

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



16 July 2025

Herb Rihari
Chair
Te Whakaaetanga Trust

By email: Herb@tewhakaaetanga.com

Tēnā koe Herb,

Crown Recognition of a Te Whakaaetanga Trust Mandate

Thank you for submitting the Te Whakaaetanga Trust (**Te Whakaaetanga**) Deed of Mandate to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of all the historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi claims of ngā hapū Te Whakaaetanga, that is, Ngāti Torehina ki Matakā, Ngāti Kuta, Patukeha, Ngāti Manu and their associated hapū, Te Uri Raewera and Te Uri Karaka.

We consider Te Whakaaetanga has conducted an open and transparent mandate process, has the support of its claimant community, who have conferred the mandate on Te Whakaaetanga, and has processes and systems in place to ensure it is appropriately accountable to its claimant community. We acknowledge the leadership that you, and others before you, have demonstrated in reaching this point.

We are therefore pleased to recognise the mandate of Te Whakaaetanga to represent ngā hapū Te Whakaaetanga in negotiations with the Crown for the settlement of all their historical Te Tiriti claims.

We encourage you to continue building and maintaining your mandate as you work through negotiations with the Crown, including by continuing to address matters raised in submissions on your Deed of Mandate.

Te Pēwhairangi/Bay of Islands Treaty negotiations

As we have discussed previously, we are concerned to ensure all Bay of Islands hapū can be included in a mandate and the Crown's preference is for between six and eight mandated groupings across Ngāpuhi. Larger groupings will ensure shared interests can be appropriately managed and the full range of redress is available.

We therefore encourage you to actively encourage other Bay of Islands hapū to join Te Whakaaetanga. We also encourage you to work with other Bay of Islands hapū groupings and officials on the approach to Treaty negotiations, including a 'single regional negotiations table' approach where appropriate. Congratulations on achieving this milestone. We look forward to working with you during negotiations.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Paul Goldsmith

**Minister for Treaty of Waitangi
Negotiations**



Hon Tama Potaka

Minister for Māori Development

CC: Coral Panoho-Navaja, Wackrow Panoho and Associates, Coral@wpalawyers.co.nz
Ngairi Wilson, Project Manager, Ngairi@tewhakaetanga.com