



Office of Hon Christopher Finlayson

Attorney-General
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

3 NOV 2011

Te Ariki Sir Tumu Te Heuheu
Chair
Tūwharetoa Hapū Forum
PO Box 1344
TAUPŌ

Tēnā koe Sir Tumu

I write to confirm the Crown's recognition of the mandate of the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Hapū Forum (the Forum) to represent the constituent iwi and hapū (listed in **Appendix 1**) of Ngāti Tūwharetoa in direct negotiations with the Crown towards the comprehensive settlement of all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

The Minister of Māori Affairs and I consider the process followed by the Forum to gain the support of the claimant community was open and transparent. We also consider the Forum is accountable to the claimant community. In order to fully address accountability requirements we ask that the Forum append to the Deed of Mandate a process that would allow the Ngāti Tūwharetoa claimant community to remove Tūwharetoa Hapū Forum's mandate to negotiate an Ngāti Tūwharetoa comprehensive Treaty settlement with the Crown.

We note that through the submission process, some concerns were raised about the Forum's engagement and communication with the Ngāti Tūwharetoa claimant community. Given these concerns, and the mandate reconfirmation process concluded in late 2010, we consider it important that the Forum take steps to actively engage with the Ngāti Tūwharetoa claimant community following mandate recognition and throughout negotiations. Our officials will closely monitor mandate maintenance reports to ensure issues raised by submitters are addressed.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your path to settlement with the Crown. I look forward to working with you.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Christopher Finlayson
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations