how I can vote from Australia?

Nga mihi Nui

s9(2)(a)

On Tue, 24 Feb 2026 at 1:21 pm, Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

It seems the email address is incorrect. As per the WLSNT website, the email address for ratification is comms@wlsnt.maori.nz.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:10 pm

To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Subject: URGENT _ Unable to Register WLSNT

Kia ora,

I have been advised to email you regarding my attempts to register with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT).

Unfortunately, I can't register to place a vote on the ratification process.

Please see attached screenshots of my attempts.

Please advise on how to proceed.

Nga mihi Nui

s9(2)(a)



Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Smits, Victoria](#)
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Process clarification request - Whanganui
Date: Monday, 2 March 2026 12:47:00 pm

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your correspondence last week. Please see our response to your queries below:

The Crown's policy is that a deed of settlement initialled between the Crown and the mandated representatives must be clearly approved by the wider claimant group before it becomes binding. If the Crown considers that the claimant community has not clearly ratified a deed, the Crown will consider next steps, in consultation with the mandated representatives. These will likely vary depending on the circumstances of the vote, including any specific issues of concern raised during the ratification process.

Next steps may include further consultation and discussion with the claimant community, the Crown requiring the mandated representatives to take steps to address specific areas of concern, and possibly another ratification process. A fresh mandate process is not necessarily required, though it is an option depending on the circumstances of the case. There is no single Crown response when a claimant community does not clearly ratify a deed of settlement. Every group is different, with distinct issues and tikanga, and the Crown will take these specific circumstances into account when considering next steps.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 27 February 2026 8:52 am
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Process clarification request - Whanganui

Kia ora Victoria,

I am writing on behalf of a collective of approximately 500 uri who whakapapa directly to the eponymous ancestors Ruatipua and Paerangi of Te Awa Tupua, Whanganui.

Your contact details were shared with us by uri who have recently communicated with you regarding the Whanganui Deed of Settlement ratification process.

Our uri have attended ratification hui, reviewed the Ratification Information Booklet, and raised questions directly with representatives of the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT).

At this stage, we are seeking clarity — specifically in relation to the procedural pathway should the Deed of Settlement not be ratified.

If the majority of valid votes cast are "NO" for Resolution 1 and/or Resolution 2, could you please clarify the following:

1. What formally occurs if the Deed is not ratified?
2. Does the Crown consider the mandate to have lapsed, or is the mandate retained?
3. What is the process for re-engagement or renegotiation, if any?
4. Would a fresh mandate process be required?
5. What happens to the current negotiators and trustees in that scenario?
6. What is the expected role of Te Tari Whakatau in guiding next steps?
7. Is there a defined timeframe within which a new proposal must be developed?
8. Are there precedents from other settlement processes where deeds were not ratified, and what occurred in those instances?

Our intention is to ensure that uri are fully informed of all procedural implications before casting their vote.

We appreciate your time and look forward to your clarification.

Ngā mihi,
s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
To: Smits, Victoria; Me; s9(2)(a); Mitchell, James; Oliver O'Connell; iro@electionz.com; tracey waitokia; WLSNT Comms; Carl Bates MP; s9(2)(a)
Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
Subject: Now the online form to register doesn't work - won't accept birthdates
Date: Thursday, 5 March 2026 11:49:25 am
Attachments: image002.jpg
image003.png
image004.png
Screenshot 2026-03-05 at 11.45.40AM.png
Screenshot 2026-03-05 at 11.46.19AM.png
Screenshot 2026-03-05 at 11.46.32AM.png
Screenshot 2026-03-05 at 11.46.55AM.png
Importance: High

see attached

On 05/03/2026 11:29 NZDT s9(2)(a) wrote:
Why are we even required an OIA for the "ratification plan" approved by the Crown and pertaining to us?
ridiculous
we require this urgently Victoria
ngā mihi
s9(2)(a)

On 04/03/2026 17:04 NZDT Smits, Victoria <victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Please see the attached letter advising you of part transfer of your request.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:10 pm
To: s9(2)(a)
Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
Subject: Official Information Act request

Kia ora Tania

Please see the attached letter acknowledging your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

Ngā mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits (she/her)
KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

DDI: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

Rāhina



Rātū



Rāapa



Rāpare



Rāmere



If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
 To: smits, Victoria; Me; s9(2)(a); Mitchell, James; Oliver O'Connell; iro@electionz.com; tracey waitokia; WLSNT Comms; Carl Bates MP; s9(2)(a)
 Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
 Subject: the problem withb online form is it is the "american format" for the date
 Date: Monday, 9 March 2026 9:15:24 am
 Attachments: image.png; image003.png; image004.png
 Importance: High

Can this be changed - no wonder people are confused; who pretested the form?
 could. thisd be any harder???

Maiden name (where applicable):

Also known as:

Date of Birth:

Gender

Marital Status:

Spouse's Full Name

Occupation:

WĀHANGA 2: CONTACT DETAILS

On 05/03/2026 11:48 NZDT s9(2)(a) wrote:
 see attached

On 05/03/2026 11:29 NZDT s9(2)(a) wrote:
 Why are we even required an OIA for the "ratification plan" approved by the Crown and pertaining to us?
 ridiculous
 we require this urgently Victoria
 ngā mihi
 s9(2)(a)

On 04/03/2026 17:04 NZDT Smits, Victoria <victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Please see the attached letter advising you of part transfer of your request.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:10 pm

To: s9(2)(a)

Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz

Subject: Official Information Act request

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Please see the attached letter acknowledging your request for information under the Official

Information Act 1982.

Ngā mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits (she/her)
KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

DDI: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

Rāhina ✓ Rātū ✓ Rāapa  Rāpare  Rāmere ✓

If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
 To: Smits, Victoria; Me: s9(2)(a); Mitchell, James; Oliver O'Connell; iro@electionz.com; tracey.waitokia; WLSNT.Comms; Carl Bates MP; s9(2)(a)
 Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
 Subject: whānau not getting confirmation - the process is not performing
 Date: Monday, 9 March 2026 2:38:57 pm
 Attachments: image.png
 image.png
 image.png
 image003.png
 image004.png
 Importance: High

I signed up and followed what you sent me a week or two ago but I never got an email

14:32

I have no idea if I'm registered or how to vote if I'm being honest 😊

On 09/03/2026 09:15 NZDT s9(2)(a) wrote:
 Can this be changed - no wonder people are confused, who pretested the form? could. thisd be any harder???

Maiden name (where applicable):

Also known as:

Date of Birth:

Gender:

Marital Status:

Spouse's Full Name:

Occupation:

WĀHANGA 2: CONTACT DETAILS

On 05/03/2026 11:48 NZDT s9(2)(a) wrote:
 see attached

On 05/03/2026 11:29 NZDT s9(2)(a) wrote:
 Why are we even required an OIA for the "ratification plan" approved by the Crown and pertaining to us?
 ridiculous
 we require this urgently Victoria
 ngā mihi
 s9(2)(a)

On 04/03/2026 17:04 NZDT Smits, Victoria <victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Please see the attached letter advising you of part transfer of your request.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:10 pm
To: s9(2)(a)
Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
Subject: Official Information Act request

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Please see the attached letter acknowledging your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

Ngā mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits ([s e/her](#))
KAITATARI KAUPAPA TAKUTAI (SENIOR ANALYST)
DDI: +64 4 494 98 4
WEB: <http://whakatau.govt.nz>
**Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—
Te Tari Whakatau**
Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

Rāhina	Rātū	Rāapa	Rāpare	Rāmere
✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: [Smits, Victoria](#)
To: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
Subject: RE: Official Information Act request
Date: Thursday, 19 March 2026 12:33:00 pm
Attachments: [Official Information Act response to s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Kia ora [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Please see the attached letter from Rosie Batt, Director, Negotiation and Settlement, in response to your Official Information Act request.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Thursday, 5 March 2026 11:29 am
To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Me [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#); Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>; Oliver O'Connell
<Oliver.OConnell@ombudsman.parliament.nz>
Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
Subject: RE: Official Information Act request

Why are we even required an OIA for the "ratification plan" approved by the Crown and pertaining to us?
 ridiculous

we require this urgently Victoria

ngā mihi

Tania

On 04/03/2026 17:04 NZDT Smits, Victoria <victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Please see the attached letter advising you of part transfer of your request.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:10 pm
To: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
Subject: Official Information Act request

Kia ora [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Please see the attached letter acknowledging your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

Victoria Smits (she/her)
 KAITATARI KAUPAPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)
 DOL +64 4 494 9844



WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

Rāhina



Rātū



Rāapa



Rāpare



Rāmere



If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

19 March 2026

REF: OIA 88337

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Request for Official Information: Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust Ratification

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 February 2026 requesting the "*strat plan for ratification*" under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

A response to your request is attached. Please note that proposed dates within the ratification strategy were subject to change throughout the process and do not align with the current ratification process. This is common practice in Treaty settlements ratification processes, as dates often need to be adjusted to take new information or unexpected circumstances into account.

When Te Tari Whakatau acknowledged receipt of your OIA request, we advised we may proactively release your OIA response on our website.

After considering our response to your request, we can advise that it will not be published on our website.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or phone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Rosie Batt

Director, Negotiation and Settlement

**Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Settlement
Ratification Strategy**

Presented by
Whanganui Lands Settlement Negotiations Trust

[May/June 2025]

**Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Settlement
Ratification Strategy**

Table of Contents	Page
Introduction	1
Background	1
Ratification Timetable	2
Preparation for the Ratification Process	5
Eligibility to become a registered member	5
Informing Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui members about the ratification process	5
Information on the PSGE and DOS	6
Developing the Tribal Register	6
Current member register	7
Preparing for postal and electronic voting	7
Registration and the close of voting	7
The Ratification Voting Pack	7
The Ratification Information Pack	7
The Ratification Booklet	8
Ratification Information Hui	9
The Voting Process	9
The Voting Pack	9
The Voting period	9
Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Member Database	9
Eligibility to vote	9
Methods of voting	10
Resolutions	10
Postal ballot and electronic voting	10
Votes submitted at Ratification Information Hui	10

Special votes	11
Replacement papers	11
Voting results	12
The Ratification Information Hui	12
Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Preparations for Ratification Information Hui	12
Publicising the Ratification Information Hui	12
Ratification Information Hui – dates and locations	13
Crown observers	13
COVID-19 Considerations	13

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiations Trust

Ratification Strategy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiations Trust ("WLSNT") seeks to ratify the post settlement governance entity ("PSGE") and the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement ("DOS"), which it is currently in negotiations with the Crown over. This document includes a timetable of ratification tasks for WLSNT.

1.2 The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that:

- (a) Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui members are sufficiently informed about the process for ratifying the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui PSGE and DOS;
- (b) Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui members are sufficiently informed about the key components of the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui PSGE and DOS; and
- (c) The voting period allows Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui members sufficient opportunity to vote on whether to ratify and accept the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui PSGE and/or DOS.

1.3 The ratification strategy for both the PSGE and DOS is endorsed by WLSNT, the mandated entity for the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Large Natural Grouping.

1.4 This ratification strategy provides information on the proposed process for ratifying the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui PSGE and DOS for members of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui to vote on whether or not they accept the PSGE and DOS. If approved by the Crown, this strategy will be implemented by WLSNT following initialling of the DOS.

1.5 Eligible voters (registered members 18 years of age and over, and/or those that are not registered with WLSNT, but affiliate to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui, or those who are direct descendants of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui tūpuna and are aged 18 or over) will be asked to vote on three resolutions, one for the proposed DOS and two for the proposed PSGE.

1.6 In relation to the proposed DOS:

Resolution 1 *I approve the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement and authorise the signing of the Deed of Settlement by the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiations Trust on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui.*

In relation to the proposed PSGE:

Resolution 2 *I approve Takapau Whāriki Trust as the Post Settlement Governance Entity to receive, hold and manage the Treaty of Waitangi historical settlement redress on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui.*

2.0 Background

2.1 WLSNT signed an Agreement in Principle with the Crown in August 2019. Since then, WLSNT have been negotiating a package toward an initialled Deed of Settlement.

- 2.2 WLSNT has kept the iwi informed of the process being carried out to prepare the proposed PSGE Trust Deed for formal presentation to the iwi for ratification. Rūnanga hui and other hui with key stakeholders were held during 2020 to 2024. At these hui, WLSNT representatives discussed the proposed PSGE make up and related matters to get iwi feedback. Legal and taxation structuring advice was also sought regarding the PSGE and its makeup.
- 2.3 WLSNT liaised with Te Tari Whakatau ("TTW"), formerly Te Arawhiti, during the early phases of establishing the PSGE regarding the detail of the Trust Deed and the overall structure. In turn, TTW liaises with Te Puni Kōkiri ("TPK") who provide independent confirmation of the ratification strategy and process. The proposed PSGE Trust Deed must be approved by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister for Māori Development before the ratification process begins.
- 2.4 The content of the ratification information booklet and any pānui will include information which, by this stage, will be relatively familiar to iwi members as a result of the engagement with hapū and iwi during the negotiations process. Given the comprehensive AIP was signed in August 2019, iwi members have heard the general details of the settlement package.
- 2.5 The initialled DOS documents will be available on the WLSNT website (<https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/>) and Government website (<https://www.govt.nz/>). The PSGE Trust Deed will also be available on the WLSNT website (<https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/>). The key features of both documents will be included in a Ratification Information Booklet and a Ratification Presentation (to be presented at the ratification hui) will also be online at the WLSNT website during the voting period.

3.0 Indicative Timetable Summary of the Ratification Process

Main Task	Action	Date
Preparing for Ratification	Development of the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui member database, including the continuous collection of up-to date contact information and review of current information.	Ongoing – ready at least 2 weeks prior to voting period
	Engage and contract independent Returning Officer (IRO) Electionz.com	11 March – at least 6 weeks prior to voting.
	Ratification strategy sent to TTW and Te Puni Kōkiri for final review	TTW – 22/09/2021 10/11/2024 TPK – 23/11/2021 24/01/2025
	Ratification Strategy jointly approved by Ministers.	Late February
	Ratification documents (booklet information and voting pack) developed in draft by TTW and sent to WLSNT for finalising.	7 February – 21 February
	Presentation for DOS ratification information hui completed in draft by TTW and sent to WLSNT for finalising.	7 February –21 February

	Te Tari Whakatau and Te Puni Kōkiri feedback and approval of DOS ratification documents (strategy, booklet, draft public notices, and voting pack)	21-28 February
	PSGE and DOS Summary Videos developed and published by WLSNT	21 March
	Completed creation of electoral roll – registered members who will be at least 18 years of age at the start of the voting period.	14 March
	- Assignment of unique identifier number to each eligible voter - Materials for voting packs (information booklet and voting forms) printed - Voting packs collated – voters’ unique identifier information matched with addressed envelopes	14-28 March
	Initialling of the Deed of Settlement.	7 March
Notifying the ratification process	PreRatification information booklet and other relevant information made available online prior to ratification hui round - posted via Tribal Register Postal Database, WLSNT online platforms, copies also available at Mandate Maintenance hui. PSGE and DOS Summary Videos distributed via various WLSNT online platforms.	21 March
	Public notice of ratification process information hui dates and venues at least 21 days prior to start of voting and during hui.	14 March
	Public notice of ratification process on local Whanganui radio stations.	21 March
	Notices will be published in Dominion Post, NZ Herald, Whanganui Chronicle, Ruapehu Bulletin, and Christchurch Press	21 March
	ePānui will be put on WLSNT’s website, Instagram, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter).	14 March
Voting period opens	Ratification information booklet and voting packs sent out by post and first HTML email sent to members on the WLSNT Tribal Register through IRO.	Friday 4 April
	Pānui posted to WLSNT website explaining what to do if they have not received their voting pack or need to request one to cast a special vote.	Friday 4 April
	Voting period opens. (6 week period)	Friday 4 April
During the voting period	WLSNT communications platforms (as noted above) to publicise the opening of voting, hui dates and locations (ratification information booklet available on WLSNT website).	Friday 4 April

	Private/Targeted audience reminders of the ratification information hui dates and venues sent out through Tribal Register email database to registered members.	Friday 4 April
	- Follow-up phone calls/emails to members whose voting packs are 'returned to sender' - Follow-up phone calls/emails to 'new' members whose voting eligibility is unable to be immediately registered	Ongoing
Ratification hui	- Hui venues are located within the iwi rohe and externally where members are located - Key presentation on PSGE and DOS at each hui: voting in person by secure ballot. - Approved presentation delivered at each hui.	During the voting period – ideally at 2 weeks before voting ends.
	o Whanganui, Te Ao Hou Marae	30 April 2025
	o Whanganui, Hiruharama Marae	10 May 2025
	o Raetihi, Te Puke Marae	10 May 2025
	o Taumarunui, Ngapuwaiwaha Marae	15 May 2025
	o Hamilton	16 May 2025
	o Wellington, ^	21 May 2025
	o Christchurch ^	22 May 2025
	o Online Only	23 May 2025
	o Taranaki	28 May 2025
	TPK will be invited to attend all information hui as Independent Crown observers	
	Note: these hui may be subject to any COVID-19 Alert Level restrictions (refer to section 8)	
Voting period ends		05 June 2025
	Last postal votes to be received after end of voting.	
Votes counted	Vote Counting by IRO.	09 June 2025
	Verify special votes (Whakapapa Committee verification).	16-19 June 2025
	WLSNT will receive the IRO results report.	22 June 2025
Ratification approved	WLSNT provide final results provided to TTW/TPK.	23 June 2025
	Confirmation from TTW that ratification results have been approved by the Crown/relevant Ministers.	30 June 2025
	Publication of results.	01 July 2025

4.0 Preparation for the Ratification Process

Eligibility to become a registered member

- 4.1 All [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members are eligible to apply to be a registered member of the WLSNT Tribal Register (the Tribal Register). All adult registered iwi members, 18 years old and over, are eligible to vote in the ratification process.
- 4.2 For clarity, iwi members who are 18 years old and over who are eligible to vote and want to vote, but:
- a) are not registered with WLSNT and want to register on the Tribal Register; or
 - b) are not registered with WLSNT but do not wish to register on the Tribal Register

Can cast a special vote as outlined in 6.16 – 6.20. Please note a whakapapa verification form also needs to be completed and attached to the special vote. The vote will not be counted until the whakapapa is verified.

Informing [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members about the ratification process

- 4.3 [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members will be informed about the ratification process (including how to register) through the following methods:
- (a) Advertisements in major metropolitan newspapers and provincial papers where a significant number of iwi members reside including;
 - (i) Whanganui Chronicle – [April 2025]
 - (ii) Dominion Post – [April 2025]
 - (iii) Waikato Times – [April 2025]
 - (iv) New Zealand Herald – [April 2025]
 - (v) Ruapehu Bulletin – [April 2025]
 - (vi) Christchurch Press – [April 2025]
 - (b) Postal notice (which will include the information booklet and voting forms) and email to adult registered iwi members; and
 - (c) The announcement of ratification hui and the commencement of the voting period will also be published on WLSNT website, WLSNT Facebook page, information placed at WLSNT office and announcements on local radio, Awa FM.
 - (d) Ratification notices will contain the following information:
 - (i) the purpose of the vote (that a Treaty settlement offer has been made and must now be voted on and a proposed PSGE structure has been developed and must now be voted on);
 - (ii) the Wai claims that are to be settled;
 - (iii) the dates for the voting period;

- (iv) dates and locations of the ratification hui; and
- (v) contact information.

Information on the PSGE and DOS

- 4.4 Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui members will have the opportunity to learn about the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] PSGE and DOS in the following methods:
- (a) A booklet explaining the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] PSGE and DOS (“ratification information booklet”), and ratification process, will be sent by post to all adult members registered on the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] tribal register;
 - (b) The ratification information booklet will be available online at (<https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/>) and at the WLSNT offices;
 - (c) The PSGE Trust Deed and DOS will also be available online at (<https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/>) and on the TTW website. It will also be available from the WLSNT offices; and
 - (d) Hui will be held in areas where significant numbers of [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members reside. A presentation of the proposed PSGE and DOS will be given at each hui and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions on the presentation.

Developing the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] Tribal Register

- 4.5 The WLSNT Tribal Register (Tribal Register) is a database of [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] registered tribal members. The Tribal Register was previously administered by Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust. WLSNT ensure they maintain a record of registered tribal members so those said members who are verified, and are aged 18 years and over, have the opportunity to cast their vote during the tri-ennial WLSNT trustee elections as well as vote on special iwi resolutions.
- 4.6 Steps to develop and maintain the Tribal Register have included:
- (a) Providing information on WLSNT website informing individuals of how to register (whānau members can register online);
 - (b) Attending WLSNT hui and checking attendance registers to provide iwi members an opportunity to register, update their contact details, or pass information on to whānau who may not be registered;
 - (c) Regular mention across all WLSNT pānui, newsletters and hui-ā-iwi of the importance of registering and/or updating contact details;
 - (d) Updating and communicating through WLSNT social media platforms, and national print media to all [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members asking them to update their contact details and/or encourage unregistered whānau members to register; and
 - (e) Using the WLSNT website, Tribal Register email database (ePānui) and social media platforms to encourage registration and participation in the settlement/ratification process.
- 4.7 WLSNT will continue to follow the steps above to increase registrations on the Tribal Register and inform iwi members of the upcoming ratification process.

- 4.8 The proposal is that each member registered on the Tribal Register will be posted a voting pack which will have a voter unique identifier number. Each voting paper will be marked with the voter unique identifier number of the voter. This will allow the IRO to check the voting forms received back against the Tribal Register.
- 4.9 New enrolments or non-registered voters wishing to place a vote, must make a special vote (see 6.16 – 6.20 below). WLSNT whakapapa verifiers will meet following the close of voting to validate any membership applications and special votes received.

