

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Proactive release – Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction

Date of issue: 5 October 2026

The following documents have been proactively released in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 04.

Some information has been withheld on the basis that it would not, if requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), be released. Where that is the case, the relevant section of the OIA has been noted and no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

No.	Document	Comments
1.	Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction <i>Cabinet paper</i> Office of the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations 29 April 2026	Released in full
2.	Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction <i>Minute of decision LEG-26-MIN-0074</i> Cabinet Legislation Committee Meeting date: 29 April 2026	Released in full
3.	Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 1 May 2026 <i>Cabinet minute CAB-26-MIN-0148</i> Cabinet Office Meeting date: 4 May 2026	Redacted in part because out of scope
4.	Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction <i>Summary LEG-26-SUB-0074</i> Cabinet Legislation Committee Meeting date: 29 April 2026	Released in full

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Cabinet Legislation Committee

**NGĀ HAPŪ O TE IWI O WHANGANUI CLAIMS SETTLEMENT BILL:
APPROVAL FOR INTRODUCTION****Proposal**

- 1 I seek approval to introduce the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill (the Bill).
- 2 The Bill gives effect to the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement deed of settlement (the Deed), He Rau Tukutuku, which will be signed by the Crown and Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust (the mandated entity) on 2 May 2026.

Policy*Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui*

- 3 Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui are a large natural group whose area of interest is the southern Whanganui District, including Whanganui city. Their settlement redress area (area of interest) is attached at Appendix One.
- 4 They are one of four Crown-recognised large natural groups in the Whanganui region alongside Ngāti Rangi, Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, and Ngāti Hāua, and are the last Whanganui group to sign a deed with the Crown.
- 5 Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui's historical Treaty of Waitangi claims relate to Crown purchasing activities, including the 1848 Whanganui Block transaction; the effects of the New Zealand Land Wars; compulsory acquisition of land for scenic reserves along the Whanganui River; twentieth-century land administration policy; public works which have damaged wāhi tapu, including urupā, and significant and irreversible changes since 1840 to lands, forests, and waterways.

Negotiations

- 6 Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and the Crown signed Terms of Negotiation in July 2017, and an Agreement in Principle in August 2019.
- 7 In September 2024, Cabinet approved the final package for the comprehensive settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui [CAB-23-MIN-0234 refers].

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- 8 On 4 December 2025, the Crown and Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui initialled the Deed.
- 9 From 16 February to 8 April 2026, members of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui voted to ratify the Deed. The participation rate of all eligible and registered voters was 25 percent (1,022 votes), and support for the Deed was 81 percent (823 votes) of votes cast. Voters also supported the post-settlement governance entity, Takapau Whāriki, as the recipient of the settlement package. On 29 April, the Minister for Māori Development and I, agreed the ratification results demonstrated sufficient support for the Deed and post-settlement governance entity.

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement

- 10 The settlement package includes the Crown apology, cultural, commercial and financial redress of \$30.000 million.
- 11 The settlement will comprehensively settle all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui. Accordingly, all claims made by Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui which arise from, or relate to, acts or omissions before 21 September 1992 will be settled.
- 12 Except as provided in the Deed, the settlement will not affect any ongoing rights which Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui may have under common law (including existing aboriginal title), legislation or the Treaty of Waitangi.

Why is the Bill required?

- 13 Some of the components of the settlement rely on legislation to be enacted. Accordingly, the Crown committed, through the Deed, to propose settlement legislation for introduction to the House of Representatives.
- 14 The Deed includes a commitment that the Crown will propose the Bill will be introduced into the House of Representatives.
- 15 Further information on the Bill is set out in the Departmental Disclosure Statement attached at Appendix Two.

Resource management reform

- 16 The Bill contains statutory acknowledgement redress, which connects to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The Natural Environment Bill and the Planning Bill, intended to replace the RMA, were introduced to the House in December 2025 and are currently before the Environment Committee. These Bills contain provisions that transfer statutory acknowledgements into the new resource management system. Once the Natural Environment Bill and the Planning Bill are enacted, settlement legislation will be amended to reflect the new resource management legislation.

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Potential contentious issues

- 17 I do not anticipate any issues that would prevent the passage of the Bill. Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and members of the public will be entitled to submit on the content of the Bill in the select committee process.

Impact analysis

- 18 A Regulatory Impact Statement is not required as the Bill does not alter the regulatory regime.

Compliance

- 19 The Bill complies with:
- 19.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 19.2 advice from the Treaty Provisions Officials Group on any Treaty of Waitangi provisions;
 - 19.3 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993;
 - 19.4 the disclosure statement requirements;
 - 19.5 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
 - 19.6 relevant international standards and obligations; and
 - 19.7 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition).

