

RONGOWHAKAATA CLAIMS COMMITTEE / NEGOTIATORS

Claims PANUI and Update – June 2011

JUNE 2011 CLAIMS UPDATE

Preparations have been undertaken to prepare for an **Initialling of the Deed of Settlement on Friday July 8th** at Te Hau Ki Turanga in Wellington as prelude to

- **Iwi Ratification** and decision-making, and
- **Formal Signing of the Deed** in August

Under the leadership of Lead Negotiator Willie Te Aho the Claims Process has moved with greater cohesion and direction towards this likely completion:

- Cross claims issues between ourselves and Mahaki and other iwi resolved,
- A collective approach has been by the two remaining Turanga iwi including
 - a) Joint Entity to administrate and manage shared properties,
 - b) Cooperative positions on LLB and with Tamanuhiri as well,
- Acceptable and workable agreements with other iwi and the Crown in Kaiti particularly regarding the right of hapu including Ngai Tawhiri,
- Movement and agreement with Nga Uri O Te Kooti Rikirangi over mutual matters and with support from Mahaki.

Together with those matters where we had already reached some measure of agreement with all other parties – Te Whakarau, Ngai Tamanuhiri and the Crown, the basis for the initialling to occur were positive.

Ratification Hui – the draft schedule put together areas to be visited by a small team included:

Wellington / Auckland / Hamilton / Heretaunga / Rotorua / Whakatane (since withdrawn) / Gisborne / Christchurch (since withdrawn) and Sydney and Brisbane (Australia)

A **Ratification Booklet** is in the process of completion to contain data relevant to the Deed of Settlement, the PSGE and procedural matters relating to Rongowhakaata Iwi Members.

Detailed documentation associated with both the **Deed of Settlement** and the proposed **PSGE** will eventually be made accessible and available during the ratification period and will be advertised then.

NEGOTIATIONS ON HOLD – Gisborne Herald June 12

The decision involving the Mangatu Forests and the requirement to take that matter through the Tribunal process has:

- Resulted in the Mahaki Claims efforts being put on hold and some rearrangements therein, and
- Has created some issues for the Rongowhakaata Claims as well. Obviously the joint approach has vanished but other implications for us have lead to our own Claims to be put on hold.
- The Claims Committee are holding meetings to deal with this and present to the Hui-a- Iwi set down for Saturday 25th June at Manutuke Marae and have therefore "*paused "negotiations"*".

Pausing negotiations is necessary, as the Crown is not prepared to negotiate the settlement of historical claims while redress for those claims is simultaneously pursued through the courts or the Waitangi Tribunal. Statement from Crown – Gisborne Herald

MANUTUKE HUI-A-IWI Saturday 25th June 2011

Given the serious implications of matters above the Claims Committee and Lead Negotiator Willie Te Aho sought to consult and seek the opinion of whanau, hapu.

The key outcomes from that hui were:

- Iwi updated as to the state of play of proceedings,
- Update on requirements relating to the PSGE and
- A resolution agreeing to "*continue negotiations with the Crown with the intention of initialing a Deed of Settlement by 8 July 2011*" and
- A position seeking to protect the interests of Rongowhakaata within the Legislative processes.
- The **Ratification process** and dates were confirmed from **8th July** with a close of voting by **August 8th**.

This means that a signing at Whakato in August 2011 is a reality

The Claims Committee also confirmed the locations to be part of the **Ratification Hui** visits with public notice to be made through the NZ Herald and Dominion Post

- Wellington – THKT 8th July
 - Heretaunga – Whakatu Hall 8th July
 - Gisborne – Te Pahou Marae 9th July
 - Rotorua – venue TBC 10th July
 - Hamilton – Ngaruawahia Community House 10th July
 - Auckland – venue TBC 11th July
 - Sydney – venue TBC 12th July
 - Brisbane – venue TBC 13th July
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JULY 5TH 2011 STOP PRESS

Apologies

*At the time that preparations were being made to advertise the initialing on the **8th July** and the info for the Ratification Hui we were advised by the Crown that changes would have to be made to the timing and arrangements for the **Initialing** and to the **Ratification Hui**.*

This has meant withdrawing the Public Notices which was to be made through the national newspapers. When the new dates are decided we will notify everyone of the new details.

This may also affect the venue as well as the date for the initialing. It could move into the following week.

Naku noa
Na
Manawa-Ote-Rangi (Buff) WAIPARA, Claims Coordinator



Upper Valley of The Te Arai river.



From SH Bridge looking east