

APPENDIX A

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OF DOREEN PURU

1. I am so mad.
2. In my life (63 years of it), I have seen a lot of things my people have been through. I think of the feisty leaders, women leaders who have no equal in today's world. There are some up and coming strong wahine, but none as I have seen and heard with my own ears and eyes. They would be soooo mad. Āe mārika. We need them today. Let me tell you why.
3. We have a new government, who it seems to me, want to get rid of Māori. I have my theories and thoughts as to why, but none I share here. Today, I will try to show you why I, and my people, are so mad. Why we fly our flags, and come up with degrading slogans we chant as we cross the Waitangi bridge. Why we swear at the govt and rant on about their thought processes that take all our energy to understand, and so much more. I start here:
4. On the 19th January, 2024, Te Pāti Māori leaked the government's draft Treaty of Waitangi principles.¹ These are:

Article 1: The New Zealand Government has the right to govern all New Zealanders

Article 2: The New Zealand Government will honour all New Zealanders in the chieftainship of their land and all their property

Article 3: All New Zealanders are equal under the law with the same rights and duties.

5. That compared with the current Treaty of Waitangi principles, which are:
 - a. The Government has the right to govern and make laws;
 - b. Iwi have the right to organise as iwi and, under the law, control their resources as their own;

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

25 Mar 24

Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

¹ <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2024/01/te-p-ti-m-ori-claims-leaked-government-s-draft-treaty-of-waitangi-principles.html>

- c. All New Zealanders are equal before the law
 - d. Both the Government and iwi are obliged to accord each other reasonable cooperation on major issues of common concern
 - e. The Government is responsible for providing effective processes for the resolution of grievances in the expectation that reconciliation can occur.
6. Our current Treaty gives normal people, like me, a way to hold the government to account. This draft treaty, especially articles one and two, gives the govt so much room for corruption, with the easy ability to totally ignore article 3.
7. I don't understand why the new government thinks they should change the Treaty. All their draft articles are actually covered in the current Treaty. What's the problem? Of course, the problem is, the last two articles of the current Treaty that both refer specifically to Māori. Without those two articles, where would we go to protect Māori rights, our identity and our sovereignty? Nowhere.
8. I don't have the time to search out statistics. However, from personal experience, I can tell you that the only thing that saved Māori people, our culture, our reo, is the Treaty of Waitangi. Our old feisty ladies fought under the Treaty to restore our language. To have our land returned. To have references made in law. To have koiwi returned. We have come a long way. We still have a long way to go. The new government's treaty leaves no room whatsoever for Māori to find reconciliation.
9. What law, without the Treaty, addresses the return of Māori land? What law understands what was taken from us? Thousands and thousands of pages have been written, stating what was taken from us. Read submissions and reports to and from the Waitangi Tribunal and you will get an idea. Judges, lawyers, politicians, learned professionals... Are you saying they are all wrong? What of the Māori Land Court? Is this new government saying the politicians of old made a huuuuge mistake in creating the MLC? If the new government allows the MLC to continue, wouldn't that negate their articles?

There is no sense in their thinking.