Current Membership on Tribal Register

- 4.10 As at [14/03/25], there are currently [5506] registered tribal members with [5456] registered and verified voters (those members who are 18 years and over).
- 4.11 The mailouts sent to iwi members already registered will provide information on how to register whānau. In addition, those who turn 18 during the voting period will also be eligible to vote.

Registration leading up until the close of voting period

- 4.12 Those iwi members who register during the voting period will be able to register on the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] Tribal Register but will be required to make a special vote. The processing of the special votes is explained at paragraphs 6.16 – 6.20 below.

5.0 The Ratification Voting Pack

The Ratification Voting Pack

- 5.1 A ratification voting pack will be sent to all adult registered iwi members and will contain the following:
- (a) ratification information booklet;
 - (b) voting paper;
 - (c) voter unique identifier number;
 - (d) pre-paid return envelope; and
 - (e) a flyer explaining who can vote.

The Ratification Booklet

- 5.2 The ratification information booklet will contain information agreed upon through consultation between WLSNT, TTW and TPK. The ratification information booklet will also reiterate that if [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members desire, they can access a copy of the PSGE Trust Deed and initialled DOS from WLSNT (or access at TPK offices).
- 5.3 In relation to the PSGE the following information will be covered in the ratification booklet:
- (a) The purpose, powers, principles, activities and duties of the PSGE;
 - (b) The structure of the PSGE;

- (c) The specific accountabilities of the PSGE to [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members;
- (d) How [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members can participate in the affairs of the PSGE;
- (e) The Initial Trustees to be appointed prior to the first election of trustees;
- (f) The process for electing trustees to the PSGE;
- (g) How the benefits will be allocated and distributed;
- (h) How the PSGE will make decisions;
- (i) How the PSGE will manage the settlement package; and
- (j) That if sufficient support is demonstrated, then the PSGE will be established and will receive the settlement redress and assets from the crown.

5.4 In relation to both the PSGE and DOS the following information will be covered in the ratification information booklet:

- (a) The claimant definition;
- (b) Defines what historical claims are being settled;
- (c) An outline of the impact of settling these claims;
- (d) A timeline of the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] negotiation milestones and background;
- (e) Information that the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] will be settled through the DOS and settlement legislation;
- (f) The content of the settlement package;
- (g) That if sufficient support is demonstrated, the members are endorsing the DOS being signed and the mandated entity (WLSNT) signing the DOS on behalf of the claimant community;
- (h) Next steps if/when the PSGE and DOS is ratified;
- (i) How members can participate in the ratification process; and
- (j) Confirmation that members can obtain a copy of the proposed PSGE Trust Deed and initialled DOS on the WLSNT website at (<https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/>). The initialled DOS will be available on the Government website (<https://www.govt.nz/browse/history-culture-and-heritage/treaty-settlements/find-a-treaty-settlement/whanganui-land-settlement-lower-reaches-of-whanganui/>)) and at both the WLSNT office and and at the ratification information hui.

Ratification Information Hui

- 5.5 Ratification hui will take place both within the core [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] area of interest where the most [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members reside, and in nearby areas.
- 5.6 Each ratification hui will consist of a presentation led by the Negotiation Team, WLSNT Board Members and/or specialist advisors regarding the PSGE and DOS. Iwi members will have the opportunity for a question and answer session during each hui.
- 5.7 At the ratification hui, [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members will be able to cast their vote in a secure ballot box, or if unregistered cast a special vote ([see paragraphs 6.16 - 6.20](#)).
- 5.8 Iwi members will also have the opportunity to register, update their contact details, and take information booklets and other information with them from the ratification information hui.
- 5.9 The ratification information hui will be advertised in both local and national newspapers, on websites, radio and other pānui.

6.0 The Voting Process

- 6.1 [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members aged 18 years or older, who are registered on the Tribal Register or who are eligible to cast a special vote (see paragraphs 6.6 – 6.20), will be eligible to vote. Each person will have one vote. Please note that an iwi member who meets the voting eligibility criteria but does not wish to register is still eligible to vote, and will need to complete a whakapapa verification form. This will need to be verified before the vote can be counted.
- 6.2 As noted above, mailouts will also be sent to all [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] registered members who turn 18 during the voting period.

The Voting Period

- 6.3 The voting period will run from 11 April 2025. To be counted, votes must be received by 05 June 2025 or by envelope date-stamped by 05 June 2025 by the Post Office.
- 6.4 The voting process will be run by an Independent Returning Officer (IRO) from Electionz.com who will send out registration forms, information and voting packs. Voting may also be done online (see 6.13). An Electionz.com phone number will be available for those who have any queries regarding the ratification or voting process. Please note that phone voting will not be available. All general queries regarding ratification information will be referred to WLSNT via email: coms@wlsntmaori.co.nz or phone WLSNT Offices 06 2813137

[Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] Tribal Register Database

- 6.5 All those covered by the claimant definition set out in the DOS are able to register. There are no conditions on registering except those based on descent (e.g. whakapapa, legal adoption or whangai adoption). The Tribal Register contains information on registered members such as name, address, date of birth, phone number, email and whakapapa details. Through the communication strategy, [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members will be encouraged to inform other eligible iwi members whom they know to enrol on the Tribal Register, and to make sure that other eligible iwi members they know, check that their contact details are up to date.

Eligibility to vote

- 6.6 All adult (18 years of age and over) who are either registered iwi members, or who are not registered, but affiliate to [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] and/or are direct descendants of [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] tūpuna are eligible to vote. Each eligible voter will be required to make one vote for each resolution using their voting method of choice.

Methods of Voting

- 6.7 Eligible voters will have four ways to vote:
- (a) Postal voting using pre-paid return envelopes;
 - (b) Online voting using a voter unique identifier number;
 - (c) Voting using ballot boxes at ratification hui; and
 - (d) Special voting.

- 6.8 Please note that phone voting will not be available.

- 6.9 The IRO will ensure that each individual only has one vote.

Resolutions

- 6.10 Eligible voters will be asked to vote on three resolutions; one on the proposed DOS and two in relation to the proposed PSGE.

- 6.11 In relation to the proposed DOS:

Resolution 1 *I approve the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] Deed of Settlement and authorise the signing of the Deed of Settlement by the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiations Trust on behalf of [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui].*

In relation to the proposed PSGE:

Resolution 2 *I approve Takapau Whāriki as the Post Settlement Governance Entity to receive, hold and manage the Treaty of Waitangi historical settlement redress on behalf of [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui].*

Postal Ballot and Electronic Voting

- 6.12 [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members who are enrolled on the Tribal Register will be sent a mail out and email (where possible) containing all ratification information, their voter unique identifier number and/or a voting pack before the voting period. Each voting pack will contain a freepost envelope so that the voter can submit his or her vote by post.

- 6.13 Voting forms will contain a voter unique identifier number for each member to allow the form to be checked against the register by the IRO when votes are counted. The voter unique identifier number also ensures votes cannot be duplicated. Voters will also be able to vote online, using the details provided within their voting pack.

Votes Submitted at Ratification Information Hui

- 6.14 If a [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] member has not already submitted a vote through the other voting methods, eligible voters will be able to submit a vote at the ratification information hui. At each ratification information hui a secure ballot box will be provided for this purpose.
- 6.15 [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members, who are not registered and/or do not have their voting paper with them, will also be able to place a special vote at the hui.

Special Votes

- 6.16 Where someone has not registered before the start of the voting period and they contact the IRO to indicate that they wish to vote in the ratification process, they will be sent a voting pack and a registration form. Alternatively, an allocated person under the supervision of the IRO can provide these at the ratification hui.
- 6.17 The voting papers must be marked with a provisional number for the applicant for registration and this will be his or her voter unique identifier number. These numbers should be easily distinguishable from the voter unique identifier number for registered voters. A register of all special voters will be prepared.
- 6.18 The applicant must send his or her registration form or whakapapa verification form should they not wish to register, together with the voting form or vote as provided at the ratification hui. Special votes will not be counted unless a registration form or a whakapapa verification form and special voting form have been received on or before the last day for receipt of voting papers. Special votes will be subject to whakapapa verification to ensure that the voter fits within the criteria for iwi membership eligibility.
- 6.19 Voters must complete a special voting form if they:
- (a) Are 18 years or older or turn 18 years old during the voting period but before the closing date of voting (and are not already registered);
 - (b) Enrol on the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] Tribal Register during the voting period, but before the close date of voting;
 - (c) Are not enrolled on the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] Tribal Register and do not wish to be, in which case the special voting form must be accompanied by a whakapapa verification form;
 - (d) Did not receive their voting packs in the mail; or
 - (e) Do not have their voting paper which they received in the mail but do wish to cast their vote at the ratification hui.
- 6.20 Each special vote will use a voter unique identifier number that will reference the special registration of the individual according to age or late registration. Each special voting form will have the required [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] registration form or whakapapa verification form fully completed and attached, if the voter is not previously registered. An IRO will be present at each hui to accept special votes and give instructions to [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members who wish to vote this way. Special votes are subject to subsequent whakapapa verification.

Protocol for returned voting packs 'returned to sender'

- 6.21 For voting packs 'returned to sender' during the voting period due to incorrect postal contact details, the IRO will email and phone the registered member for their current contact details to resend them their voting pack. The tribal register and electoral roll will be updated accordingly.
- 6.22 Some attendees at the information hui may also indicate they are registered and have not received their postal voting pack. The IRO will provide them with their voter unique identifier number so they can cast a vote. WLSNT will update the tribal register on the basis of their up to date contact details provided at the information hui.

Replacement Papers

- 6.23 If any requests are received for replacement voting papers, the IRO will send out a new voting paper and record that they have done so on the voting register.
- 6.24 Alternatively, the IRO can provide replacement voting papers at the ratification hui. Ideally, the IRO should write on the original paper that it is no longer valid as a replacement has been issued. In any event, the replacement voting paper should be marked "replacement" in case both papers are ultimately sent to the IRO, in which case the IRO will only count the replacement voting paper.

Voting Result

- 6.25 The IRO will supervise the voting period, count the votes and deliver a report on the results to the mandated representatives of [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui]. A copy of the report will be presented as soon as possible to TTW for the Crown to decide if there is sufficient support for the PSGE and DOS.
- 6.26 The results will be announced via major newspapers, relevant local media, the Tribal Register email database and online at the WLSNT website: <https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/> and other relevant social media platforms.

7.0 The Ratification Information Hui

- 7.1 There are 9 ratification information hui planned between 30 April 2025 and 28 May 2025. Hui dates are set out in paragraph 7.9 below.
- 7.2 The purpose of the ratification information hui is to ensure that [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] members are informed about the PSGE and content of the DOS (as summarised in the information booklet) by holding open consultation sessions and provide an opportunity for iwi members to ask questions. Members can cast their vote in ballot boxes at each hui. For those that are unable to attend a hui, some of these hui will be livestreamed with an opportunity to ask questions. These will be responded to either during the live hui,, during the question and answer (Q&A) session, or after the livestream has ended, when designated WLSNT representatives are able to respond to individual queries.

[Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] Preparations for Ratification Information Hui

- 7.3 WLSNT will provide a standard ratification presentation about the proposed PSGE and DOS for each ratification information hui. A copy of the presentation will be reviewed and approved by TTW and TPK prior to the ratification hui.

- 7.4 WLSNT will also make sure that all relevant information is available to hui attendees including the information booklets, [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] tribal registration forms, copies of the PSGE Trust Deed, copies of the initialled DOS, and special voting forms. All information made available at the ratification hui will also be available online via the WLSNT Website (<https://www.wlsnt.maori.nz/>).

Publicising the Ratification Information Hui

- 7.5 The ratification information hui will be advertised as noted above at paragraph 4.2 at least 21 days in advance of each hui.
- 7.6 Voting packs for special votes will be available at the hui. A sealed ballot box will be available at the hui to allow registered members the opportunity to cast their votes on the day. Issuing of special votes will be dealt with by the IRO at the end of the hui.

Ratification information hui dates and locations

- 7.7 The locations for the hui were determined taking into account the distribution of the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] population in New Zealand and the Tribal Register. Although subject to confirmation, it is proposed that the [Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui] ratification information hui will be held in the following location and times:

Date	Location	Time
30 April 2025	Whanganui, Te Ao Hou Marae	5.30 pm
10 May 2025	Whanganui, Hiruharama Marae	10.30 am
10 May 2025	Raetihi, Te Puke Marae	4.30 pm
15 May 2025	Taumarunui, Ngapuwaiwaha Marae	6.00 pm
16 May 2025	Hamilton	4.00 pm
21 May 2025	Wellington ^	6.00 pm
22 May 2025	Christchurch, ^	6.00 pm
23 May 2025	Online Only	6.00 pm
28 May 2025	Taranaki	6.00 pm

Independent verification

- 7.8 The IRO will open count and report on the vote. Votes are only opened after close of voting on a specified day. Voting papers are retained for a reasonable period after voting ends.

Crown observers

- 7.9 Crown observers will be invited to attend each hui as independent Crown observers. An independent Crown observer does not participate in the presentation of the settlement package or the PSGE nor the voting process in any way. The observer's role is to only observe the hui and take meeting notes of any questions asked by attendees and the answers provided, and they are not permitted to speak during the hui. The attending Crown observer will make themselves known to the hui organisers and the attending IRO.

8.0 Cancellation of ratification hui

8.1 If a ratification hui has to be cancelled, for example because of COVID-19 alert levels, tangi, or cancelled flights, every effort will be made to reschedule a further hui during the voting period. If a hui cannot be reconvened, this does not invalidate the ratification hui process.

8.2 As much notification as possible of any rescheduled hui will be given.

9.0 COVID-19 Considerations

9.1 Should the COVID-19 National Alert Level Guidelines return to a stage where hui restrictions are in place, alternative approaches will be applied to meet National COVID-19 and ratification criteria requirements for face to face hui.

9.2 At Alert Levels 1 and 2, standard face-to-face hui will occur with a strict adherence to all required measures as required.

9.3 If the Alert Level was to be raised during the ratification period and prevented face-to-face engagement across a particular area or whole of New Zealand, the following measures are to be taken.

- (a) Livestreaming hui, [utilising online platforms like Zoom, podcast] which allow questions and answers to be made in real time, and recording these hui and posting hui on social media.

9.4 If the Alert Level was to be raised to Level 4 during the ratification period, the remainder of the ratification process will be postponed.

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
 To: Smits, Victoria <iro@electionz.com>; Mitchell, James; Info; tracey waitokia; s9(2)(a)
 Subject: Ratification strategy
 Date: Thursday, 19 March 2026 3:07:59 pm
 Attachments: image001.jpg
 image002.png
 image003.png

Kia Ora Victoria, this is concerning. Dates are incorrect and confusing. Clearly not updated. We have also clearly sought assistance with registering whānau to vote. This was declined. WLSNT has declined to support and is now issuing whānau with cease-and-desist legal letters. How do we sort out the special votes for the people we have helped register? We requested that elections come to the koha shed. All our requests have been declined on the basis that "WLSNT" assures you they are doing their job. They are not. You have received multiple complaints. They have not made the special voting process clear, and we now have whānau registered but haven't done the special vote. Would elections like to come down to The Koha Shed on Tuesday to help rectify this?

If this strategy had been available, we would have identified the flaws. This ratification strategy has not been made with hapū, and all attempts to seek support have been thwarted with threats of litigation.

We also raised the "objective observers" who were not objective observers, but whānau of WLSNT trustee and Project Manager, who are also voting in this process. This plan indicates that it is contraindicated. I also requested the notes of the objective observers for the hui at Hiruharama.

Furthermore, whānau have **not** been able to ask questions or receive the requested information for 2-3 years. They are shut down, and some of the hui have felt quite unsafe. We have raised this with you also. The recordings will show this. This plan is out of date. It notes "some" Hui will be available online - why "some"? This relies on WLSNT's discretion, which is biased. They should **all** be made available online. There is no excuse not too.

We would also like access to the video recording of all hui that have been filmed.

They only had 12 attend Otautahi last night; half were one whānau, including one who travelled from Whanganui. How does this represent the wide inclusion of whānau? Once again, people were shut down from asking questions. WLSNT claims they have held "multiple intensive wānanga". No, it's been a repeat of the same information, all delivered by them from a PowerPoint. Whānau have not been able to attend wānanga with WLSNT; either whānau are shut down. As the paper trail shows, promises to provide documents never materialised.

Given that the site was down for the first week and the hui were delayed, it makes sense to extend this process.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On 19/03/2026 12:33 NZDT Smits, Victoria <victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Please see the attached letter from Rosie Batt, Director, Negotiation and Settlement, in response to your Official Information Act request.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: s9(2)(a)
 Sent: Thursday, 5 March 2026 11:29 am
 To: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>; Me s9(2)(a)
 ; Mitchell, James <James.Mitchell@whakatau.govt.nz>; Oliver O'Connell
 <Oliver.OConnell@ombudsman.parliament.nz>
 Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz
 Subject: RE: Official Information Act request

Why are we even required an OIA for the "ratification plan" approved by the Crown and pertaining to us?

ridiculous

we require this urgently Victoria

ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On 04/03/2026 17:04 NZDT Smits, Victoria <victoria.smits@whakatau.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Please see the attached letter advising you of part transfer of your request.

Ngā mihi

Victoria

From: Smits, Victoria <Victoria.Smits@whakatau.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 4:10 pm

To: s9(2)(a)

Cc: OfficialCorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz

Subject: Official Information Act request

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Please see the attached letter acknowledging your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

Ngā mihi

Victoria



Victoria Smits ([she/her](#))

KAITATARI KAUPĀPA MATUA (SENIOR ANALYST)

DDI: +64 4 494 9844

WEB: <https://whakatau.govt.nz>

**Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—
Te Tari Whakatau**

Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

Rāhina



Rātū



Rāapa



Rāpare



Rāmere



If you are receiving this email outside of office hours, it is not my expectation that you read, respond or follow up on this email outside your normal hours.

Ngā mihi

§9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

§9(2)(a)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(a)
 To: Carl Bates MP; Smits, Victoria; Mitchell, James; s9(2)(a); tracey.waitokia; iro@electionz.com
 Subject: Re: Request full disclosure and inclusion in any discussions to extend voting period
 Date: Monday, 30 March 2026 4:47:08 pm
 Attachments: image.png
 image003.png
 image004.png
 image005.png
 image006.png

Tēnā koutou

can someone please advise what this is; it appears WLSNT are now blocking whānau from their FB page. Does this mean the voting has been extended without any consultation with whānau?



On 30/03/2026 09:02 NZDT s9(2)(a) wrote:

Tēnā koutou

Please provide full disclosure regarding the WLSNT request to extend the voting period, as the current numbers do not indicate broad representation. We discovered this from cousins, not WLSNT.

We've raised concerns throughout this process, being silenced at ratification hui; being swerved cease and desist letters for trying to help whānau, te mea. Early on, we requested an extension and asked that Elections come to the Koha Shed. We raised the gaps, made you aware that whānau had been missed, and we offered solutions. We have put our own time into supporting whānau; this has been extensive.

Now we hear that WLSNT is scrambling and requesting an extension of the voting week to enable them to attend Hui Aranga. This is a kapa haka kaupapa, not an exercise in coercing whānau to vote.

We've raised several concerns about the voting process. We believe many whānau are halfway there, and we've requested help from all avenues. This was declined, ignoring the realities that whānau face.

Could you clarify who and how "wide representation" is determined? This is another unanswered question from our cousins Ken and Tracey. Can you direct me to this in the Ratification strategic plan, please? I could not locate it. We are aware that the threshold to pass the two resolutions requires 80% in favour, but what is the participation threshold? We would like to be involved in any discussions about whether or not to extend, including the WLSNT justification for this.

It seems the people have spoken. A lack of response is a response and reflects a loss of confidence in the WLSNT trustees.

This email will be shared amongst our hapū contacts.

ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

On 27/03/2026 12:10 NZDT s9(2)(a) wrote:

Tēnā Koe team at Ombudsman

I request a review of this decision to NOT release "Observer's Report" from the Hiruharama WLSNT Ratification Hui.

After careful consideration, I have decided to withhold the reports under the following

ground: section 9(2)(g)(i)

to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown

or members of an organisation, or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation, in the course of their duty.

I disagree and remind Ms Smit that as an URI we have the right to full disclosure. We are requesting information about our hui; not the opinions between Ministers. The Objective observers record a true and actual account of the questions that were asked; and the mood. We have a right to check it is accurate.

I have requested OIA of all observers' reports and the footage that was filmed. We did not give informed

consent for filming.

This is important because we've raised multiple concerns throughout this process. We also questioned Ms Smit about her objectivity.

We requested the "Ratification Strategic Plan" under OIA; it has been provided. It doesn't align with how the Ratification hui have been held.

It's outdated and negates clear guidelines for filming or recording hui. It is inconsistent throughout; i.e., "some" hui will be online for whānau, indicating a clear power imbalance. Despite clearly stating that objective observers must be, indeed, that, not voting whānau - TPK used whānau.

Whilst most hapū would spend hours debating at ratification hui, we were only allowed to ask a question - no statements allowed. If the question was about accountability or transparency, it was closed by WLSNT or the Hau Kainga, who took it upon themselves to chair the hui, and also shut down whānau. The Observers' records should record the questions asked, not the mood. This can hardly be "objective" when they were the family of WLSNT Trustees. They also insulted whānau who asked questions, and they were clearly pro-settlement. We wonder if what they recorded is factual. A complaint was submitted to Ms Smit immediately after this hui, and MP Carl Bates has raised our concerns with the Minister.

At the next hui, TPK had changed the Objective observers; the two who were at the last hui sat on the floor next to the observers desk and openly shouted and insulted whānau who were asking questions.

