OFFICIAL

WAITANGI TRIBUNAL **Wai 898, Wai 457**

IN THE MATTER OF The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER OF The Rohe Potae District Inquiry

AND

IN THE MATTER OF A Claim by the Tuhoro Whanau

OPENING SUBMISSIONS
TUHORO WHANAU CLAIM

6TH NOVEMBER 2013

RECEIVED
Waitangi Tribunal
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WELLINGTON

BENNION LAW

Barristers and Solicitors
PO Box 25 433
Panama Street
Wellington
Tel: 64-4-4735755
Fax: 64-4-473575

Counsel Acting: TH Bennion

May it please the Tribunal

1.1 This is the claim of Meihana Uenuku Tuwhatu Tuhoro, who died in 2000. He often spoke to his whanau about the lands held by his father Meihana Tuwhainoa Tuhoro, that had been taken by Crown actions.

1.2 The claim is one of the oldest before the Tribunal, Wai 457 lodged in 1994. At an early stage Meihana Tuhoro saw the Tribunal as a way to get answers to questions that had been affecting the whanau for several generations.

1.3 The whanau looked at the possibility getting research completed that would focus on the family concerns under the current research programme and decided that a more direct course was to commission a report for themselves.

1.4 They will explain what it means to them as a whanau to have their story finally set out in a report. They are astonished at how often and how directly Crown actions affected the family.

1.5 The whanau appreciate that elements of their story are not unique. They issue a challenge to the Tribunal to ensure that whanau stories find their rightful place in the report and to make recommendations for settlement that will help whanau.

Local authority issues

1.6 The evidence briefs mention several local authority actions:[1]

(a) Town drainage issues and the taking of Orahiri Y;

(b) The proposed change of the name of Tuhoro Street;

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[1] #O14 paragraphs 4.43ff, 5.1, 6.1

(c) Order to tear down Te Rau Rau-Iti-a-Haere.

1.7 While these actions hurt the whanau, the whanau appreciate that they were undertaken by a predecessor organisation to the current local authority, and that the key issue is the legislation and policies that allowed such actions to occur. In as far those actions have resulted in lands being held today by the district council and are defined as private land, they appreciate the limit of the Tribunal ability to recommend return.

DATED at Wellington this 6th day of November 2013

T H Bennion / L Black
Counsel for Wai 457