Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Level 2, Justice Centre
19 Aitken Street
SX10111
Wellington 6011

16 November 2026 REF: OIA 88981

[redacted] 9(2)(a)
[redacted]
By email: [redacted]

Tēnā koutou,

Request for Official Information: Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 October 2026 requesting for the period 4 August 2026 to date of request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the **Act**):

1) *"the latest version of the Whangaroa Papa Hapū draft mandate strategy held by Te Tari Whakatau, together with subsequent amendments and records explaining those changes;*
2) *records establishing the current status of the strategy and proposed mandate;*
3) *records of any steps taken, proposed or authorised to endorse the strategy, authorise mandate hui or voting, recognise a mandate, approve funding, or otherwise progress the process;*
4) *advice, recommendations and decisions concerning whether progression should occur while objections about hapū authority, representation or participation remain unresolved;*
5) *current and superseded timetables, work programmes and milestone schedules covering further engagement, submissions, assessments, mandate hui and voting and decisions;*
6) *records identifying the officials, Ministers or other persons responsible for each material decision, including applicable delegations and approval requirements;*
7) *records showing changes to the timetable since 4 August 2026 and the reasons recorded for those changes;*
8) *plans for notifying affected hapū of decisions and making reasons and supporting information available;*
9) *the criteria, policies, guidance and assessment tools being applied to mandate, representation, accountability and hapū support;*
10) *assessments of the proposed process against the Red Book, including requirements concerning claimant definition, consultation, representation, opposition and mandate maintenance;*
11) *records assessing the relevance and application of Ngā Umu Tapu principles and processes;*
12) *records identifying departures from applicable guidance, together with any justification, approval or proposed corrective action;*

13) *the currents lists of hapū, marae, claimant groups, Wai claims and communities proposed for inclusion, together with records explaining the basis for inclusion or exclusion;*
14) *evidence relied upon to establish that each included hapū has authorised Whangaroa Papa Hapū to represent it or progress a mandate on its behalf;*
15) *assessments of disputed authority, overlapping interests, objections to inclusion, or requests to withdraw;*
16) *advice and correspondence concerning direct engagement with hapū, their ability to nominate representatives, and whether claimant organisations should serve as the principal or exclusive channel for engagement;*
17) *submission registers, existing tallies, coding methods and analyses relied upon in assessing support and opposition;*
18) *reports distinguishing individual submissions, collective hapū positions, conditional support, opposition and unresolved concerns;*
19) *records explaining how the authority of persons claiming to speak for a hapū was assessed;*
20) *records addressing whether attendance, silence, participation in discussions or failure to submit has been treated as evidence of support;*
21) *responses to objections and any existing reports showing which concerns have been resolved, how they were resolved, and which remain outstanding;*
22) *records of receipt, circulation, consideration and allocation of responsibility for our letter dated 15 September 2026;*
23) *internal correspondence, advice, draft responses and decisions concerning its proposal;*
24) *records addressing our requests for a status update, a hapū-inclusive process, a common information pack, adequate notice, direct hapū feedback and transparent assessment;*
25) *any recorded reasons for accepting, modifying, rejecting or deferring those proposal;*
26) *proposal, terms of reference and selection criteria for an independent facilitator;*
27) *records concerning facilitator independence, conflicts of interest, participant agreement, funding and appointment;*
28) *draft agendas, invitations, participants lists, notice periods, tikanga arrangements and plans for online participation;*
29) *arrangements for recording kōrero, correcting draft minutes, publishing confirmed records and reporting unresolved matters;*
30) *all requests, advice, recommendations and decisions concerning pausing or suspending the mandate process;*
31) *any records reasons for declining or limiting a pause;*
32) *records identifying steps permitted to continue while objections are considered, and the authority for allowing those steps;*
33) *any conditions that must be satisfied before further progression occurs;*
34) *any proposed information pack or index of documents intended for affected hapū;*
35) *records concerning disclosure of mandate boundaries, claimant definitions, voting proposals, submissions, assessment reports and key correspondence;*
36) *proposed requirements for reporting to hapū replacing representatives, withdrawing from or amending a mandate, resolving disputes and periodically confirming continuing support;*
37) *records identifying available review or reconsideration process;*
38) *funding approvals, agreements, conditions and payment schedules relating to the mandate process that were made, amended or relied upon during the requested period; and*

39) records of any commitments to Whangaroa Papa Hapū about progression, recognition or funding made before completion of the proposed further hapū engagement.

Our response to your request is set out below.

Response to parts 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 38 and 39

We are refusing parts 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 38 and 39 of your request under section 18(e) of the Act because the information you have requested does not exist or is not held by Te Tari Whakatau or another Crown agency.

Response to parts 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 35 and 36

We are refusing parts 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 35 and 36 of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information you requested is or will soon be publicly available.

The information you have requested can be found at:

- WPH draft mandate strategy;
- Submissions and analysis part 1;
- Submissions and analysis part 2;
- Submissions and analysis part 3;
- Documents related to development and agreement of draft mandate strategy;
- Hapū grouping development and submissions part 1;
- Hapū grouping development and submissions part 2;
- Hapū grouping development and submissions part 3;
- Hapū grouping development and submissions part 4;
- Hapū grouping development and submissions part 5; and
- Hapū grouping development and submissions part 6.