We have a right to this information, and it will likely inform further litigation.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

----- Original Message -----

From: MB - OIA <OIA@tpk.govt.nz>

To: s9(2)(a)

CC: MB - OIA <OIA@tpk.govt.nz>

Date: 24/03/2026 22:46 NZDT

Subject: 50619 Response to your request for information

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Attached is our response to your request for information, which was partially transferred from Te Tari Whakatau to Te Puni Kōkiri.

Ngā mihi

Ngā Ratonga Minita me Tapatipu | Ministerial &
Governance Services
National Office



Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Ihō, 1 Bowen Street, Wellington, PO Box 3943, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Tūhonohono māi | Connect with us



[UNCLASSIFIED]

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(a)

From: [Alaina Teki-Clark](#)
To: [Smits, Victoria](#); [Mitchell, James](#); [Alaina Teki-Clark](#)
Cc: [Aimee Simon](#)
Subject: WLSNT ratification raw voting data – Electionz confirms results have been provided to WLSNT
Date: Friday, 24 April 2026 6:13:18 pm



260420 WLSNT MEDIA RELEA...

Tēnā kōrua Victoria rāua ko James,

I am seeking your assistance.

On 20 April, I requested the following raw voting data from WLSNT to independently verify their announced ratification result:

- Total number of verified registered eligible voters
- Total votes cast (raw number)
- Yes and No raw numbers
- Special votes, proxy votes, and excluded votes

WLSNT has not responded to me.

I have since received confirmation from Electionz.com sent to another Uri member that the full results have already been provided to WLSNT and Te Tari Whakatau for distribution. A screenshot of that correspondence is attached.

This confirms that:

1. The raw data exists and is held by WLSNT.
2. Electionz will not release it directly to beneficiaries – it sits with WLSNT and Whakatau.

Therefore, I am formally requesting that Whakatau:

- Request the raw voting data from WLSNT on my behalf, or
- Confirm whether WLSNT is obligated to provide this data to beneficiaries upon request, and
- Advise on next steps if WLSNT continues to withhold the data despite Electionz having already provided it to them.

Percentages alone are not sufficient to independently verify the result. See below my original email to WLSNT and the Electionz correspondence.

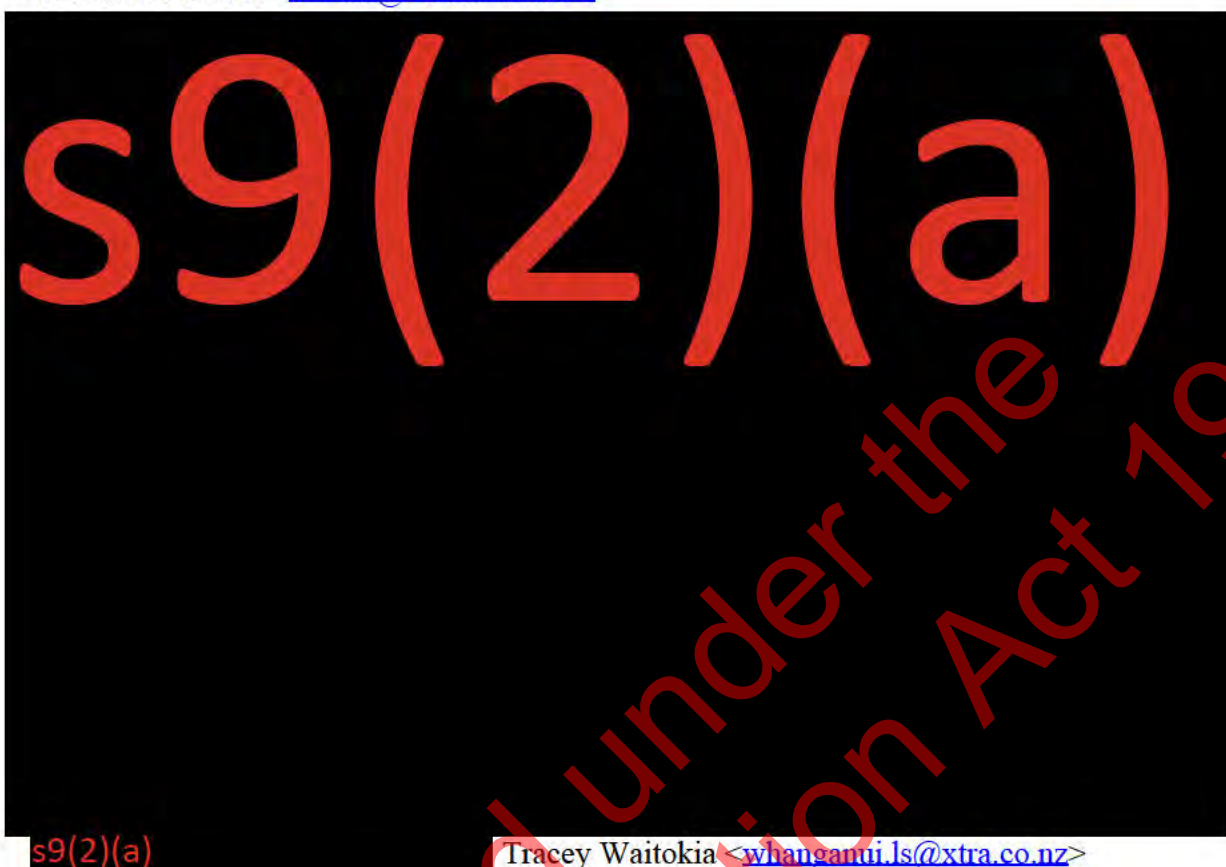
Ngā mihi,
 Alaina Teki-Clark
 KMMRT Chair.

s9(2)(a)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s9(2)(a)

Date: Mon, 20 Apr 2026 at 7:44 PM
Subject: Re: WLSNT Media Release: 20 April 2026
To: Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz>



s9(2)(a)

Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.js@xtra.co.nz>

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you for sharing the media release.

Can someone from the trust please provide:

- Total number of verified registered eligible voters.
- Total votes cast (raw number)
- Yes and No raw numbers
- Special votes, proxy votes, and excluded votes

Percentages alone are not enough to independently verify the result.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

On Sun, 19 Apr 2026 at 8:50 PM, Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koutou e ngā whirikōkō o Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui

Attached is a media release from the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT) regarding the Ratification Results and Confirmation of the He Rau Tukutuku Signing Ceremony.

Please feel free to share and socialise amongst your hapū networks.

Ngā mihi,

Aimee Simon

Executive Assistant | WLSNT

Toitū Te Kupu - Toitū Te Mana - Toitū Te Whenua

Get [Out](#)

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

MEDIA RELEASE

Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust
20 April 2026

NGĀ HAPŪ O TE IWI O WHANGANUI RATIFY DEED OF SETTLEMENT

The Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT) is pleased to announce that Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui have voted to ratify **He Rau Tukutuku – the Deed of Settlement**, along with the establishment of **Takapau Whāriki Trust** as the Post-Settlement Governance Entity.

The ratification process, which concluded at 5pm on Wednesday 8 April 2026, reflects the collective voice of uri who participated in the voting process. Final results confirm strong and clear support for both the settlement redress package and the governance arrangements required to receive and manage settlement assets on behalf of the iwi.

A clear majority of voters supported both resolutions, with 81% in favour of He Rau Tukutuku, and 79% supporting the establishment of Takapau Whāriki Trust. Voter turnout was 25%. These results are subject to confirmation by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister for Māori Development.

WLSNT Chair, Ken Mair, acknowledged the significance of this milestone:

“This outcome reflects the whakaaro of our people and the many years of commitment, kōrero, and perseverance that have brought us to this point. We acknowledge all hapū and uri who participated in the process and contributed to shaping this future for our iwi.”

He Rau Tukutuku represents the culmination of decades of engagement between Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and the Crown, and provides a foundation for cultural, social, and economic redress.

DEED OF SETTLEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY CONFIRMED

The formal signing of the Deed of Settlement will take place as follows:

He Rau Tukutuku – Deed of Settlement Signing Ceremony

Date: Saturday, 2 May 2026

Location: Kaiwhāiki Marae, 584 Kaiwhaiki Road, Whanganui

Ko te rau tukutuku:

He rau mahara – a symbol of remembrance

He rau aroha – a symbol of love

He rau moemoeā – a symbol of hope

He ara tuku rau – an offering of abundance for the future we are building, together.

This milestone marks an important step forward for Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui, as the iwi prepares to enter the post-settlement phase and realise the opportunities ahead for future generations.

He ao āpōpō, he ao tea.

Our legacy, our aspirations, our future.

ENDS

Media enquiries:

Kahurangi Simon

0800 001 822

comms@wlsnt.maori.nz

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982



Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui: ratification results

Date	23 April 2026	Priority	High
Te Tari Whakatau Report No.	2025/2026 - 256	File ref	CLA-N008-OF-01
TPK Report No.	73940	File ref	

Action sought

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations (Hon Paul Goldsmith)	Agree the ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the claimant community of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui for the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement and post-settlement governance entity;	By 29 April 2026
Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori (Hon Tama Potaka)	Agree to sign the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement (<i>MfTOWN only</i>); and Sign the attached letter to the Chair of the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust, advising of your decision.	

Contact for phone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Phone	1 st Contact
<i>The Office of Treaty Settlement and Takutai Moana: Te Tari Whakatau</i>			
Rosie Batt	Director	027 276 3189	✓
James Mitchell	Negotiation and Settlement Manager	027 561 1270	
Victoria Smits	Senior Analyst	04 494 9844	
<i>Ministry of Māori Development - Te Puni Kōkiri</i>			
Grace Smit	Deputy Secretary, Regions	027 280 9364	✓
Nicola-Kiri Paulsen	General Manager, Iwi and Māori Relations	027 284 4720	
Jim McKenzie	Principal Advisor, Iwi and Māori Relations	027 344 0601	

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui: ratification results

Purpose

1. This report:
 - a. recommends you agree that the ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the claimant community of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui (**Whanganui Iwi**) for the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement (the **Deed**) and Takapau Whāriki Trust, the proposed post-settlement governance entity (**PSGE**); and
 - b. attaches for your signatures, a letter to the Chair of Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (**WLSNT**) advising of your decision (**Appendix One**).

Executive summary

2. Whanganui Iwi are one of four large natural groups in the Whanganui region and are the last of the Whanganui groups to sign an individual deed of settlement with the Crown.
3. The ratification process determines if a Treaty settlement is supported by the claimant community and signing the Deed should proceed. The ratification process ran by WLSNT was consistent with Crown policy and guidelines.
4. The Whanganui Iwi claimant community voted to support the Deed and PSGE through a ratification process that ran from 16 February to 8 April. The participation rate of 25 percent is on the lower end but is still consistent with previous ratification processes. The approval rate for the Deed of Settlement was 81 percent and for the PSGE, 78 percent.
5. We consider these results indicate strong support from the claimant community and recommend you agree the ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the Whanganui Iwi claimant community and proceed to sign the Deed with Whanganui Iwi on 2 May.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that you:

- a. **note** the participation rate for the ratification was 25 percent of participating electors of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui who cast valid votes for the Deed of Settlement and post-settlement governance entity;

Minister for
Treaty of
Waitangi
Negotiations

Te Minita
Whanaketanga
Māori

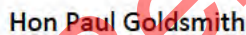
- b. note that of the valid votes received:
- i. 81 percent voted to approve the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement; and
 - ii. 78 percent voted to approve the post-settlement governance entity;
- c. agree that the ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui claimant community for the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement and post-settlement governance entity; YES / NO YES / NO
- d. agree to sign the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement (*MfTOWN only*); and YES / NO
- e. sign the attached letter to Ken Mair, Chair of Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust, advising him of your decision regarding the ratification results. YES / NO YES / NO



Rosie Batt
Director, Te Tari Whakatau



Grace Smit
Deputy Secretary, Regions, Te Puni Kōkiri

NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED	NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Hon Paul Goldsmith Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations	 Hon Tama Potaka Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori
Date: / / 2026	Date: 29/04/ 2026

Background

Whanganui Iwi are the last of the Whanganui groups to settle

7. Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui (Whanganui Iwi) are one of four Whanganui region large natural groups.¹ Whanganui Iwi comprise 22 hapū affiliated to 17 marae and are centred in and around Whanganui City. They are the last of the Whanganui groups to sign an individual deed of settlement (Deed) with the Crown.
8. On 3 and 5 March 2025 you agreed the proposed Whanganui Iwi post-settlement governance entity (PSGE) was an appropriate body to receive and manage Treaty settlement redress on behalf of Whanganui Iwi and approved the proposed ratification strategy for the Deed and PSGE [TA report 2024/2025 – 254 / TPK report 71903 refers]. On 4 December 2025 Whanganui Iwi and the Crown initialled the Deed.

Crown policy and ratification process

Crown policy for ratification: settlements must be supported by the claimant community

9. A Treaty settlement must be clearly supported by its claimant community. This support is determined through a ratification process. In reviewing a claimant group's ratification process, the Crown considers if the process is within Crown policy.

The claimant community voted to support the Deed and post-settlement governance entity

10. Members of the Whanganui Iwi claimant community, aged 18 years and over, were asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' on the following resolutions:
 - a. *I, as a member of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui, agree to support and accept the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement (He Rau Tukutuku) and authorise the trustees of the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust to sign the Deed of Settlement on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui; and*
 - b. *I, as a member of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui, agree that Takapau Whāriki Trust will be the post-settlement governance entity for Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui to receive and manage Treaty of Waitangi settlement redress on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui.*
11. The ratification results for the Whanganui Iwi Deed and PSGE, calculated in accordance with standard Crown reporting conventions,² are summarised in the following table:

Table 1. Whanganui Iwi ratification results

	Participation rate (valid votes only)	Approval rate (valid votes only)	Disapproval rate (valid votes only)	Invalid/blank votes (of total votes received)
Deed of Settlement (rounded)	1,016 (25%)	823 (81%)	193 (19%)	6 (1%)
Post-settlement governance entity (rounded)	1,011 (25%)	797 (78%)	214 (21%)	11 (1%)

¹ Alongside Ngāti Rangī, Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, and Ngāti Hāua.

² Invalid and blank votes are not taken into account when calculating participation, approval and disapproval rates.

12. From the 4,099 eligible electors, the voter return was 24.79 percent (1,016 votes) for the Deed and 24.66 percent (1,011 votes) for the PSGE, with 81 percent and 78.44 percent in support of each resolution respectively.

The ratification process ran for seven weeks from 16 February to 8 April

13. The ratification process for the Whanganui Iwi Deed and PSGE was initially scheduled for a six-week period, from 16 February to 31 March. The WLSNT increased the Crown recommended voting period from four to six weeks to ensure maximum engagement with the claimant community and to mitigate the possibility of some of the claimant community not receiving their voting packs within a suitable timeframe.
14. WLSNT extended the close of the ratification process from 31 March to 8 April due to disruption caused by the state of emergency declared in the Manawatū-Whanganui region on 15 February, which impacted the first week of ratification. During this week WLSNT were supporting those affected in town and up the Whanganui River, and due to the state of emergency, were required to postpone two in-person hui, and reported limited turnout at the third hui.
15. To be counted, votes needed to be received by 5:00pm on 8 April. The voting process was facilitated by Electionz.com, an independent election company. All eligible voters were able to cast their vote either by postal vote, ballot box at the ratification hui, or electronically via the internet.
16. The ratification process included:
 - a. a mail out of ratification packs to registered adult members of the WLSNT at the start of the voting period, including an information booklet summarising the Deed and PSGE, voting forms, a unique identifier number, a free post envelope, information on the voting process, and details of the ratification hui;
 - b. nine in-person ratification hui in various locations;
 - c. one online ratification hui live webinar;
 - d. notification of the ratification process via national and regional media outlets including local and national newspapers; and
 - e. notification on the WLSNT website and social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram).
17. Ratification notices encouraged non-registered members to register and vote.

Voting included the ability for un-registered members to cast special votes

18. All registered Iwi members aged 18 years or older, or who turned 18 years old during the voting period, were sent voting packs. Unregistered adult members and those who turned 18 years of age during the ratification period were able to cast a special vote.
19. The special voting procedure was facilitated by Electionz. Information on casting special votes was outlined in the information packs, provided to attendees at each of the ratification hui, and available on the WLSNT website and social media. Adult Iwi members who cast special votes and/or registered during the voting period were also required to complete a whakapapa verification form which was verified by the WLSNT Whakapapa Committee.

Ratification hui were held nationally to provide information to the claimant community

20. Ten ratification hui were held from 16 February to 23 March in Christchurch, Hamilton, Raetihi, Taumarunui, Wellington, Whanganui and online.
21. The purpose of the in-person information hui was to provide an opportunity for members of Whanganui Iwi to receive information about, discuss, and vote on the Deed and PSGE. Members also had the opportunity to cast their vote or register for a special vote at the information hui.
22. A PowerPoint presentation explaining the settlement, PSGE and ratification process was presented at each hui. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions following the presentation, which were answered by the hui facilitators. Positive robust discussions about the Deed and PSGE were had in the Q & A sessions.
23. Te Puni Kōkiri officials attended the ratification hui as independent Crown observers. There were 287 participants in attendance at the nine in-person ratification hui. The observer reports note that the hui were conducted in an open and transparent manner.
24. There were 33 participants viewing the live link for the online hui. However, this is a count of the number of devices connected, and not the number of participants behind the screens. The same PowerPoint presentation used for the in-person hui was shown at the webinar. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions via the question-and-answer function on Zoom. Questions were read out and answered following the presentation.

The ratification results demonstrate strong support from the claimant community

Assessment of results

25. A range of factors are considered when assessing the adequacy of ratification results. These include:
 - a. the participation rate;
 - b. the level of support for the resolutions; and
 - c. the robustness of the ratification process.
26. There is no 'bright line' policy on what proportion of participation and support are considered to be an acceptable ratification result.

Claimant community participation is consistent with precedent

27. Of the 4,099 eligible voters registered with the WLSNT, during the ratification process 1,016 valid votes were cast regarding the deed resolution and 1,011 valid votes were cast regarding the PSGE resolution. These figures represent a rounded participation rate of 25 percent.
28. The participation rate of 25 percent is on the lower end compared to previous ratification processes but is still within the accepted range consistent with the tables attached at **Appendix Two Participation and approval rates for Deeds of Settlement**, and **Appendix Three: Participation and approval rates for post-settlement governance entities**.

Level of claimant community support comparable with other ratification processes

29. A total of 823 votes were received in favour of the Deed out of a total of 1,022 valid votes, representing a support rate of 81 percent. Levels of support for the Deed is consistent with the voting results in previous deed ratification processes approved by Ministers, as shown in the table at **Appendix Two**.

30. A total of 797 votes were received in favour of the PSGE out of a total of 1,022 valid votes, representing a support rate of 78.44 percent. Levels of support for the PSGE is consistent with the voting results in previous PSGE ratification processes approved by Ministers, as shown in the table at **Appendix Three**.

There was a small number of invalid votes

31. There were 6 invalid/blank votes received for the Deed. This constitutes 0.59 percent of total votes cast and is consistent with previous Deed ratification processes as shown in **Appendix Two**.
32. There were 11 invalid/blank votes received for the PSGE. This constitutes 1.08 percent of total votes cast and is consistent with previous PSGE ratification processes as shown in **Appendix Three**.
33. Invalid or blank votes are not taken into account when calculating participation, approval and disapproval rates.

Issues indicated from independent observers

34. There was dissent expressed at some hui and it was evident that a group of uri did not support the settlement. However, this did not involve significant numbers in the context of the hui, as reflected in the support for the Deed of Settlement and PSGE shown in the ratification results.
35. Any questions from the dissenting parties were answered thoroughly and in a transparent manner. Questions and answers were also published on the WLSNT website.

The ratification process was consistent with Crown policy and results demonstrate sufficient community support

36. We consider the ratification process was carried out in a transparent, fair, and open manner, and that the results demonstrate sufficient support from the claimant community of Whanganui Iwi for the Deed and PSGE. We are satisfied that:
- a. all adult members of Whanganui Iwi (whether previously registered or not) had the opportunity to receive information about, discuss, and vote on the proposed Deed and PSGE;
 - b. the publicity and communication material for the ratification process provided sufficient information to members about the ratification process and the proposed Deed and PSGE;
 - c. the voting procedures, including verification of the registrations, the special voting process, and the use of an independent returning officer and independent Crown observers allowed for an inclusive, fair, and transparent process; and
 - d. the number and locations of the ratification hui reflected the geographical spread of the members registered with the WLSNT.
37. We recommend you agree:
- a. the ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the Whanganui Iwi claimant community for the Deed and PSGE; and
 - b. the Whanganui Iwi Deed can be signed.

Consultation

38. This report was prepared jointly by Te Tari Whakatau and Te Puni Kōkiri.

Next steps

39. Should you agree the decisions sought through this paper, we recommend you sign the letter attached at **Appendix One** to Ken Mair, Chair of the WLSNT, advising of your decision.
40. Subject to your approval of the ratification voting results, the Deed will be signed on 2 May. The Legislation Cabinet Committee is scheduled to consider the *Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction* Cabinet paper on 30 April for Cabinet consideration on 4 May.
41. We will provide the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations with a Deed signing ceremony briefing on 28 April.

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Pacific Peoples
Minister for the Public Service and Digitising Government
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



Ken Mair
Chair
Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust

By email: ken.mair@xtra.co.nz

Tēnā koe Ken

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui: He Rau Tukutuku and Takapau Whāriki Trust ratification

Thank you for your leadership as the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust sought views from its members on the Deed of Settlement, He Rau Tukutuku, and the post-settlement governance entity (PSGE), Takapau Whāriki.

I acknowledge the hard work and long hours undertaken by the Trust to make information about the settlement available to as many uri as possible to enable them to make an informed decision.