Consultation

- 20 The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—Te Tari Whakatau has consulted with, and incorporated the views of, the following agencies and entities: Department of Conservation, Department of Corrections, Department of Internal Affairs, Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children, Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Education, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Health, Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry for Social Development, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Transport Agency, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, Statistics New Zealand, Te Puni Kōkiri, The Treasury, and Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand.
- 21 Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui have received a copy of the Bill and supports its introduction.

Binding on the Crown

- 22 The Bill will be binding on the Crown.

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Creating new agencies or amending law relating to existing agencies

23 Not applicable.

Allocation of decision-making powers

24 Not applicable.

Associated regulations

25 Not applicable.

Other instruments

26 Not applicable.

Definition of Minister/department

27 Not applicable.

Commencement of legislation

28 The Act will come into force on the day after the date of Royal Assent. Many of the actions or matters occurring under the Bill will occur or take effect on settlement date (40 working days after the Act comes into force).

Parliamentary stages

29 The Deed contains a provision stating it is conditional upon legislation coming into force and the Crown will propose the settlement legislation for introduction.

30 The Bill holds a priority category 5 (to proceed to select committee before the 2026 General Election) on the 2026 Legislation Programme. I intend to explore the possibility of securing House time for second and third readings in September 2026. This would allow the settlement to be completed within this calendar year.

31 I propose that the Bill be referred to the Māori Affairs Committee for consideration, and that the Committee be asked to report back to the House within a shortened timeframe of four months.

Proactive Release

32 I intend to proactively release this paper, making any necessary redactions, within 30 business days after the introduction of the Bill.

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Recommendations

I recommend that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill gives effect to the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement which will be signed on 2 May 2026;
- 2 **approve** for introduction the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill, subject to the final approval of the government caucuses and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 3 **agree** that the Bill be introduced on the first available date after Cabinet has approved the Bill's introduction; and
- 4 **agree** that the government propose that the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill be referred to the Māori Affairs Committee for consideration and reported back within a shortened period of four months.

