

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Proactive release – Hauraki: Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for introduction

Date of issue: 17 December 2025

The following documents have been proactively released in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 044.

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.	Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for introduction <i>Cabinet paper</i>	Released in full
2.	Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for introduction <i>Cabinet minute LEG-25-MIN-0202</i> Cabinet Office 9 October 2025	Released in full
3.	Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for introduction <i>Cabinet minute CAB-25-MIN-0354</i> Cabinet Office 13 October 2025	Some information has been withheld in accordance with the following sections of the OIA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• out of scope

Office of the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Cabinet Legislation Committee

Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for introduction

Proposal

- 1 I propose Cabinet approve the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill (the Bill) for introduction to the House of Representatives. The Bill will give effect to aspects of the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Deed of Settlement (the Deed), signed by Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu and the Crown on 26 September.

Policy

- 2 The Crown has accepted an obligation to resolve the historical grievances of Māori arising from Crown actions or omissions before 21 September 1992. The Crown negotiates settlements with large natural groups of tribal interests. Settlements are intended to remove the sense of grievance, settle all historical claims and include a Crown apology in addition to cultural, financial and commercial redress.
- 3 The policy given effect to by this bill directly relates to the Government's commitment to acknowledge and settle the Crown's historical breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi.

Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Treaty negotiations and deed of settlement

- 4 Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu is an iwi of approximately 510 people (2023 Census) located around Te Aroha and their area of interest includes Te Aroha, the Kaimai range to Katikati and Te Puna, the Hauraki Plains, and Coromandel Peninsula. The Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu area of interest is attached at **Appendix One**.
- 5 In 2009, the Crown proposed a regional approach to Treaty settlements in the Hauraki region. The twelve iwi of Hauraki, including Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, formed the Pare Hauraki Collective for the purpose of negotiating collective redress for shared interests in the Hauraki region. The Pare Hauraki Collective has its own separate collective redress deed and Bill. The Crown also entered into individual negotiations with all Hauraki iwi, including Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu.
- 6 On 2 December 2013 and 14 November 2016, Cabinet made decisions on settlement redress for Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu. The redress included acknowledgements and an apology for Crown breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi, the return of 17 sites of significance, two sites jointly vested in Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu and other iwi, \$5.5 million and other cultural and commercial redress. Cabinet authorised the Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations to consider the outcome of ratification of the proposed deed containing the redress for Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, and for the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations to sign the deed on behalf of the Crown [CAB Min 13 42-12 and CAB-16-MIN-0609.01 refer].

7 In mid-2017, the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu claimant community ratified the settlement and supported the establishment of a governance entity to receive the redress. The Ministers at the time considered the ratification process and results (45% participation; 81% in favour of the deed; 77% in favour of the governance entity) and agreed they showed sufficient support for the Crown and Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu to enter into the settlement. On 26 September, following the conclusion of overlapping interests engagement and resolution of final technical matters, I signed the deed with Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu.

8 The delay between ratification and deed signing was due to a Waitangi Tribunal inquiry into Crown process for settlements with Hauraki iwi, including Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu. The Tribunal found the Crown breached its Treaty obligations by failing to undertake an adequate overlapping interests process for settlement redress offered to Hauraki iwi. However, the Tribunal also found the Crown could rely on earlier agreements reached between groups.

9 For Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, this meant further overlapping interests processes were necessary in relation to six cultural redress properties and two protocol areas. The Crown allowed two and a half years for this to occur and supported engagement between Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu and overlapping iwi with information, funding and facilitation. Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu made concerted efforts to address overlapping interests, particularly with Tauranga Moana iwi. Ultimately, by May 2022, overlapping issues were satisfactorily addressed through engagement, in particular with Ngāi Te Rangi who agreed to words in the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu deed that addressed their concerns.

10 Following this, preparations were made to sign their deed in early 2024, however this was delayed because of health issues within their negotiation team. On 26 September, Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu signed the Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Deed (the Collective Deed).

Contentious issues

11 Concerns have been raised by some in the claimant community that the name of the post-settlement governance entity does not include “Rāhiri”. This could be raised at select committee. Ngāti Rāhiri descendants are included as beneficiaries in the claimant definition of the settlement. Ngāti Rāhiri are also included in the definition and interpretation section of the trust deed of Ngāti Tumutumu Trust. I am confident the interests of Ngāti Rāhiri have been provided for.

Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill

12 The deed, and the settlement, are conditional on the settlement legislation coming into force. Section 9 of the deed requires the Crown to propose the draft settlement Bill for introduction to the House of Representatives and for the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu governance entity to support the passage of the Bill through Parliament. More information about the Bill is attached in the Departmental Disclosure Statement at **Appendix Two**.