Response to parts 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 32, 33 and 37

Please find attached as **Appendix One** a table of documents and information released in response to parts 5, 22, 23, 24 and 25 of your request.

Some of this information has been withheld in part under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a)– to protect the privacy of natural persons, including the deceased;
- 9(2)(g)(i) – maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions; and
- 9(2)(j) – negotiations sensitive.

Additional information to respond to aspects of your request

The mandate strategy remains in draft, and submissions are still being considered. Te Tari Whakatau has not endorsed the mandate strategy. We will not consider whether or not to endorse the strategy until matters raised through submissions have been addressed and the mandate strategy has been updated accordingly.

Whangaroa Papa Hapū has been engaging with submitters and hapū regarding the feedback received and developing a proposed approach to responding and addressing matters raised.

Te Tari Whakatau has written to submitters to acknowledge receipt of submissions, however, we have been unable to reach some submitters as we did not have the correct contact information (or because their submissions were anonymous).

If the mandate strategy is endorsed, Te Tari Whakatau will write to Whangaroa Wai claimants, and to hapū and iwi that may have shared interests in the area, that a mandate vote will take place.

Following the vote, Te Tari Whakatau will publish the draft deed of mandate (which includes the voting results), for public submissions. Once any submissions on the draft deed of mandate have been considered and any necessary changes made, Te Tari Whakatau will report to the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister for Māori Development to seek their decision on whether to recognise the proposed mandate.

When considering whether to recognise if a mandate has been conferred by the claimant community, the Ministers must consider:

- the level of claimant community support for the mandate;
- the rate of claimant community in the process;
- whether the process undertaken was open, robust, transparent and consistent with the group's tikanga; and
- whether significant opposition or concerns have been appropriately addressed.

If Ministers recognise the mandate, Te Tari Whakatau will notify Whangaroa Wai claimants, hapū and iwi with shared interests and the group seeking the mandate. The deed of mandate and mandate recognition letter will be published on the Te Tari Whakatau website.

Throughout the mandating process, any concerns about participation and representation should, in the first instance, be raised with group leading the mandating process. Concerns may also be raised with Te Tari Whakatau at any stage, and we will follow up will the relevant parties as appropriate.

The process maps attached at **Appendix Two** outline the mandating steps, decision points and decision makers.

Next steps

After considering our response to your request, our assessment determined your request is appropriate for proactive release as its contents are of interest to the wider public. We intend to release our response to your request within 20 days at Te Tari Whakatau - Official Information Act responses. Your personal and other identifying information will be removed.

If you have any concerns about the information in this response being published on our website, please contact us by emailing officialcorrespondence@whakatau.govt.nz by 20 November.

You have the right under section 28(3) to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or phone 0800 802 602.

For any queries or requests for further information, please contact Bella Wood, Analyst, at Bella.Wood@whakatau.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Rosie Batt
Negotiation and Settlement Manager

Table of documents provided under the Official Information Act 1982

Document number	Date	Document description	Extent of information provided	Reason for withholding/refusing (refer to notes below table)	Page
1.a	20/08/2026	Whangaroa Papa Hapū and Te Tari Whakatau meeting agenda	Released in full	N/A	1
1.b	20/08/2026	Whangaroa Papa Hapū and Te Tari Whakatau record of hui	Released in full	N/A	2-4
1.c	21/08/2026	Te Tari Whakatau follow up email	Released in full	N/A	5-6
1.d	21/08/2026	Draft calendar plan for future engagement ***please note that Te Tari Whakatau drafted this document as a proposal and it has not been agreed to by Whangaroa Papa Hapū**	Released in full	N/A	7-10
1.e	03/09/2026	Whangaroa Papa Hapū and Te Tari Whakatau meeting agenda	Released in full	N/A	11
1.f	03/09/2026	Whangaroa Papa Hapū and Te Tari Whakatau record of hui	Parts withheld	9(2)(a)	12-15
1.g	17/09/2026	Whangaroa Papa Hapū and Te Tari Whakatau record of hui	Withheld in full	9(2)(j)	16-18
1.h	06/10/2026	Whangaroa Papa Hapū and Te Tari Whakatau email chain	Released in full	N/A	19-20

Document number	Date	Document description	Extent of information provided	Reason for withholding/refusing (refer to notes below table)	Page
1.i	08/10/2026	Te Tari Whakatau email chain	Parts withheld	9(2)(g)(i)	21-26

Reasons for withholding under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982[i]

s 9(2)(a) – protect the privacy of natural persons, including the deceased.

s 9(2)(b) – protect information that would:

- **(i)** – disclose a trade secret;
- **(ii)** – unreasonably prejudice commercial position of subject.

s 9(2)(ba) – protect information where making it available would:

- **(i)** – prejudice the supply of similar information; or
- **(ii)** – likely otherwise damage the public interest.

s 9(2)(c) – prejudice to measures protecting health or safety of the public.

s 9(2)(d) – prejudice to substantial economic interests of New Zealand.

s 9(2)(e) – prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public.

s 9(2)(f) – maintain the constitutional conventions which protect:

- **(i)** – communications by or with the Sovereign or their representative; or
- **(ii)** – collective and individual ministerial responsibility; or
- **(iii)** – the political neutrality of officials; or
- **(iv)** – the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and Crown officials.

s 9(2)(g) – maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through:

- **(i)** – the free and frank expression of opinions;
- **(ii)** – the protection from improper pressure or harassment.

s 9(2)(h) – maintain legal professional privilege.

s 9(2)(i) – enable the Crown holding the information to carry out commercial activities.

s 9(2)(j) – negotiations sensitive.

s 9(2)(k) – prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or advantage.