We are satisfied that the ratification process was carried out in a robust manner and provided all eligible adult members of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui with the opportunity to receive information about, discuss, and vote on He Rau Tukutuku and Takapau Whāriki.

We have considered the ratification results for the Deed and PSGE. We are pleased to inform you we consider the results demonstrate sufficient support from the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui claimant community for both He Rau Tukutuku and Takapau Whāriki.

Congratulations on a successful ratification. We look forward to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and the Crown being able to sign He Rau Tukutuku on 2 May.

Nā māua, nā

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Tama Potaka
Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori

Cc: Tracey Waitokia, Project Manager for Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui
(whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz)

Appendix Two: Participation and approval rates for Deeds of Settlement

Claimant Group	Participation rate	Approval rate	Invalid votes	Year of Deed of Settlement
	Percentage of eligible registered beneficiaries who validly voted	Valid votes in favour as a percentage of total valid votes	Not counted in the participation rate	
Ngāti Ruapani	72%	85%	0%	2026
Ngāti Rēhia (on-account)	Not available	100%	0%	2025
Ngāti Hāua	42%	97%	0%	2025
Ngā Iwi o Taranaki (Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Deed including establishment of collective iwi governance entity)	24%	98%	0%	2023
Te Korowai o Wainuiārua	31%	95%	0%	2023
Whakatōhea	35%	68%	12%	2022
Ngāti Tara Tokanui	26%	78%	0%	2022
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua	33%	72%	0.5%	2021
Ngāti Maniapoto	37%	84%	0%	2021
Te Ākitai Waiohua	32%	98%	0%	2021
Ngāti Maru (Taranaki)	48%	92%	0%	2021
Ngāti Paoa (DOS – negotiators process)	40%	86%	1%	2021
Ngāti Rangitahi	36%	92%	0.1%	2020
Moriori	31%	97%	1%	2020
Ngāti Hinerangi	58%	96%	1%	2019
Marutūāhu Collective (ratification process involving 4 of 5 member iwi – not including Ngāti Paoa)	39%	98%	4%	NYS
Ngāti Tamatera	39%	99%	0%	NYS
Ngāti Maru (Hauraki)	40%	96%	3%	NYS
Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu	46%	80%	1%	2025
Hauraki Collective (ratification by Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu)	40%	86%	0%	NYS
Ngaati Whanaunga	33%	94%	1%	NYS
Hauraki Collective	30%	94%	1%	2018
Te Patukirikiri	67%	100%	0%	2018
Ngāti Rangi	42%	99%	0%	2018
Ngāti Hei	37%	100%	0%	2017
Ngāti Tūwharetoa	34%	73%	1%	2017
Hauraki Collective (ratified by 9 of 12 member iwi)	30%	94%	1%	NYS by all member iwi
Ngāti Tamaoho	51%	96%	2%	2017
Iwi and hapū of Te Rohe o Te Wairoa	56%	97%	0.4%	2016
Ahuriri Hapu	27%	76%	1%	2016

Claimant Group	Participation rate	Approval rate	Invalid votes	Year of Deed of Settlement
	Percentage of eligible registered beneficiaries who validly voted	Valid votes in favour as a percentage of total valid votes	Not counted in the participation rate	
Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua	23%	78%	0.1%	2016
Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa	31%	78%	2%	2015
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga-Tamatea	40%	96%	1%	2015
Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki	45%	91%	0%	2015
Taranaki Iwi	25%	99%	0.5%	2015
Rangitāne o Manawatū	33%	87%	2%	2015
Hineuru	39%	81%	1%	2015
Te Ātiawa	40%	77%	0.7%	2014
Tauranga Moana Iwi Collective	20%	93%	2%	2014
Ngāruahine	37%	90%	0.1%	2014
Whanganui River	29%	96%	0.1%	2014
Te Kawerau a Maki	64%	99%	3%	2014
5 Pare Hauraki (Pouārua) on-account [Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Paoa, Te Patukiri, Ngāti Tara Tokanui]	32%	94%	unknown	2013
Ngāti Rangiteaorere	43%	68%	0.5%	2013
Maungaharuru-Tangitū Hapū	62%	98%	0.2%	2013
Ngā Pōtiki	47%	93%	3%	2013
Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu	40%	100%	0.3%	2013
Ngāti Kuri	37%	87%	2%	2013
Te Aupouri	34%	94%	1%	2013
Ngāi Tūhoe	36%	90%	1%	2013
Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui	28%	92%	3%	2013
Ngāi Te Rangī	25%	93%	3%	2013
Ngāti Pūkenga	23%	98%	2%	2013
Ngāti Rarua	28%	99%	2%	2013
Ngāi Takoto	50%	84%	1%	2012
Ngāti Rangiwewehi	45%	83%	0.6%	2012
Rangitāne o Wairau	34%	98%	0.5%	2012
Tapuika	32%	95%	1%	2012
Ngāti Koroki Kahukura	29%	99%	4%	2012
Ngāti Ranginui	27%	87%	0%	2012
Ngāti Toa	26%	99%	0.3%	2012
Ngāti Kōata	25%	98%	0.8%	2012
Te Rarawa	24%	87%	3%	2012
Raukawa	19%	94%	1%	2012

Claimant Group	Participation rate	Approval rate	Invalid votes	Year of Deed of Settlement
	Percentage of eligible registered beneficiaries who validly voted	Valid votes in favour as a percentage of total valid votes	Not counted in the participation rate	
Tāmaki Collective	26%	96%	2%	2012
Ngāti Manuhiri	49%	99%	0%	2011
Descendants of the original owners of the Maraeroa A & B blocks	43%	90%	4%	2011
Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara	43%	93%	1%	2011
Ngāi Tāmanuhiri	39%	99%	0%	2011
Rongowhakaata	36%	95%	1%	2011
Waitaha	33%	99%	1%	2011
Ngāti Mākino	30%	99%	2%	2011
Ngāti Apa (North Island)	35%	97%	1%	2010
Ngāti Pāhauwera	32%	99%	0.8%	2010
Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō	32%	99%	0.5%	2010
Ngāti Porou	19%	93%	0%	2010
Ngāti Kuia	34%	99%	0.5%	2010
Ngāti Whare	32%	96%	6%	2009
Ngāti Manawa	24%	97%	3%	2009
Waikato-Tainui ³	40%	65%	0.9%	2009
Taranaki Whānui	35%	99%	Not known	2008
Affiliate Te Arawa iwi/Hapū (2008 Collective Deed)	29%	98%	0.4%	2008
Affiliate Te Arawa iwi/Hapū (2006 Collective Deed)	51%	97%	1%	2008
Te Roroa	52%	92%	4%	2005
Ngāti Mutunga	48%	94%	3%	2005
Te Arawa Lakes	51%	94%	1%	2004
Ngāa Rauru Kītahi	67%	92%	8%	2003
Ngāti Awa	40%	87%	11%	2003
Ngāti Rangi (Bay of Plenty)	55%	95%	1%	2003
Ngāti Tama	61%	98%	1%	2001
Ngāti Ruanui	60%	88%	11%	2001
Te Uri o Hau	43%	83%	2%	2000
Ngāi Tahu	50%	94%	2%	1999

Note: The results in this table have been rounded. Therefore, some results may differ slightly to results originally presented to Ministers.

'NYS' = not yet signed.

³ River co-management.

Appendix Three: Participation and approval rates for post-settlement governance entities

Claimant group	Participation rate	Approval rate	Invalid votes	Year of Deed of Settlement
	Percentage of eligible registered beneficiaries who validly voted	Valid votes in favour as a percentage of total valid votes	Not counted in the participation rate	
Ngāti Ruapani	72%	83%	0.6%	2026
Ngāti Rēhia (on account)	Not available	90%	0%	2025
Ngāti Hāua	42%	96%	0%	2025
Ngā Iwi o Taranaki (Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Deed including acceptance of deed)	24%	98%	0%	2023
Te Korowai o Wainuiārua	31%	94%	0.1%	2023
Whakatōhea	34%	68%	12%	2022
Ngāti Tara Tokanui	39%	78%	2%	2022
Ngāti Maniapoto	37%	82%	1%	2021
Ngāti Maru (Taranaki)	47%	85%	0%	2021
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua	35%	93%	2%	2021
Ngāti Paoa (PSGE)	22%	96%	1%	2021
Ngāti Paoa (DOS – PSGE process)	46%	91%	1%	2021
Te Ākitai Waiohūa	47%	78%	1%	2021
Moriori	37%	92%	2%	2020
Ngāti Hinerangi	59%	95%	0%	2019
Hauraki Collective (9/12 iwi)	30%	92%	1%	2018
Ngāti Rangi	42%	98%	0.6%	2018
Te Patukirikiri	45%	100%	0%	2018
Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu	46%	76%	1%	2025
Ngāti Rahiri Tumutumu (Hauraki Collective -1/12)	39%	84%	1%	NYS
Ngaati Whanaunga	34%	95%	1%	NYS
Hako	38%	98%	2%	NYS
Ngāti Hei	37%	92%	1	2017
Ngāti Tūwharetoa	33%	71%	2%	2017
Ngāti Tamaoho	38%	99%	3%	2017
Iwi and hapū of Te Rohe o Te Wairoa	56%	89%	1%	2016
Ahuriri Hapu	27%	71%	1%	2016
Rangitāne o Wairarapa and	33%	98%	1%	2016

Claimant group	Participation rate	Approval rate	Invalid votes	Year of Deed of Settlement
	Percentage of eligible registered beneficiaries who validly voted	Valid votes in favour as a percentage of total valid votes	Not counted in the participation rate	
Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua				
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Heretaunga-Tamatea	34%	94%	2%	2015
Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa	31%	71%	5%	2015
Hineuru	39%	75%	2%	2015
Rangitāne o Manawatū	34%	71%	3%	2015
Tauranga Moana Iwi Collective	20%	93%	3%	2015
Whanganui River	28%	98%	1%	2014
Te Kawerau a Maki	56%	99%	14%	2014
Pare Hauraki Collective (Pouārua iwi Dairy Complex Limited Partnership)	32%	92%	2%	2013
Ngāi Te Rangi	25%	92%	4%	2013
Ngā Pōtiki	47%	94%	2%	2013
Ngāti Rangiteaorere	43%	68%	0.8%	2013
Maungaharuru-Tangitū Incorporated	41%	95%	0.7%	2013
Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu	40%	99%	0.9%	2013
Ngāti Hauā	38%	97%	2%	2013
Ngāti Kuri	37%	87%	3%	2013
Te Aupouri	30%	97%	1%	2013
Ngāi Tūhoe	35%	89%	0.8%	2013
Ngāti Rārua	28%	99%	0.9%	2013
Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui	27%	82%	6%	2013
Ngāti Pūkenga	23%	96%	5%	2013
Te Ātiawa	26%	79%	4%	2012
Ngāruahine	27%	93%	4%	2012
Taranaki Iwi	33%	93%	0.2%	2012
Ngāi Takoto	50%	78%	1%	2012
Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki	45%	94%	0%	2012
Ngāti Rangiwewehi	45%	73%	3%	2012
Rangitāne o Wairau	34%	97%	0%	2012
Tapuika	32%	97%	3%	2012
Ngāti Koroki Kahukura	29%	97%	4%	2012
Ngāti Ranginui	27%	90%	0.5%	2012
Ngāti Toa	26%	92%	2%	2012

