I TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI **Wai 3565**
IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL **Wai 58**

In the Matter	of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975
And	
In the Matter	of the Te Tinihanga o Ngā Mātāpono o te Tiriti – the Treaty Principles Reform Urgent Inquiry (Wai 3565
And	
In the Matter	of a claim by Patricia Tauroa and Robyn Tauroa on behalf of Ngā Hapū o Whangaroa (Wai 58)

HE KŌRERO TAUNAKI A DANIEL (RANIERA) KAIO
BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF DANIEL (RANIERA) KAIO

Dated 19 MAY 2026

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RECEIVED
Waitangi Tribunal
19 May 26
Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

TĒNĀ E TE TARAIPIUNARA
MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Raniera Kaio. I provide this brief of evidence on behalf of Wai 58 for Wai 3565: Te Tinihanga o Ngā Mātāpono o te Tiriti / the Treaty Principles Reform Urgent Inquiry.

2. I currently serve as the Pouārahi of Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa. I have been asked by my whānau to make a short statement in respect of this Urgent Inquiry, and how it impacts our whānau hapū of Whangaroa.

3. We strongly support Ngāti Hine's application for an Urgent Inquiry and agree that the proposed amendments to Treaty provisions raise issues of serious and widespread significance for our whānau and hapū.

4. From a Whangaroa perspective, these matters carry particular weight. Whangaroa is the seat of Te Whakaminenga and of the establishment of He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni. That constitutional history is not merely symbolic; it underpins the continuing authority of Māori political organisation and the Crown-Māori relationship, and it informs the enduring effect and interpretation of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi within legislation and public administration.

5. Any weakening or removal of Treaty provisions therefore has direct implications not only for contemporary service delivery under Crown contracts, but also for the constitutional foundations that sustain those arrangements. The likely flow on effects for rural Māori communities, including those in Te Tai Tokerau already facing compounding pressures from climate events and emergencies, are significant and warrant scrutiny.

6. The practical, constitutional, and community impacts of the proposed changes will be immense, especially when our whānau and kaimahi are already facing real constraints on time, energy, and resources. We worry about how the watering down of obligations under te Tiriti to "take into account" is likely to have the effect of less engagement, even less resourcing, and will render us less able to hold the Crown accountable.

7. Furthermore, it is deeply concerning that Whangaroa Māori were not consulted regarding these proposed reforms and that our only forums were through the National Iwi Chairs Forum, or within the Select Committee stage of the process. This again, puts us, at the tail end of the conversation, to be consulted as an afterthought, and a tick box exercise. It is the process that happens when our Treaty partner is merely asked to "take into account" the principles of te Tiriti.

8. The lack of transparency in this process too is reminiscent of the process undertaken when our tupuna and rangatira signed te Tiriti o Waitangi. Promises were made and broken back in 1840, and over a hundred and eighty years later, history repeats itself.

Dated at Kaeo this 19th day of May 2026

Rahiera Kaio
on behalf of Wai 58