Reasons for refusing information under section 18 of the Official Information Act 1982[i]

s 18(a) – good reasons by virtue of s 6, 7 or 9 of the Act:

s 18(b) – the department or Minister or organisation neither confirms nor denies the existence or non-existence of the information:

s 18(c) – making the information available would –

- **(i)** – be contrary to a specified enactment; or
- **(ii)** – constitute contempt of court or the House of Representatives:

s 18(d) – the information is, or will soon be, publicly available:

s 18(da) – the request is made by a defendant or person acting on behalf of a defendant and is –

- **(i)** – information that could be sought under the Criminal Disclosures Act 2008; or

s 18(e) – the information requested does not exist, or cannot be found:

s 18(f) – the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research:

s 18(g) – the information is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that it is:

- **(i)** – held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority; or
- **(ii)** – connected more closely with the functions of another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation or local authority:

s 18(h) – the request is frivolous or vexatious or the information requested is trivial.

(ii) – information that could be sought under that Act and that has been disclosed or withheld under that Act:

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[i] Please see the Official Information Act 1982 for full version of sections 9 and 18 of the Act.

Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Meeting agenda

Whangaroa Papa Hapū (WPH)	Anaru Kira (Chair), Bill Hori (Board member), Olive Guy (Finance and Administration) and Robyn Tauroa (Kaiwhakahaere)
Te Tari Whakatau	Bella Wood (Analyst) (online), Rosie Batt (Negotiation and Settlement Manager) (online) and Tania Anderson (Principal Advisor)
Date	Thursday, 20 August 2026
Location	Biz Space, Kerikeri

TIME	#	ITEM
10.00 – 10.15 am	1.	Opening and whakawhanaungatanga • Introduce Rosie Batt
10.15 - 10.30 am	3.	Whangaroa Papa Hapū updates
10.30 - 10.40 am	4.	Te Tari Whakatau updates
10.40 – close	5.	Planning Hapū Kaikōrero workshop
	6.	Closing comments

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Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Record of hui

Meeting between:	Whangaroa Papa Hapū (**WPH**) and Te Tari Whakatau (**TTW**)
Date:	Thursday, 20 August 2026
Venue:	Biz Space, Kerikeri
Topic:	Updates on process
Present:	**WPH** Anaru Kira (Chair), Bill Hori (Board member), Olive Guy (Finance and Administration) and Robyn Tauroa (Kaiwhakahaere) **TTW** Bella Wood (Analyst) (online), Rosie Batt (Negotiation and Settlement Manager) (online) and Tania Anderson (Principal Advisor)

Introduction

1. Bill Hori opened the hui with a karakia at 10:04am.

2. Rosie Batt introduced herself as the new Negotiation and Settlement Manager and shared her career history at TTW.

Whangaroa Papa Hapū updates

Engagement updates

3. WPH advised the letter to Te Tahaawai hapū has not yet been sent.

4. WPH advised that the proposed August Taiwhenua hui will no longer proceed. Instead, WPH is planning a series of information hui for Hapū Kaikōrero elections from September through to November.

5. WPH provided an update on a recent hui at which Linda Thornton presented on the resumptions process. WPH noted there was a claim made that $6.1 billion in assets within the Whangaroa rohe may be available through the resumption's pathway.

6. WPH requested that TTW provide information regarding the resumptions process, including what the pathway can and cannot achieve, how the process works, and the differences between the resumption's pathway and the Treaty settlement process. These are all general questions that are raised about the resumption pathway.

7. TTW confirmed they will provide information on the resumption process and supporting material by the first week of September to support the planned hui series. TTW also confirmed they will provide supporting information relating to Area of Interest for those discussions.

8. TTW confirmed that a Wai claim is required to pursue the resumptions pathway.

9. WPH noted their understanding from the 22 July hui was that TTW was going to consider if a trust deed would be required for endorsement of the mandate strategy, because WPH is not proposing to hold the mandate and consider this to be a unique circumstance.

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10. TTW confirmed that a draft trust deed will be required for the mandate strategy to be considered for endorsement. TTW noted that members of the claimant community need to understand how the proposed entity to hold the mandate will operate, including matters relating to accountability, representation and governance.

11. TTW noted that conducting Hapū Kaikōrero elections in parallel to updating the mandate strategy allows for the elected representations to hold the pen on the development of the trust deed and they could likely be the interim trustees for Mapuna.

12. TTW requested a copy of the engagement spreadsheet, list of frequently asked questions raised at hui, and any feedback summaries compiled during the submission engagement period. This will ensure TTW understands what is being asked of the WPH and what responses have been provided so that when requests for information come directly to TTW, TTW are well placed to respond to any Crown issues, and then refer requests back to WPH for WPH related responses.

