



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Ngāi Tai (Tōrere): Decisions for Crown Offer and Agreement in Principle

Portfolio Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

On 25 August 2025, the Cabinet Business Committee:

Background

- 1 **noted** that Ngāi Tai are motivated to settle their historic Treaty of Waitangi claims if the Government can deliver on their areas of focus for the settlement: aquaculture redress, redress over the school in their rohe, and the return of significant amounts of conservation land;

Crown apology redress

- 2 **agreed** that the agreement in principle for settlement will incorporate a provisional set of Crown acknowledgements and a series of provisional historical account headings;

Total settlement value

- 3 **approved** the total settlement value **9(2)(j)** which includes a financial redress amount of \$12.000 million and the cost of cultural redress;

Commercial and cultural redress

Reservation of marine space for aquaculture

- 4 **agreed** to offer Ngāi Tai the reservation of 5,000 ha of reserved marine space within the marine area for aquaculture activities for a period of up to 35 years;
- 5 **noted** that the Crown offer will include up to \$1.000 million to assist Ngāi Tai with resource consent applications, the cost of which will be met by the total settlement value;

Te Kura o Tōrere

- 6 **agreed** to offer Ngāi Tai the sale and leaseback of Te Kura o Tōrere (land only) as cultural redress;

Transfer of conservation land

- 7 **agreed** to offer Ngāi Tai the transfer of ownership of **9(2)(j)** conservation land, subject to a local purpose reserve classification;

8 **agreed**, subject to agreement to paragraph 9 below, to appoint Ngāi Tai to control and manage the remainder of all public conservation land in their area of interest as a local purpose reserve;

9 **agreed** to the reclassification, as a local purpose (Ngāi Tai Whenua Kura and Ecological Restoration) reserve, of any conservation land in the Ngāi Tai area of interest that is transferred to them or they are appointed to control and manage (excluding marginal strips);

10 **agreed** to offer Ngāi Tai a right of deferred selection over up to 3,000 ha of conservation land;

11 9(2)(j) [Redacted]

12 **agreed** to offer Ngāi Tai a right of first refusal over any public conservation land remaining in the Ngāi Tai area of interest;

13 **noted** that Te Tari Whakataua and Department of Conservation officials will explore sites for unencumbered transfer within current policy settings;

Relationship redress

14 **noted** that Ngāi Tai may seek enhancements to their Crown offer in the form of standard relationship redress;

Financial implications

15 **noted** that the cost to the Crown of the settlement proposal for Ngāi Tai is estimated at:

Table A: Financial Implications of the proposed settlement	9(2)(j) [Redacted]	Proposed \$m
<i>Financial and commercial redress</i>		
Financial redress (including \$1.000 million for aquaculture resource consent contribution)	9(2)(j) [Redacted]	12.000

9(2)(j) [Redacted]

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Next steps

- 17 **authorised** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations to present Ngāi Tai with the Crown offer;
- 18 **authorised** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations to sign an agreement in principle with Ngāi Tai should they accept the offer;
- 19 **noted** that the Crown and Ngāi Tai are working towards addressing overlapping interests to the Crown's satisfaction before initialling a deed of settlement;

Delegation to act

- 20 **authorised** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and other relevant portfolio Ministers to finalise or vary the redress consistent with the intent of Cabinet's decisions within the general parameters of the Treaty settlement framework and subject to there being no financial implications.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Nicole McKee