Claimant group	Participation rate	Approval rate	Invalid votes	Year of Deed of Settlement
	Percentage of eligible registered beneficiaries who validly voted	Valid votes in favour as a percentage of total valid votes	Not counted in the participation rate	
Ngāti Kōata	25%	95%	2%	2012
Tamaki Collective PSGEs	25%	93%	3%	2012
Te Rarawa	24%	86%	5%	2012
Ngāti Manuhiri	49%	98%	1%	2011
Descendants of the original owners of the Mareroa A & B block	43%	90%	5%	2011
Ngāi Tāmanuhiri	39%	97%	4%	2011
Rongowhakaata	36%	80%	3%	2011
Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei	35%	87%	3%	2011
Waitaha	33%	86%	1%	2011
Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara	30%	97%	3%	2011
Ngāti Mākino	29%	98%	5%	2011
Ngāti Apa (North Island)	35%	97%	2%	2010
Ngāti Apa ki te Ra Tō	32%	97%	2%	2010
Ngāti Porou	19%	94%	0%	2010
Ngāti Kuia	18%	99%	Not known	2010
Ngāti Whare	32%	96%	6%	2009
Raukawa	19%	93%	5%	2009
Ngāti Manawa	18%	97%	4%	2009
Affiliate Te Arawa iwi/Hapū	49%	97%	5%	2008
Taranaki Whānui	31%	96%	Not known	2008
Te Roroa	52%	93%	4%	2005
Ngāti Mutunga	48%	95%	4%	2005
Te Arawa Lakes	35%	95%	1%	2004
Ngaa Rauru Kītahi	49%	94%	2%	2004
Ngāti Rangi (Bay of Plenty)	34%	92%	2%	2003
Ngāti Awa	27%	89%	7%	2003
Ngāti Ruanui	44%	94%	Not known	2001
Ngāti Tama	32%	98%	0%	2001
Te Uri o Hau	45%	82%	2%	2000

Note: The results in this table have been rounded. Therefore, some results may differ slightly to results originally presented to Ministers.

'NYS' = not yet signed.

From: [Alaina Teki-Clark](#)
 To: [Tracey Waitokia](#)
 Cc: aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz; [Smits, Victoria](#); [Ken Mair](#); [Mitchell, James](#)
 Subject: Formal request for full voting data – Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement
 Date: Friday, 1 May 2026 11:19:18 am

Kia ora Tracey

Thank you for the official results document. I acknowledge that 1,304 votes were counted and that 1,047 voted yes on Resolution 1.

But a verified count does not make a valid mandate. You still have not given us the information that matters.

My original request asked for the total number of registered voters, the raw vote breakdown, and details of special and excluded votes. I am now adding a request for the observer reports from Te Puni Kōkiri, a full explanation of how the voting roll was compiled, and any analysis of why turnout was so low.

You have not told us the total number of eligible voters on the roll. You have not told us which register was used or how it was compiled. You have not provided the number of special votes, proxy votes, excluded votes, or provisional votes. You have not explained why 75% of your own roll did not vote. And you have not released the independent observer reports.

Without these, your 81% figure is meaningless. 81% of 1,304 people is not a mandate for over 50,000 Whanganui Uri.

Please provide all of the above within 10 working days.

Under the Crown's Red Book, claimants must be fully informed. Under the Privacy Act, I have a right to know how my information was used. [Electionz.com](#) has already confirmed that WLSNT holds this data.

If you refuse, I will take this to Te Arawhiti, the Privacy Commissioner, and the Select Committee. Withholding the roll is withholding the truth.

Toitū Te Kupu. Be true to your word. Send the information.

Nāku noa, nā
 Alaina Teki-Clark

KMMRT Chairperson.

On Wed, Apr 29, 2026 at 6:46 PM Tracey Waitokia <whanganui.ls@extra.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi for your email, and my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. Your request was received and has since been formally tabled with the Trust for consideration.

The Trust has now approved the release of the official results as provided by Electionz.com.

Please find attached the official results document received by the Trust.

For transparency, the same document has also been published on our website and can be accessed here: [69f192161ccc40620085bf62_WLSNT 2026 DOS and PSGE Ratification - Final Result Doc.pdf](#)

This document reflects the independently verified results as administered by the electoral provider.

If you require any further clarification or information, please feel free to come back to us.

Ngā mihi nui

Tracey

On 20/04/2026 19:44 NZST s9(2)(a)

rōte:

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you for sharing the media release.

Can someone from the trust please provide:

- Total number of verified registered eligible voters.
- Total votes cast (raw number)
- Yes and No raw numbers
- Special votes, proxy votes, and excluded votes

Percentages alone are not enough to independently verify the result.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

On Sun, 19 Apr 2026 at 8:50 PM, Aimee Simon <Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koutou e ngā whirikōkō o Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui

Attached is a media release from the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (WLSNT) regarding the Ratification Results and Confirmation of the He Rau Tukutuku Signing Ceremony.

Please feel free to share and socialise amongst your hapū networks.

Ngā mihi,

Aimee Simon

Executive Assistant | WLSNT

Toitū Te Kupu - Toitū Te Mana - Toitū Te Whenua

Get [Outlook for Mac](#)

Tracey Waitokia

Project Manager | Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust | Tupoho House -
249 Victoria Ave | PO Box 4262 | Whanganui 4540 | Aotearoa | Cell+ 027 467
7111. | www.wlsnt.maori.nz

From: [Alaina Teki-Clark](#)
To: [Tracey Waitokia](#)
Cc: [aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz](#); [Smits, Victoria](#); [Ken Mair](#); [Mitchell, James](#)
Subject: Re: Follow-up to formal request – additional questions
Date: Tuesday, 5 May 2026 11:26:18 am

Thank you for your assistance.

On Tue, May 5, 2026 at 10:13 AM Tracey Waitokia <whangamui.ls@extra.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Alaina

Thank you for your email of 4 May 2026 and for outlining your additional information requests.

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence. Your request has been noted and will be considered by the Trust in line with our governance, privacy, and electoral process obligations.

The Trust will respond in due course once this process has been completed.

Ngā mihi

Tracey

On 04/05/2026 21:12 NZST Alaina Teki-Clark

s9(2)(a) wrote:

Kia ora Tracey

This is a follow-up to my formal request sent below on 01 May. I am adding the following requests for information under the same timeline of 10 working days.

Please provide:

1. The total number of unique individuals who were sent voting packs by post or email, broken down by delivery method.
2. The number of packs returned as undeliverable or bounced due to invalid addresses or expired emails.
3. Confirmation of the source registers used. Was the NTT register the only source, or were other registers also used, including WLSNT's own internal list?
4. The written criteria or policy document used to determine which whakapapa connections qualified for inclusion on the voting roll and which did not.
5. Whether any individual on the NTT register or WLSNT register were excluded from the voting roll without being notified. If so, how many and on what basis?
6. Whether any whānau were offered whakapapa verification if they were initially excluded, and how many successfully appealed their exclusion.

Without this information, the 4,000 roll figure remains unverified and the low turnout cannot be properly understood.

Please confirm receipt and advise when we can expect this information.

Nāku noa, nā

Alaina Teki-Clark
KMMRT Chairperson

On Fri, 1 May 2026 at 11:17 AM, Alaina Teki-Clark
s9(2)(a) wrote:

Kia ora Tracey

Thank you for the official results document. I acknowledge that 1,304 votes were counted and that 1,047 voted yes on Resolution 1.

But a verified count does not make a valid mandate. You still have not given us the information that matters.

My original request asked for the total number of registered voters, the raw vote breakdown, and details of special and excluded votes. I am now adding a request for the observer reports from Te Puni Kōkiri, a full explanation of how the voting roll was compiled, and any analysis of why turnout was so low.

You have not told us the total number of eligible voters on the roll. You have not told us which register was used or how it was compiled. You have not provided the number of special votes, proxy votes, excluded votes, or provisional votes. You have not explained why 75% of your own roll did not vote. And you have not released the independent observer reports.

Without these, your 81% figure is meaningless. 81% of 1,304 people is not a mandate for over 50,000 Whanganui Uri.

Please provide all of the above within 10 working days.

Under the Crown's Red Book, claimants must be fully informed. Under the Privacy Act, I have a right to know how my information was used. [Electionz.com](https://electionz.com) has already confirmed that WLSNT holds this data.

If you refuse, I will take this to Te Arawhiti, the Privacy Commissioner, and the Select Committee. Withholding the roll is withholding the truth.

Toitū Te Kupu. Be true to your word. Send the information.

Nāku noa, nā
Alaina Teki-Clark

KMMRT Chairperson.

On Wed, Apr 29, 2026 at 6:46 PM Tracey Waitokia
<whanganui.ls@xtra.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi for your email, and my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. Your request was received and has since been formally tabled with the Trust for consideration.

The Trust has now approved the release of the official results as provided by Electionz.com.

Please find attached the official results document received by the Trust.

For transparency, the same document has also been published on our website and can be accessed here:

[69f192161ccc40620085bf62_WLSNT_2026_DOS_and_PSGE_Ratification_-_Final_Result_Doc.pdf](#)

This document reflects the independently verified results as administered by the electoral provider.

If you require any further clarification or information, please feel free to come back to us.

Ngā mihi nui

Tracey

On 20/04/2026 19:44 NZST s9(2)(a)

wrote:

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you for sharing the media release.

Can someone from the trust please provide:

- Total number of verified registered eligible voters.
- Total votes cast (raw number)
- Yes and No raw numbers
- Special votes, proxy votes, and excluded votes

Percentages alone are not enough to independently verify the result.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)

On Sun, 19 Apr 2026 at 8:50 PM,
Aimee Simon

<Aimee@wlsnt.maori.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koutou e ngā
whirikōkō o Ngā Hapū o
Te Iwi o Whanganui
Attached is a media
release from the
Whanganui Land
Settlement Negotiation
Trust (WLSNT) regarding
the Ratification Results
and Confirmation of the
He Rau Tukuruku Signing
Ceremony.

Please feel free to share
and socialise amongst
your hapū networks.

Ngā mihi,
Aimee Simon
Executive Assistant |
WLSNT

**Toitū Te Kupu - Toitū Te
Mana - Toitū Te
Whenua**

Get [Outlook for Mac](#)

Tracey Waitokia
**Project Manager | Whanganui Land
Settlement Negotiation Trust** | Tupoho House -
249 Victoria Ave | PO Box 4262 | Whanganui 4540
| Aotearoa | Cell+ 027 467
7111. | www.wlsnt.maori.nz

Tracey Waitokia
Project Manager | Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust | Tupoho House -
249 Victoria Ave | PO Box 4262 | Whanganui 4540 | Aotearoa | Cell+ 027 467
7111. | www.wlsnt.maori.nz