Te Tari Whakatau updates

13. TTW requested regular catchups between WPH and TTW be reinstated to support ongoing information sharing, communication and planning. WPH advised that this is a good idea but asked how it will be resourced.

14. TTW advised that a letter had been sent approximately two weeks ago, inviting WTAG to participate in a facilitated hui in August. TTW confirmed that no response has been received and do not anticipate a response soon.

15. TTW noted they have received a request from a Ngāti Hao member seeking an update on the WPH process, including information relating to the breakdown of submissions received and next steps.

16. TTW advised they have received an Official Information Act request relating to Te Whānau Pani hapū and the Whangaroa mandate process. WPH noted they received a direct request for the same information.

17. TTW advised that response letters to submitters are being updated to reflect feedback received from WPH.

18. TTW confirmed the letters are expected to be sent out early next week to allow submitters time to consider the information before the hui series begins in September.

Planning for Hapū Kaikōrero elections

19. TTW presented a draft calendar plan of activity until April 2027 for Hapū Kaikōrero elections, updating the mandate strategy, and developing a trust deed.

20. TTW advised that WPH input is needed to ensure the plan is realistic, including how the Hapū Kaikōrero election process will be organised i.e.: details of how many information hui will be held and what the mix of online and in-person hui will be.

21. TTW advised they will upload the draft calendar plan to the external SharePoint site to allow both parties to review and edit the document collaboratively, without having to manage versions.

22. WPH advised they will review the plan over the next week, and provide any feedback, comments or changes to TTW.

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Whangaroa Papa Hapū financials

23. WPH advised they are seeking a policy variation of Crown Forestry Rental Trust funding to help with their current financial situation and asked that TTW make a submission to CFRT for a revision to their funding policies relating to operational and resources process.

24. WPH asked how they are going to keep up with regular hui with TTW and keeping the lights on when their budget is running out. Each hui in Kerikeri costs WPH in meeting fees and travel. TTW advised the calendar is also a budget tool. WPH will therefore use it to put a budget to each activity resulting in an endorsed mandate strategy.

25. TTW advised an updated financial position will help plan out what's left and then the calendar will help plan out what's needed. WPH confirmed they will provide this.

Closing

26. The hui closed 12.20

Action Points			
#	**Description**	**Person/Party Responsible**	**Due by**
1.	TTW provide information, FAQs, supporting material relating to resumptions process and AOI	TTW	04/09
2.	WPH provide TTW with engagement spreadsheet, list of FAQs and summarised feedback from all engagements	WPH	28/08
3.	WPH maintain records of engagement held on the mandate p ocess	WPH	Ongoing
4.	TTW organise regular catch-up - these can also be online	TTW	ASAP
5.	TTW update and send out submission response letters	TTW	25/08
6.	TTW upload calendar plan to external SharePoint	TTW	20/08
7.	WPH review calendar plan	WPH	Before next hui
	Updated financial position	WPH	For next hui

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Wood, Bella

From: Wood, Bella
Sent: Friday, 21 August 2026 11:57 am
To: 9(2)(a) [redacted] Bill Hori; Kaiwhakahaere; Finance
Cc: Anderson, Tania; Batt, Rosie
Subject: Follow-up from yesterday's hui
Attachments: 2026 08 20 TTW and WPH draft record of hui .docx; FAQ material.pdf; 2026 08 21 Letter.pdf; 2026 08 21 - AOI for WPH review.docx; 2026 08 21 AOI letter for WPH review.docx

Kia ora koutou,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us yesterday.

Please find below a summary of the resources discussed during the hui, along with the relevant attachments and links.

Draft hui notes

Attached are the draft hui notes from yesterday's meeting. As usual, please let us know if you have any comments, corrections, or amendments that should be made.

Calendar plan

You can access the calendar plan via our shared external SharePoint here: WPH Calendar Six Monthly - DRAFT.docx

Using the document on SharePoint will allow both parties to view and edit the document in real time, therefore we will not need to continuously circulate updated version by email.

At this stage, Ollie is the only person who completed the set-up process and has access to the site. If anyone else would like access, please let me know and we can arrange this next week.

If you experience any issues accessing the site or document, please let me know so I can resolve them as soon as possible.

FAQ resources

Attached is a copy of the FAQ material that is included in many of our response letters to submitters. I thought it would be useful for you to have on hand as a resource for future hui and to help answer any questions you may receive.

Updated Treaty Settlement Toolkit

As discussed during the hui, we have been expanding our online resources and have recently launched an updated Treaty Settlement Toolkit: Te Tari Whakatau - Treaty settlement process

- *Terms of Negation animated video* – an overview of the purpose and role of Terms of Negotiation in the Treaty settlement process;
- *Available redress through Treaty settlements animated* video – an explanation of the types of redress that may be available for groups to negotiate;
- *Treaty settlement process infographics* – a step-by-step guide to the Treaty settlement process, including key milestones and expectations at each stage; and

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- *Treaty settlement A3 factsheets* – condensed information from the infographics in A3 format to be used as an easy printable resource for hui or pānui.

The toolkit is intended to be a living resource that will continue to grow over time. If you have any feedback or suggestions for additional material, please pass this along.

Recent correspondence

Attached is our response to the recent query regarding the Whangaroa mandate process. We have aligned our response with previous correspondence to ensuring our messaging is consistent.

