



OFFICE OF TREATY SETTLEMENTS

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Te Tari Whakatau Take e pa ana ki te Tiriti o Waitangi

23 March 2007

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Tēnā koe James

WAI 272 – NGATI POROU MANDATE STRATEGY FOR SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Thank you for your letter dated 22 March 2007. The letter finalises the Crown's assessment of the Wai 272 Ngāti Porou mandate strategy for settlement negotiations.

I am pleased to note that after receiving the supporting mandate material and additional information, officials are now able to provide a considered response to the mandate strategy submitted by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Porou (Te Rūnanga).

Interaction to date

In February 2007 Te Rūnanga submitted its mandate strategy documentation to enter into settlement negotiations with the Crown. In March 2007 the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) completed a preliminary assessment of the strategy. On 14 March 2007 OTS wrote to Te Rūnanga setting out the Crown's suggestions for finalising the strategy.

On 20 March 2007 officials met with Te Rūnanga representatives Dr Apirana Mahuika, Matanuku Mahuika (Kahui Legal) and James Johnston (Rainey Collins) to discuss the points raised in the letter. On 22 March 2007 legal counsel responded on behalf of Te Rūnanga and provided clarification to officials.

The Mandate Strategy

I am pleased that the information provided in your letter dated 22 March 2007 provides the necessary clarification. The material provides information which clarifies

the roles and responsibilities of the Rūnanga Board, the sub-committee and the negotiators. Officials consider that the mandate material also demonstrates that the mandated body and its representatives, including the negotiators will be suitably accountable throughout negotiations.

In addition, the strategy demonstrates that the information hui and postal voting processes will ensure that Ngāti Porou people will be well informed about the proposal, and will have ample opportunity to participate in the Ngāti Porou mandating process. I note that Te Puni Kōkiri observers will also be invited to attend to observe proceedings.

Endorsement of Strategy

As noted above, officials consider that the mandate strategy is sound, and provides the opportunity for the Ngāti Porou people to participate in the mandating process. It also ensures that Te Rūnanga, the sub-committee and the negotiators will be suitably accountable to the Ngāti Porou people throughout negotiations.

Therefore I am pleased to inform you, that following consideration of the mandate strategy material and supporting information received by officials, that the Crown endorses Te Rūnanga's strategy to seek the mandate from the Ngāti Porou people to represent them in settlement negotiations with the Crown for the comprehensive settlement of all Ngāti Porou historical claims.

Next Steps

I appreciate the open and frank discussion we have had to clarify key components of the strategy, and as discussed at the meeting of 20 March 2007, officials look forward to providing advice and comments on the information hui presentation, the postal ballot information and the public notices.

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact Trevor Himona on (04) 494 9830 or I can be contacted at lillian.anderson@justice.govt.nz or on (04) 494 9709.

Nāku noa atu, nā



Lil Anderson
Manager – Policy/Negotiations
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