

I TE RŌPU WHAKAMANA  
I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

WAI 682

KEI RARO I TE MANA o te ture o te Tiriti o Waitangi 1975

Ā

## I TE TAKE O

he kereme na Rewiti Paraone, Erima Henare, Pita Tipene and Waihoroi Shortland mo Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine mo ngā uri o Torongare me Hauhau (Wai 682)

## KŌRERO TAUNAKI Ā WAIHOROI SHORTLAND

I tēnei rā, i te rā 20 Āperira 2026

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

**21 Apr 26**Ministry of Justice  
WELLINGTON

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## TĒNĀ, E TE ROOPŪ WHAKAMANA I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI:

1. Where to begin.
2. Two years ago, I gave evidence in opposition to the Government's Treaty Principles Bill and Treaty Clause Review.<sup>1</sup>
3. Here I am again. "Once more unto the breach dear friends, once more".<sup>2</sup>
4. The Crown knows what te Tiriti o Waitangi means to Ngāti Hine; a kawenata tapu, here ki te rangi, here ki te whenua [bound to the heavens, bound to the land].
5. When our tūpuna put their sacred marks on te Tiriti, drawn as they were from the ngū of the nose, they sealed a pact of honour with the Queen. It was a sacred commitment to work together in nationhood.
6. As descendants of te Tiriti, we are the kaitiaki of that kawenata tapu. And not just of the principles that have come out of it; it falls to us to uphold and protect te Tiriti as the sacred commitment our tūpuna made. It is an ongoing duty we are bound to by our forebears whose names and tohu were etched into te Tiriti.
7. In this respect, honour and integrity require the Crown to come to us before making any decisions which impact te Tiriti.
8. We engage with Crown ministers often; we met with them at the Waitangi celebrations this year. Not once were we told that the Government was progressing the Treaty Clause Review in this way.
9. Opting to consult only with the Pou Tikanga of the Iwi Leaders Group is the Government taking short cuts, though I do not believe they are likely to garner any support there. The opinion of any Pou Tikanga must in all conscience decry what the Government is doing.


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<sup>1</sup> Wai 3300, #A10, *Kōrero Taunaki a Waihoroi Shortland* (29 Paengawhāwhā 2024).

<sup>2</sup> William Shakespeare, Henry V, *Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more*, (Act III, Scene I).

10. My own perspective is that the Government's actions continue to pander to a certain constituency, one which will always consider the affirmation of treaty principles as divisive because somehow, they promote the Māori world view above the world view of others.
11. The sceptic in me sees little gain in removing the duty to give effect to treaty principles in legislation. After all, nothing about the principles is counter to good government. Nothing about them is detrimental to the economy. Nothing about them denies the rights of other citizens to enjoy the freedom the treaty affords them. Rather, treaty principles ensure we are all governed well. They were developed in consideration of the benefits that could accrue from a shared future.
12. It is not just an anathema, it is an amoral position that the Crown adopts the lowest form of recognition it needs to give to the treaty. That this concerns a conversation about treaty principles rather than the treaty itself is demonstrable of that.
13. What the Government repeatedly fails to recognise is how these decisions impact Māori and how it makes us feel about our place in society. It diminishes our cultural perspective and identity. By taking actions like these, the Crown devalues the innate promise made between the two nations and the mutual benefits they stood to share.
14. From a Ngāti Hine perspective, giving effect to the principles of the treaty in legislation gives us some assurance that the Crown is serious about its Tiriti obligations and that it does not intend to repeat past breaches of te Tiriti. Actions like those of the Crown now only increase that possibility.

**I TĒNEI RĀ, te rā 20 o Āperira 2026**



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Waihoroi Shortland