Area of Interest response letter examples

Also attached are a sample (two) of the draft Area of Interest response letters.

These letters are still being refined, as we are working on ensuring the wording used to explain the purpose and function of an Area of Interest is as clear as possible to help address any misunderstanding or misinformation. The wording used to explain the Area of Interest purpose and function will be reflected across all response letters to submissions that raise this matter.

Although these letters are still in draft form, we thought it would be useful to share them now incase you have any feedback or comments on the wording.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the above.

Ngā manaakitanga
Bella

Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Bella Wood (ia/she)
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Te Tima o Whangaroa | Calendar
'Negotiation' Monthly Tasks

	August	September	October	November	December	January	
1		TTW: All response letters sent out WPH: Begin updating MS based off feedback from engagement	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process		New Years Day	1
2						Day After New Years Day	2
3		[TTW/WPH catch-up]	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui	[TTW/WPH catch-up]		3
4						Day After New Years Day (observed)	4
5			WPH: AOI refinements/updates begin	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting		5
6	TTW review Te Tahaawai letter [WPH board meeting]		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process		6
7		WPH: Continue updating MS based off feedback from engagement		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2			7
8			[TTW/WPH catch-up]				8
9							9
10		[TTW/WPH catch-up]	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui	[TTW/WPH catch-up]		10
11							11
12				[TTW/WPH catch-up]	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting		12
13	[TTW/WPH catch-up]		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero informat on hui		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting		13
14		WPH: Hokianga engagement/ AOI discussions begin		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting paused WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	14
15	WPH: Engagement with 12 hapū in support begins		[TTW/WPH catch-up]				15
16							16
17		[TTW/WPH catch-up]	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui	[TTW/WPH catch-up]		17
18		Hapū Kaikōrero information hui advertisement ends				WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting resumes WPH: Elected Hapū Kaikōrero focus on how their hapū want to vote for a mandate WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process	18
19		Information hui for Hapū Kaikōrero begins WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2		[TTW/WPH catch-up]			19
20	[TTW/WPH catch-up]		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui				20
21	TTW send WPH AOI response letters	[WTAG facilitated hui TBC]		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2			21

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Te Tima o Whangaroa | Calendar
'Negotiation' Monthly Tasks

22		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	Information hui for Hapū Kaikōrero ends			22
23				WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting begins WPH: Update MS as Hapū Kaikōrero elected		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	23
24	WPH: Engagement with 12 hapū in support continues WPH: Reconfirmation of Ngāti Uru and Kaitangata Hapū Kaikōrero WPH:Hapū Kaikōrero preparation and communication	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2			WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process	24
25	TTW send out letters WPH send engagement tracking spreadsheet/other hui evidence				Christmas Day	WPH: Elected Hapū Kaikōrero begin reviewing draft MS and making any changes reflecting hapū views	25
26		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui x 2	Labour Day	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	Boxing Day		26
27	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process					27
28		WPH: Hokianga engagement/ AOI discussions continue		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	Boxing Day (observed)	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	28
29	Hapū Kaikōrero information hui advertisement begins	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui	[TTW/WPH catch-up] WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero information hui	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting			29
30						WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	30
31	WPH: Preparation for Hapū Kaikōrero hui		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero informa ion hui x 2			WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	31

Released under the Official Info mation Act 1982

Te Tima o Whangaroa | Calendar
'Negotiation' Monthly Tasks

	February	March	April	May	June	July	
1	WPH: Hokianga engagement/ AOI discussions continue WPH: Trust Deed development begins	TTW: Provide feedback on MS and Trust Deed	WPH: Update documents to reflect final Hapū Kaikōrero elections [TTW/WPH catch-up]				1
2	WPH: Whangaroa hapū on Hokianga boundary engagement	WPH: Update documents based off feedback					2
3							3
4	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	[TTW/WPH catch-up]					4
5			WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero to make any final changes on documentation				5
6	Waitangi Day	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting					6
7		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process					7
8	Waitangi Day observed		[TTW/WPH catch-up]				8
9	WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process		WPH: Submit final MS and Trust Deed for endorsement				9
10							10
11	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	[TTW/WPH catch-up]					11
12		WPH: Provide updated version of MS and Trust Deed to TTW	TTW: Draft letter to Wai claimants and overlapping groups				12
13	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting					13
14	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting					14
15	WPH: Update MS to reflect Trust Deed		[TTW/WPH catch-up]				15
16	WPH: Provide version one of MS and Trust Deed to TTW						16
17							17
18	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	[TTW/WPH catch-up]					18
19			WPH Review letters to Wai claimants and overlapping groups				19
20	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting					20
21	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting					21
22		TTW: Provide feedback on documents	[TTW/WPH catch-up]				22
23		WPH: Update documents based off feedback					23
24							24
25	[TTW/WPH catch-up]	[TTW/WPH catch-up]					25
26			TTW: provide decision on endorsement				26
27	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting					27

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Te Tima o Whangaroa | Calendar
'Negotiation' Monthly Tasks

28	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting	WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting WPH: Comms on update on engagement and process					28
29			[TTW/WPH catch-up]				29
30							30
31		WPH: Hapū Kaikōrero voting ends					31