10. In the international community, our Treaty gives other indigenous people hope. I lived in Australia for a time and I had Aboriginal people telling me that they look to New Zealand for a way to help them. They would like to emulate our Treaty and get their government to write a similar Treaty. They tell me 'Your mob is doing ok over there eh. You got your language back and your land. You come show us how to tell our government what to do eh.' I laugh of course because I know we have a long way to go. But also the native American Indians. My sister attended a world conference in Geneva one year and she told me the native American Indians spent some time with the Māori leaders, discussing ways to revitalise their language as well. Could this draft treaty do this? I don't think so.
11. I truly think the draft articles were made up in someone's bedroom late at night, with nothing but a dream. They are sloppy, address no concerns, give no solutions and take nothing into account. Not the law, not Māori, no accountability from the government to the people. Terrible.
12. The draft treaty gives rise to so many things concerning Māori.
13. **The disestablishment of a Māori Health Authority.** Whatever form a Māori Health Authority takes on, can only be good for Māori. I am no expert on the subject of health. But Māori mental health definitely needs unique practices to help Māori understand and deal with their mental health. Crime statistics for Māori, can sometimes lead back to Māori mental health as well. We need our own Māori Health Authority.
14. Not to mention the high level of diabetes in the Māori community. Obesity is rife. We don't like lettuce as a rule and prefer pork bones and watercress with dough boys and a cup of tea or coffee with two sugars. That is as ingrained as our blood. Our attitudes toward food needs to change and I can tell you, the current health system does not work for us. We have survived, yes, but we are no healthier than 185 years ago. If anything, we are worse.
15. **Māori Education Authorities.** What happens to all our educational facilities? Te Kohanga Reo? Kura Kaupapa? Ngā Wanānga o Aotearoa / Awanuiarangi?

They weren't set up on a mere whim. They took years of discussion, acknowledgement, losses and wins to develop into what they are today. These are to revitalise te reo. To keep our reo strong. To keep our kawa strong. To keep marae practices strong. To give our mokopuna a healthier, robust way forward in this world. Honestly, what would New Zealand's identity be without our Māori culture? The All Blacks without the haka? No.

16. **The draft treaty is illegal.** There is no provision within the current treaty for changes.
17. **Preserving the Treaty of Waitangi** in its present state is a testament to New Zealand's equity, justice and unity. It is the cornerstone document, symbolizing the agreement and partnership between Māori and the British crown. It is the establishment of the foundation for governance, rights and relationships between the Māori settlers and the British settlers. It is imperative to recognise the intrinsic value and the enduring significance of the Treaty, arguing against any proposed changes.
18. It is not just a legal contract, but a symbolic covenant between two distinct cultures, aiming to foster cooperation, mutual respect and shared prosperity. Its provisions outline the rights of Māori to our lands, resources and customs. While also recognising the authority of the British Crown to govern and protect ALL inhabitants of New Zealand. The treaty's beginnings were a product of dialogue, albeit imperfect, reflecting the aspirations of both Māori chiefs and British officials. To change and undermine the current Treaty, disregard the struggles, negotiations and compromises that led to its creation in the first place. It would diminish the trust and goodwill it sought to establish all those years ago. The preservation of the Treaty in its original form honours the legacy of those who crafted it and acknowledges those who signed it.
19. In my opinion, any attempt to alter the Treaty of Waitangi would raise profound questions about constitutional agreements and the rule of law. It would set a dangerous precedent, casting doubt on the stability and integrity of

20. New Zealand's legal system. It will erode the confidence of its citizens. To preserve the integrity of New Zealand's legal system, it is essential to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi, in its present form.
21. I could write pages and pages on what the Treaty means to New Zealand, to Māori, to me. What I have written is only the tip of the iceberg. I haven't even touched on the 14 issues the Waitangi Tribunal reported on.² I won't even go into the topic of Veteran's, Mana Wahine or any of those things. There is just too much information to justify leaving the Treaty of Waitangi as it is.
22. What really, really makes us mad, is that this new government is trampling on the mana of all our tupuna who have gone before us. Who fought for all governments since the Treaty was formed, to HONOR THE TREATY. What of our mokopuna? What of the future for them? This world is unstable enough without sending them out to the world with no identity of their own. I truly fear this could be a reality if our Treaty is not upheld.
23. This new draft treaty has no mana. There was no consultation with Māori. There were no nationwide hui to debate the topic of change. There was no chance for Māori to have a say. But what really makes me angry is, once again:
24. **We have been ignored.**

Dated at Otangaroa this 26th day of February 2024



Doreen Puru
One of the Named Claimants of Wai 1684

² In reference to the Wai 1040: Te Paparahi o Te Raki Northland District Inquiry.