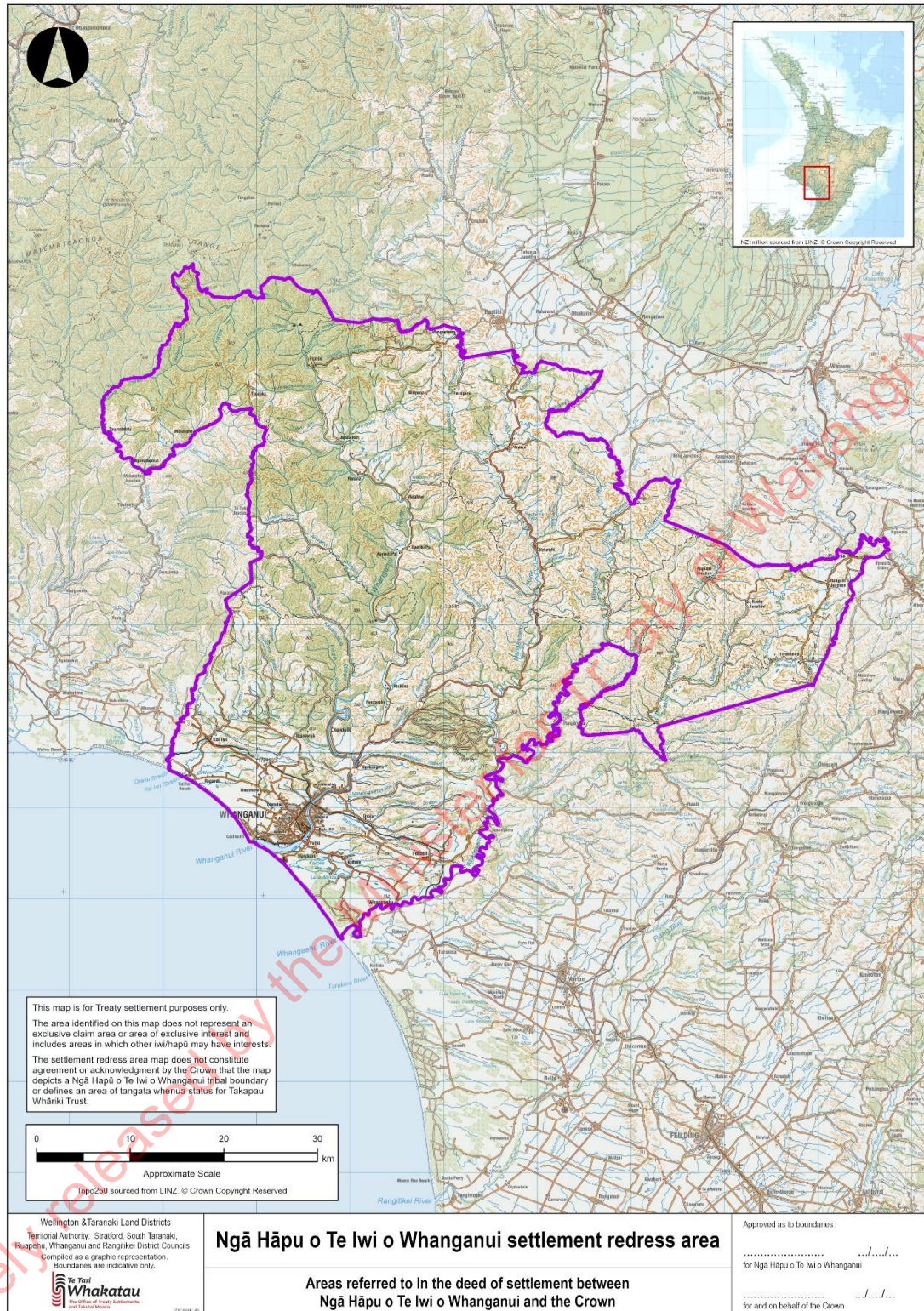
Authorised for lodgement

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

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Appendix One: Ngā Hāpu o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement redress area (area of interest)



Appendix Two: Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Department
Disclosure Statement
Ngā Hapu o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill

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Departmental Disclosure Statement

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill

The departmental disclosure statement for a government Bill seeks to bring together in one place a range of information to support and enhance the Parliamentary and public scrutiny of that Bill.

It identifies:

- the general policy intent of the Bill and other background policy material;
- some of the key quality assurance products and processes used to develop and test the content of the Bill;
- the presence of certain significant powers or features in the Bill that might be of particular Parliamentary or public interest and warrant an explanation.

This disclosure statement was prepared by the Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—Te Tari Whakatau.

The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—Te Tari Whakatau certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and understanding, the information provided is complete and accurate at the date of finalisation below.

May 2026

Contents

Contents 3

Part One: General Policy Statement 4

Part Two: Background Material and Policy Information..... 6

Part Three: Testing of Legislative Content 7

Part Four: Significant Legislative Features 9

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Part One: General Policy Statement

The Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill (the Bill) gives effect to certain matters set out in the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement signed between Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and the Crown on 2 May 2026. The Bill contains provisions relating to redress that require legislation for their implementation. Other aspects of the arrangements are provided for only in the Deed of Settlement because they do not require legislative authority.

Negotiations

In June 2017, the Crown formally recognised the mandate of the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust to negotiate the comprehensive settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui. Terms of negotiation were signed in July 2017.

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and the Crown signed an Agreement in Principle in August 2019.

Key elements of the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill

The Bill comprises 3 parts:

Part 1—

- sets out the purpose of the Bill; and
- provides that the provisions of the Bill take effect on the settlement date (40 working days following the date of Royal Assent) unless a provision states otherwise; and
- specifies that the Bill binds the Crown; and
- sets out Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi (the Nga Hapū of Te Iwi o Whanganui tikanga and values framework) and Crown acknowledgement of the importance of Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui; and
- sets out a summary of the historical account, and records the text of the acknowledgements and apology given by the Crown to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui; and
- defines terms used in the Bill, including key terms such as Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and historical claims; and
- provides for the removal of section 27B memorials.

Part 2 provides for cultural redress in 7 subparts—

- subpart 1 outlines the protocols for Crown minerals and Taonga Tūturu; and
- subpart 2 outlines a statutory acknowledgement by the Crown of the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui statements of their cultural, historical, spiritual and traditional association with certain statutory areas and the effect of that acknowledgement, together with a deed of recognition for specified areas; and
- subpart 3 outlines the overlay classification applying to certain areas of land; and
- subpart 4 outlines the provision of official geographic names; and
- subpart 5 outlines the provision for the appointment of the advisory committee by the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries; and

- subpart 6 lists the cultural redress properties to be vested in Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui; and
- subpart 7 outlines the cultural materials plan; and
- subpart 8 outlines the provisions for Ngā Tūtei a Maru, the joint reserves board with Whanganui District Council.