13 The Bill (attached at **Appendix Three**) is required to ensure the finality of the settlement by removing the ability of the courts and Tribunal to re-open the historical claims of Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, to provide for statutory instruments to be applied, remove statutory memorials from land titles in the claim area and to vest land in the governance entity where normal administrative land transfer processes would not be appropriate (such as public conservation land).

- 14 Where public conservation land is being returned through the settlement, measures have been put in place to ensure the conservation values of those sites are protected and public access, where appropriate, is maintained.
- 15 The Bill uses the standard clauses for Treaty settlement bills, agreed by the Attorney-General and Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations in 2013 and last updated in 2021.
- 16 The structure of the Bill is:
 - 16.1. Part 1: Preliminary matters, historical account, acknowledgements and apology, and settlement of historical claims;
 - 16.2. Part 2: Cultural redress, including the transfer of public conservation land other, statutory acknowledgements, protocols redress and classification of specified areas;
 - 16.3. Part 3: Commercial redress: transfer of commercial property and non-nationalised Crown-owned minerals in property transferring through the settlement; and
 - 16.4. Schedules: Describe the cultural redress and statutory areas.

Impact analysis

- 17 The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana: Te Tari Whakatau is not required to prepare a Regulatory Impact Statement as the Bill does not alter the regulatory regime.

Compliance

- 18 The Bill complies with the following:
 - 18.1. the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 18.2. rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993;
 - 18.3. disclosure statement requirements;
 - 18.4. principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
 - 18.5. Legislation Design and Advisory Committee Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition); and
 - 18.6. relevant international standards and obligations.

Consultation

- 19 The following departments were consulted in the development of the policy implemented in the Bill: The Treasury, Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industries, Department of Inland Revenue, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board and Toitū Te

Whenua Land Information New Zealand. The Crown Law Office and the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) also provided advice in the preparation of the Bill and this paper.

20 The version of the Bill attached at **Appendix Three** is in draft as PCO are undertaking final quality assurance processes to ensure the Bill is ready for introduction. I propose PCO be authorised to make any necessary minor and technical changes to the Bill before introduction.

Binding on the Crown

21 The resulting Act will be binding on the Crown.

Commencement of legislation

22 The resulting Act will come into force on the day after the date on which it receives Royal Assent. Many of the actions or matters occurring under the Bill will occur or take effect on settlement date, which is 60 working days after the date on which the Act comes into force.

Parliamentary stages

23 I propose the Bill be introduced following Cabinet approval.

24 The Bill has a priority 5 category in the 2025 Legislative Programme to proceed to a select committee this year. The Parliamentary Business Committee has agreed that the Hauraki settlement bills may be held prior to third reading in order to associate with other Hauraki bills. However, Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu and I have agreed to progress this Bill individually through to third reading.

25 At first reading I intend to move a motion for a shortened select committee process and will refer it to the Māori Affairs Select Committee. Overlapping groups may choose to submit on the Bill to the Māori Affairs Select Committee and those submissions will be for the committee to consider as part of normal parliamentary process.

Proactive release

26 I intend to release this paper proactively, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982, within 30 business days of the Bill's introduction to the House.

Recommendations

27 The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations recommends the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- a. **note** the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill gives effect to aspects of the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Deed of Settlement (the Deed) signed by Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu and the Crown on 26 September;
- b. **note** the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill holds a category 5 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (to proceed to a select committee by the end of 2025 if possible);
- c. **note** the Parliamentary Counsel Office is undertaking final quality assurance to ensure the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill is ready for introduction;
- d. **authorise** the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make any necessary minor and technical changes to the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill before introduction;
- e. **approve** the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill for introduction subject to the final approval of the Government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- f. **agree** the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill be introduced following Cabinet approval;
- g. **agree** the government propose the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill be:
 - i. referred to the Māori Affairs committee for consideration; and
 - ii. enacted, if possible, in the first half of 2026.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

On 9 October 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill (the Bill) gives effect to aspects of the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Deed of Settlement, signed by Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu and the Crown on 26 September 2025;
- 2 **noted** that the Bill holds a category 5 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (to proceed to select committee by the end of 2025);
- 3 **authorised** the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make any necessary minor and technical changes to the Bill before introduction;
- 4 **approved** the Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill [PCO 20327/4.0] for introduction;
- 5 **agreed** that the Government propose that the Bill be:
 - 5.1 referred to the Māori Affairs committee for consideration; and
 - 5.2 enacted, if possible, in the first half of 2026.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Judith Collins KC (Chair)
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon James Meager
Stuart Smith, MP
Todd Stephenson, MP
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG
Office of the Leader of the House
Office of the Attorney-General



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 10 October 2025

On 13 October 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 10 October 2025:

Out of scope

LEG-25-MIN-0202

Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu Claims Settlement Bill:

Approval for Introduction

Portfolio: Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

CONFIRMED

Out of scope

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Out of scope



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations