

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 kerēme nā Rewiti Paraone rātou ko Erima Henare, ko Pita Tipene, ko Waihoroi Shortland mō Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine mō ngā uri o Torongare and Hauhaua (Wai 682)

HE KŌRERO TAUNAKI A MOE MILNE

I tēnei rā i te 20 o Āperira 2026

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

21 Apr 26Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

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Ngā rōia

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TĒNĀ, E TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI:

Hei timatanga kōrero

1. Ko Moe Milne tōku ingoa. He uri ahau nō Ngāti Hine.
2. Te Ruki Kawiti signed te Tiriti o Waitangi on the promise that it would continue to protect our people, as he had spent his life doing. That is the whakapapa of te Tiriti o Waitangi.

“The Government has lied to us”

3. This is a big deal. I believe the Government has lied to us. When we made submissions on the Treaty Principles Bill, the Government told us not to worry, that the Bill would not go ahead. Instead, the Government has quietly progressed the Treaty clause review in the background. It has done this without any consultation or participation being sought from treaty partners like Ngāti Hine. I believe the Treaty Principles Bill was a smoke screen for the Treaty clause review.
4. How we came to find out about the Treaty clause review being in its final stages was shocking. I attended the Wai 3553 Education and Training Amendment Act and Te Mātaiaho Urgent Inquiry hearing, where a number of documents were put on the Record of Inquiry by the Crown lawyers, including a Cabinet Paper “Review of References to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in Legislation: Next Steps; Regulatory Impact Statement”; and Cabinet Minute “Review of References to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in Legislation” (**attached** as “Appendix A” to my evidence).¹ That is how I learned that the Treaty clause review had been silently progressed; during the course of the Education Urgency hearing. We also found out that “consultation” was the Minister writing to the Iwi Leaders Forum about the Treaty clause review.
5. It is shocking to me because our relationship with the Crown is based on a treaty partnership. The decision by one party to review the very

¹ Wai 3553, #A52, *Additional documents for the Crown* (16 April 2026).

thing that underpins that partnership – the Treaty – without informing us or having a transparent discussion with us, transgresses the very terms of that partnership.

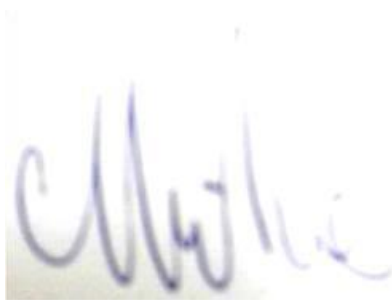
6. In further discussions throughout the Education Urgency hearing, and seeing news reports over the weekend, I have become aware that of all the Government's actions, the Treaty clause review is the one we needed to have been concerned about.
7. I am extremely worried and upset about the impact the proposed changes to treaty clauses in legislation will have for Māori across the board. Whether it be in relation to education, climate, health or the environment; we will now have almost no visibility or influence in the laws that are supposed to protect us.
8. The impact on Māori of the treaty being reduced in legislation? It does not even bear thinking about. I almost want to cry about it. It feels like the Crown simply do not have one ounce of care about the treaty and our people.
9. The rewording of treaty clauses will impact on all facets of our lives. The practical reality is that te Tiriti o Waitangi will simply become a tick box exercise. We know tokensim when we see it. Te Tiriti o Waitangi will not be implemented. It will be left out. On the ground, it will mean Māori are not part of important decisions and discussions.
10. The real hurt for me is that our tamariki and mokopuna will not get to benefit from all of the work we have spent a lifetime doing, to get access (in law) to all of these options and pathways for them. For all of the progress we have made with the status and place of te Tiriti o Waitangi in Aotearoa, to be gone, just like that.

Kōrero whakakapi

11. Ngāti Hine consider ourselves kaitiaki of te Tiriti o Waitangi. We are te Tiriti partners with the Crown. We spend time, energy and resources contributing to Waitangi Tribunal and court processes and proceedings, to ensure the mana of te Tiriti o Waitangi is upheld.

12. When the Crown sought to enter into an agreement with us, Te Ruki Kawiti looked across the whenua and waterways of Ngāti Hine, and decided the best way to protect us was to enter into a partnership based on mutual respect and good faith. That is the whakapapa of te Tiriti o Waitangi and of Aotearoa, and that is why we seek an urgent inquiry by the Waitangi Tribunal.

I TĒNEI RĀ, te rā 20 o Āperira 2026



Moe Milne