Part 3 provides for commercial redress in 5 subparts —

- subpart 1 provides for the transfer of commercial redress and deferred selection properties; and
- subpart 2 provides for licensed land; and
- subpart 3 provides for the transfer of the Whanganui Forest property; and
- subpart 4 provides for access to protected sites; and
- subpart 5 provides for the right of first refusal.

There are 4 schedules:

- *Schedule 1* describes the statutory areas; and
- *Schedule 2* describes the overlay areas; and
- *Schedule 3* describes the cultural redress properties; and
- *Schedule 4* the Ngā Tūtei a Maru reserves; and
- *Schedule 5* sets out provisions about notices in relation to right of first refusal land.

Part Two: Background Material and Policy Information

Published reviews or evaluations

2.1. Are there any publicly available inquiry, review or evaluation reports that have informed, or are relevant to, the policy to be given effect by this Bill?	YES
Waitangi Tribunal (1999) <i>The Whanganui River Report</i> and its evidentiary casebook Waitangi Tribunal (2003) <i>Te Whanganui A Tara Me Ona Takiwa</i> and its evidentiary casebook Waitangi Tribunal (2013) <i>Te Kāhui Maunga: The National Park District Inquiry Report</i> and its evidentiary casebook Waitangi Tribunal (2015) <i>He Whiritaunoka: The Whanganui Land Report</i> and its evidentiary casebook All Waitangi Tribunal reports are accessible at: Tribunal reports Waitangi Tribunal	

Relevant international treaties

2.2. Does this Bill seek to give effect to New Zealand action in relation to an international treaty?	NO
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Regulatory impact analysis

2.3. Were any regulatory impact statements provided to inform the policy decisions that led to this Bill?	NO
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Extent of impact analysis available

2.4. Has further impact analysis become available for any aspects of the policy to be given effect by this Bill?	NO
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2.5. For the policy to be given effect by this Bill, is there analysis available on:	
(a) the size of the potential costs and benefits?	NO
(b) the potential for any group of persons to suffer a substantial unavoidable loss of income or wealth?	NO

2.6. For the policy to be given effect by this Bill, are the potential costs or benefits likely to be impacted by:	
(a) the level of effective compliance or non-compliance with applicable obligations or standards?	NO
(b) the nature and level of regulator effort put into encouraging or securing compliance?	NO

Part Three: Testing of Legislative Content

Consistency with New Zealand's international obligations

3.1. What steps have been taken to determine whether the policy to be given effect by this Bill is consistent with New Zealand's international obligations?

No steps have been taken.

Consistency with the government's Treaty of Waitangi obligations

3.2. What steps have been taken to determine whether the policy to be given effect by this Bill is consistent with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi?

During the settlement negotiations, the Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—Te Tari Whakatau and Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui negotiators engaged with iwi and hapū whose interests are directly affected by the settlement. The redress given effect by this Bill is consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles and Treaty of Waitangi settlement policy.

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990

3.3. Has advice been provided to the Attorney-General on whether any provisions of this Bill appear to limit any of the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990?

[YES]

Advice provided to the Attorney-General by the Crown Law Office, or a section 7 report of the Attorney-General, is generally expected to be available on the Ministry of Justice website upon introduction of a Bill. Such advice, or reports, will be accessible on the Ministry's website at:

Advice on consistency of Bills with the Bill of Rights Act | New Zealand Ministry of Justice

Offences, penalties and court jurisdictions

3.4. Does this Bill create, amend, or remove:

(a) offences or penalties (including infringement offences or penalties and civil pecuniary penalty regimes)?

NO

(b) the jurisdiction of a court or tribunal (including rights to judicial review or rights of appeal)?

YES

The Bill settles the historical Treaty claims of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and removes the jurisdiction of courts, tribunals and other judicial bodies in respect of the claims, deed, Act, and redress provided.

3.4.1. Was the Ministry of Justice consulted about these provisions?

NO

The provisions were developed by the Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana—Te Tari Whakatau, a departmental agency of the Ministry of Justice.

Clause 15 is a standard provision in Treaty settlement legislation.

Clauses 2A and 2B, Crown acknowledgement of the importance of Te Tomokanga ki te Matapihi to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui in relationship agreements, have been considered by Crown Law Office.

Privacy issues

3.5. Does this Bill create, amend or remove any provisions relating to the collection, storage, access to, correction of, use or disclosure of personal information?

NO

3.5.1. Was the Privacy Commissioner consulted about these provisions?	NO
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External consultation

3.6. Has there been any external consultation on the policy to be given effect by this Bill, or on a draft of this Bill?	YES
<i>Overlapping groups, local authorities, and interested parties were informed of the key relevant provisions contained in the deed as the redress was negotiated and agreed.</i> <i>Local authorities: Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council, Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons Regional Council).</i> <i>Overlapping groups; Ngāti Rangī, Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, Ngā Rauru Kītahi, Ngāti Hāua, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Maniapoto, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira.</i>	

Other testing of proposals

3.7. Have the policy details to be given effect by this Bill been otherwise tested or assessed in any way to ensure the Bill’s provisions are workable and complete?	YES
<i>The proposed provisions are tested throughout the negotiations process through consultation with iwi and engagement with third parties. Parliamentary Counsel Office completed quality assurance measures to ensure the workability of provisions. The deed was ratified by Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui during a 7-week voting period from 16 February to 8 April 2026.</i>	

Part Four: Significant Legislative Features

Compulsory acquisition of private property

4.1. Does this Bill contain any provisions that could result in the compulsory acquisition of private property?	NO
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Charges in the nature of a tax

4.2. Does this Bill create or amend a power to impose a fee, levy or charge in the nature of a tax?	NO
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Retrospective effect

4.3. Does this Bill affect rights, freedoms, or impose obligations, retrospectively?	NO
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Strict liability or reversal of the usual burden of proof for offences

4.4. Does this Bill:	
(a) create or amend a strict or absolute liability offence?	NO
(b) reverse or modify the usual burden of proof for an offence or a civil pecuniary penalty proceeding?	NO

Civil or criminal immunity

4.5. Does this Bill create or amend a civil or criminal immunity for any person?	NO
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Significant decision-making powers

4.6. Does this Bill create or amend a decision-making power to make a determination about a person's rights, obligations, or interests protected or recognised by law, and that could have a significant impact on those rights, obligations, or interests?	NO
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Powers to make delegated legislation

4.7. Does this Bill create or amend a power to make delegated legislation that could amend an Act, define the meaning of a term in an Act, or grant an exemption from an Act or delegated legislation?	NO
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4.8. Does this Bill create or amend any other powers to make delegated legislation?	NO
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Any other unusual provisions or features

4.9. Does this Bill contain any provisions (other than those noted above) that are unusual or call for special comment?	NO
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Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations**

On 30 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill (the Bill) gives effect to the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement, which will be signed on 2 May 2026;
- 2 **approved** the introduction of the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill [PCO 21176/19.0];
- 3 **agreed** that the bill be introduced as soon as practicable after Cabinet approval;
- 4 **agreed** that the Government propose that the Bill be referred to the Māori Affairs Committee for consideration.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon James Meager
Hon Cameron Brewer
Hon Mike Butterick
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Stuart Smith MP
Todd Stephenson MP
Jamie Arbuckle MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 1 May 2026

On 4 May 2026, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 1 May 2026:

LEG-26-MIN-0074	Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction Portfolio: Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations	CONFIRMED
Out of scope		

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Summary

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Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio	Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Purpose	This paper seeks approval to introduce the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill (the Bill).
Previous Decisions	In June 2023, the previous Government approved the final settlement package for Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui [MCR-23-MIN-0014].
Proposal	The Bill gives effect to the above settlement package, and the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement, which was ratified by the iwi in April 2026 with 81 percent support.
Impact Analysis	Not required.
Compliance	A departmental disclosure statement is attached .
Timing Matters	The Minister proposes that the Bill be introduced as soon as possible, and referred to the Māori Affairs Committee.
Communications	None indicated.
Consultation	Paper prepared by Te Tari Whakatau. MCH, DoC, Corrections, MoE, MfE, Treasury, MoH, DIA, MoJ, LINZ, TPK, Police, Stats NZ, OT, Kāinga Ora, MSD, MPI, Health NZ, and MBIE were consulted. The Minister indicates that the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing, Minister of Transport, Minister of Health, Minister of Education, Minister for Social Development and Employment, Minister of Police, Minister of Corrections, Minister of Conservation, Minister for Māori Development, Minister for Tertiary Education, Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, Minister for Resources, Minister for the Environment, Minister of Statistics, Minister for Land Information, and Minister for Children were consulted.

The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations recommends that the Committee:

- 1 note that the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill (the Bill) gives effect to the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement, which will be signed on 2 May 2026;
- 2 approve the introduction of the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill [PCO 21176/19.0];
- 3 agree that the bill be introduced as soon as practicable after Cabinet approval;
- 4 agree that the Government propose that the Bill be referred to the Māori Affairs Committee for consideration.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

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Cabinet Legislation Committee