

c) NIA Correspondence for the *Dissolution of the WAI 78 Claimants*,

dated 1 August 2025

Pg1/2



Thursday 31 July 2025

To: The claimants and interested parties of the Wai 78 Claim
Subject: Dissolution of current Wai 78 claimant group and immediate transition measures

Dear Wai 78 Claimants,

This letter is to formally notify you that, effective immediately, the current named claimants of Wai 78 will be stood down.

The decision to stand down the existing claimant group was not taken lightly. While the intentions of those involved have been genuine, the group has faced persistent challenges, including an inability to meet consistently, resolve internal disagreements, or fulfil its core responsibilities in progressing the claim. As a result, meaningful advancement of Wai 1750 has been significantly hindered.

As a matter of urgency the Waitangi Tribunal has determined to treat the Waipaoa inquiry as a separate inquiry from Wai 1750 and has been assigned the Wai number: 3555. We have been directed by the Judge, to file an Amended Statement of Claim (ASOC) by 26 August to formally register the proposed changes and secure the Ministry of Justice's acceptance of the Waipaoa and Mangatū District Inquiry. This filing is both time-sensitive and crucial to re-establish coordinated momentum.

We recognise that the current structural dysfunction has persisted for some time. Despite multiple efforts to re-engage and move the kaupapa forward, there has been no sustainable resolution. Given the gravity of the issues at stake, and the importance of this claim for Ngāi Tai, decisive action is required.

The Ngaitai Iwi Authority (NIA) met on 29 July to formally address the ongoing issues, and reset the claimant group structure to restore momentum and accountability. At that meeting, the following actions were taken:

- The existing claimant group was stood down due to ongoing dysfunction and lack of progress.
- New claimant representatives were voted in by NIA to lead the next phase of the claim.
- A hui-a-iwi has been scheduled for 3 August at Torere Marae to present these decisions to the wider claimant community, confirm resolutions, and acknowledge the incoming representatives.

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Waitangi Tribunal

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- An Amended Statement of Claim (ASOC) will be filed by 26 August to formalise the changes and enable the Ministry of Justice to recognise the restructured group within the Waipaoa and Mangatū District Inquiry process.

This sequence of decisions marks a reset, not to diminish past contributions, but to ensure the claim can now move forward with clear leadership, unity, and urgency. This is a critical time for the Wai 78, and Wai 1750 claim. The community deserves proactive, transparent and united leadership. We thank those who have attempted to contribute over the years, and we respectfully close this chapter to enable new leadership to emerge.

Nga mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anaru Vercoe", is displayed within a light blue rectangular box.

Anaru Vercoe
Chair, Ngaitai Iwi Authority