

16 September 2019

Waitangi Tribunal
Level 7
Fujitsu Tower
141 The Terrace
Wellington, New Zealand

Tēnā koe,

Re: Te Whānau a Apanui – Wai 1750 North-Eastern Bay of Plenty District Inquiry

We refer to the letter dated 21 November 2016 from representatives of all 12 hapū of te Whānau a Apanui to the Waitangi Tribunal (the “**Tribunal**”) informing the Tribunal that the hapū of te Whānau a Apanui had elected to engage in direct negotiations with the Crown in respect of the settlement of their historic Treaty of Waitangi claims. The hapū accordingly requested that Te Whānau a Apanui be withdrawn from the North-Eastern Bay of Plenty Inquiry to give Te Whānau a Apanui the opportunity to progress direct negotiations with the Crown.

Negotiations have been underway since the latter part of 2017. In these negotiations the hapū of Te Whānau a Apanui have been represented by mandated negotiators acting on the advice and direction of a forum comprising the chairs of each of the hapū (“Hapū Chairs”). On 28 June 2019 the hapū of Te Whānau a Apanui entered into an Agreement in Principle with the Crown.

The Hapū Chairs recently become aware that the Tribunal is seeking views on the possible scope of a North-Eastern Bay of Plenty Waitangi Tribunal Inquiry. The Hapū Chairs met in Te Kaha on 29 August 2019, which was the same day as the judicial conference called by the Waitangi Tribunal to consider the scope of any North-Eastern Bay of Plenty Waitangi Tribunal Inquiry. Representatives of 11 hapū of Te Whānau a Apanui were in attendance (the representative from Te Whānau a Hinetekahu was unable to attend).

At this hui, the Hapū Chairs present unanimously reaffirmed:

- their commitment to pursue direct negotiations with the Crown; and
- their position that the current North-Eastern Bay of Plenty Inquiry should be limited solely to those matters, issues and experiences of Te Whakatohea (and therefore exclude any Te Whānau a Apanui claims).

The Hapū Chairs therefore reiterate, respectfully, that Te Whānau a Apanui not be included in any North-Eastern Bay of Plenty Inquiry. The strong desire of Te Whānau a Apanui is to continue to progress the current direct negotiations with the Crown.

Noho ora mai



Katarina Edmonds
Chair of the Hapū Chairs Forum

RECEIVED Waitangi Tribunal
8 Oct 2019
Ministry of Justice WELLINGTON