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Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Meeting agenda

Whangaroa Papa Hapū (WPH)	Anaru Kira (Chair), Bill Hori (Board member), Olive Guy (Finance and Administration) and Robyn Tauroa (Kaiwhakahaere)
Te Tari Whakatau (TTW)	Bella Wood (Analyst) (online), Rosie Batt (Negotiation and Settlement Manager) (online) and Tania Anderson (Principal Advisor)
Date	Thursday, 3 September 2026, 1.30pm
Location	Biz Space, Kerikeri

TIME	#	ITEM
1.30 - 1.35pm	1.	Karakia and opening comments
1.35 – 2.05pm		**Whangaroa Papa Hapū updates**
	2.	Funding and budget • Update on current financial position of WPH • Update on $50,000 tranche for communications and engagement • WPH proposed budget for future engagement Hapū Kaikōrero elections
	3.	Forward planning for Hapū Kaikōrero elections • WPH updates on realistic timing of process • WPH updates on approach to running the process
2.05 – 2.25 pm		**Te Tari Whakatau updates**
	4.	WTAG hui • WPH possible dates in mid-late September
	5.	CFRT and TTW funding policies • Update from Rosie
	6.	Remedies workshop • Proposal of TTW/WPH workshop on remedies
	7.	Area of Interest and remedies FAQs • Progress update
	8.	Letters and correspondence
	9.	OIA request
2.25 – 3.00 pm	10.	Closing comments

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Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Record of hui

Meeting between:	Whangaroa Papa Hapū (**WPH**) and Te Tari Whakatau (**TTW**)
Date:	Thursday, 3 September 2026
Venue:	Biz Space, Kerikeri
Topic:	REVIEWING DRAFT MANDATE STRATEGY: Funding, Hapū Kaikōrero elections, remedies workshop
Present:	**WPH** Anaru Kira (Chair), Bill Hori (Board Member) and Olive Guy (Finance and Administration) **Te Tari Whakatau** Bella Wood (Analyst), Rosie Batt (Negotiation and Settlement Manager) and Tania Anderson (Principal Advisor)

Introduction

1. The hui began at 1:33pm.

Whangaroa Papa Hapū updates

Funding and budget

2. WPH confirmed they have developed a draft budget covering anticipated costs for the next eight months based on the forward calendar plan. A copy was emailed to TTW during the hui to support the discussion.

3. TTW acknowledged the work undertaken to prepare the budget and advised it will help inform any application for additional funding. TTW will review the budget in detail over the next week and will provide feedback and where needed, seek clarification about line items that require more detail.

4. TTW noted the proposed budget is significant and advised that providing as much supporting information and evidence as possible, will strengthen any funding request.

5. WPH clarified that the accountant cost total is approximately $10,000 across the eight-month period and that the monthly costs should be $23,000 rather than $33,000.

6. TTW sought clarification on the proposed HR costs. WPH advised these costs relate to several functions, including a mandate coordinator, website management, communications, and social media support and that the allocation has not been defined to any particular person or people yet but its necessary, that workforce allocation is made in the budget.

7. TTW advised that an updated financial position from WPH would be a helpful starting point for developing a comprehensive funding application. [redacted] 9(2)(a)

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[redacted]

8. TTW asked how the $50,000 communications and engagement funding tranche was tracking. WPH advised that some of the funding was absorbed by existing liabilities as they were operating in deficit when the tranche was received.

9. WPH advised they have commenced a new communications and engagements series, including:

   9.1. Te Ara Wenerei series – a weekly Wednesday mandating update which started today with "what is a mandate?" and "claimants made a claim, went to hearings, now what?" The intention is that the series provides a step-by-step description of the mandate process, relevant to the way Whangaroa claims have progress through it.

   9.2. Pātai Paraire - a weekly Friday question and answer series. The intention is that this series will address the FAQs that have arisen over the draft MS submissions period. The website is the primary source for information and the WPH FaceBook page, the secondary source that will be referred to; and

   9.3. Email campaign - two emails to the WPH distribution list each month with an emphasis on information about what mandating is and what it isnt. The intention of this series is to saturate the community with information. As part of this series, WPH will run a few surveys to seek feedback on how the information is landing. Again, the website will be the primary source the community will be led to.

Forward planning for Hapū Kaikōrero elections

10. WPH advised that the Hapū Kaikōrero elections process has two key components:

   10.1. information sharing on what a mandate is and the mandate process; and

   10.2. supporting hapū readiness to prepare for and hold Hapū Kaikōrero elections.

11. WPH noted that the initial hui will be important for re-engaging with hapū and that regular and consistent engagement will be critical to the success of the process.

12. WPH confirmed the forward calendar plan has been useful in providing direction and tracking progress of different tasks.

13. WPH advised they have reached out to Hokianga hapū and have a hui scheduled at Mataitaua Marae in Horeke on **28 September**.

14. WPH advised they have begun discussions with Whangaroa hapū located on the boundary of the proposed Area of Interest, and that conversations within hapū are underway regarding the boundary (Te Patunga and others).

15. WPH noted that alongside planned engagement, there are often unplanned and last-minute requests from hapū for additional hui. For example, tomorrow (4 September) Matua Anaru will travel to Auckland to meet with Ngāti Kura, Ngāti Miru and Ngāti Torehina whanau who live in Manukau. These are important hui as a large proportion of Whangaroa whanau live in Auckland for work purposes.

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16. WPH advised they are planning to hold two wānanga in October and November on tikanga and tino rangatiratanga. Dates are yet to be confirmed.

17. WPH noted recent communication has emphasised the need for engagement outside of the Whangaroa rohe including Australia, Tamaki and Ōtautahi (early December). WPH advised however that a planned trip to Australia in February 2027 provides an opportunity to engage with uri living there. WPH commented that existing engagements are also impromptu opportunities to engage with the community.

Te Tari Whakatau updates

Whangaroa Treaty Action Group (WTAG) facilitated hui

18. WPH advised that Anaru Kira will be overseas from later September until early October and suggested that a facilitated hui with WTAG take place in late October.

19. TTW confirmed they will discuss the proposed timing with WTAG and await a response.

20. WPH and TTW agreed that any facilitated hui should have a clear agenda focused on the Treaty settlement and mandate process.

Crown Forestry Rental Trust (CFRT)

21. WPH clarified they are seeking TTW support to discuss their funding situation with CFRT at a high-level and noted that CFRT has indicated a willingness to review their funding parameters.

22. TTW confirmed they will speak with CFRT to better understand what the potential options are and what information is required from TTW. TTW will update WPH following these discussions.

Remedies workshop

23. TTW noted that they understand discussions regarding the remedies pathway are becoming more common within the Whangaroa rohe and providing accurate and comprehensive information on the pathway would support WPH to engage with their community on this matter.

24. TTW proposed a workshop on the remedies pathway, facilitated by Maureen Hickey, and advised that work is underway to develop maps identifying resumable properties within the Whangaroa rohe.

25. WPH confirmed they are open to the workshop and suggested it coincide with a scheduled TTW/WPH catch-up. TTW agreed to explore possible dates and report back.

Area of Interest and remedies FAQs

26 TTW advised that the FAQs on Area of Interest and the remedies pathway are currently being finalised and will be provided to WPH by COP tomorrow (04/09).

27. TTW noted that the remedies FAQs are intended as introductory information and that they can be fleshed out at the upcoming workshop.

28. TTW also advised that they can include any additional questions in the Area of Interest FAQs if WPH has identified certain questions raised by hapū.

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Submission response letters

29. TTW confirmed that all response letters to submitters have been sent however, some submitters could not be contacted due to missing or incorrect email addresses.

30. TTW advised that responses to the letters have been received from Hokianga hapū, Waimahana marae and Ngāti Aukiwa hapū.

Official Information Act (OIA) request

31. TTW confirmed they have received a 10-part OIA request relating to Te Whānau Pani/Whanau Pani, WPH mandating process and Ngātikahu ki Whangaroa settlement.

32. TTW advised they are still scoping the request but will let WPH know if they need to consult on any of the proposed response.

Next meeting

33. Thursday, 17th September. Time and location TBC.

Closing

34. The hui closed at est 3.00pm with karakia by Matua Anaru.

Action Points			
#	**Description**	**Person/Party Responsible**	**Due by**
1.	WPH provide TTW with an updated financial position.	WPH	ASAP
2.	TTW review draft budget and provide feedback and questions to WPH.	TTW	11/09
3.	TTW discuss funding options with CFRT and provide an update to WPH.	TTW	Before next hui
4.	TTW provide Area of Interest and remedies FAQs to WPH.	TTW	COP 04/09
5.	TTW confirm a date for remedies workshop with WPH.	TTW	ASAP
6.	TTW to contact WTAG about the proposed timing of facilitated hui with WPH.	TTW	N/A
7.	WPH continue to maintain records of engagement.	WPH	Ongoing

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9(2)(j)

1.g

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

Wood, Bella

From: Olive Guy (Guest - Whangaroa Papa Hapū)
Sent: Tuesday, 6 October 2026 7:28 am
To: Batt, Rosie
Subject: Early October Mahi - Next Steps

From: Finance <finance@whangaroapapahapu.org.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 3:52 PM
To: Batt, Rosie <rosie.batt@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Early October Mahi - Next Steps

Kia ora Rosie,

Just touching base following our hui in Kerikeri about you guys coming up and spending some working time with us.

My understanding from our kōrero was that we might spend some time working through the submissions feedback together, and then look at how that feedback could inform the Draft Mandate Strategy. I had in my head that this would be some focused mahi — perhaps working through the feedback in the morning and then starting to look at what that means for the Strategy in the afternoon — but I wasn't entirely clear on what we had landed on.

We had talked about the first week or so of October as the time for this work, and our work programme currently has 1–9 October set aside for reviewing the feedback and considering how it informs the Draft Mandate Strategy.

Could you give me a steer on what you were envisaging for that working session, and when you think would be a good time to get together?

Also, can you remind me where we landed with our next hui? I don't think I came away with a firm date for that.

PS: Note: Haven't sent budget update through, wanted to make sure it reflected the activity and the calculations were as close to what was needed to roll out the Work Programme. I aim to send that through to you first thing in the morning.

Ngā mihi,

Ollie

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Whangaroa Papa Hapū

Mā Whangaroa a Whangaroa e kōrero

Olive Guy

Finance & Administration Support

e: finance@whangaroapapahapu.org.nz
w: https://whangaroapapahapu.org.nz
m: + 64 27 2932949

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Wood, Bella

From: Anderson, Tania
Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2026 12:37 pm
To: Batt, Rosie
Cc: Wood, Bella; Hourigan, Amy
Subject: RE: Next steps for engagement concerning the Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Working on this now after seeing Ollie's email. Ill look deeper into any reports we have received so that we can be absolutely confident we are not asking for something that has already been provided.

My thoughts are that its looking pretty positive for Whangaroa as both groups want to get a point where hapu have nominated kaikorero to speak on their behalf. If we work from that premise (where they both agree) and set the agenda from that shared vision, the opportunity for progress will be visible for both parties. Equally it will be also be visible to all, if one party doesn't want that.

Back soon with draft email for [redacted], process and draft agenda. 9(2)(a)

Tarns

Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Tania Anderson (she/her)
PRINCIPAL ADVISOR | TE KAHUI WHAKATAU
DDI: 027 224 9054
WEB: https://whakatau.govt.nz

The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau
Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

Working from Te Nota

From: Batt, Rosie <Rosie.Batt@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2026 8:41 am
To: Anderson, Tania <Tania.Anderson@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: Wood, Bella <Bella.Wood@whakatau.govt.nz>; Hourigan, Amy <Amy.Hourigan@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Next steps for engagement concerning the Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

Kia ora Tarns

Wondered if you had the capacity to have a crack at this response today. I've put my notes and suggestions in red, though I welcome your thoughts in framing this up too.

The key thing we need to grapple with is the request to circulate a proposed process. I think we should, it's a good idea. Can we put some thought into that? I think we need:

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- A response to [redacted] and
- A one-pager draft process addressing the 'immediate next step' per [redacted] email – we don't need this to go to [redacted] n the initial response as we will want to get it right, but we will want to get it done and to WPH quite smartly. Happily, they're both asking for the same thing – clarity on agenda/next steps.

9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi
Rosie

Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Rosie Batt (she/her)
NEGOTIATION & SETTLEMENT MANAGER
CEL: 027 276 3189
WEB: https://whakatau.govt.nz

The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau
Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

From: Anderson, Tania <Tania.Anderson@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2026 4:40 pm
To: Batt, Rosie <Rosie.Batt@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: Wood, Bella <Bella.Wood@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Next steps for engagement concerning the Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

Just a reminder for us to respond to this email.

Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Tania Anderson (she/her)
PRINCIPAL ADVISOR | TE KAHUI WHAKATAU
DDI: 027 224 9054
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The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana:
Te Tari Whakatau
Level 2, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, SX10111, Wellington 6011

Working from Te Nota

From: Anderson, Tania <Tania.Anderson@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2026 8:47 am
To: Batt, Rosie <Rosie.Batt@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: Wood, Bella <Bella.Wood@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Next steps for engagement concerning the Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks Rosie. [redacted]

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[redacted] 9(2)(g)(i)

[redacted]

We really need to get them moving.

Tarns

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Batt, Rosie <Rosie.Batt@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2026 15:58:41
To: Anderson, Tania <Tania.Anderson@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Next steps for engagement concerning the Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

Rosie Batt
Negotiation & Settlement Manager
027 276 3189

From: Campbell, Leah <Leah.Campbell@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2026 14:43:56
To: Marsh, Tui <Tui.Marsh@whakatau.govt.nz>; Batt, Rosie <Rosie.Batt@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: Wood, Bella <Bella.Wood@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Next steps for engagement concerning the Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

Kia ora Tui

I'll pick this up with Rosie and Bella on their return.

Nā Leah

Te Tari Whakatau
The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana

Leah Campbell (ia/she/her)
DIRECTOR
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Rāhina Rātū Rāapa Rāpare Rāmere

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From: Marsh, Tui <Tui.Marsh@whakatau.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2026 2:12 pm
To: Batt, Rosie <Rosie.Batt@whakatau.govt.nz>; Campbell, Leah <Leah.Campbell@whakatau.govt.nz>
Cc: Wood, Bella <Bella.Wood@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Next steps for engagement concerning the Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

From: [redacted] 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 11:52 AM
To: Marsh, Tui <tui.marsh@whakatau.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Next steps for engagement concerning the Whangaroa Papa Hapū mandate process

Response to Te Tari Whakatau on Whangaroa engagement

15 September 2026

Tui Marsh
Deputy Chief Executive
Treaty Reconciliation and Takutai Moana
Te Tari Whakatau

By email

Tēnā koe Tui

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2026 and for confirming that Te Tari Whakatau remains willing to meet with the Whangaroa Treaty Action Group and Whangaroa Papa Hapū. We support further dialogue and agree that independent facilitation could assist. Before arrangements are made, however, we ask Te Tari Whakatau to provide a clear update on its current timeframes and to broaden the proposed process so that all affected hapū can participate directly and on an informed basis.

Request for an update and timetable

Your letter indicated that Te Tari Whakatau and Whangaroa Papa Hapū were available during August, but it did not set out what would follow the proposed hui or the timeframes for decisions about the mandate process. As August has now passed, please provide a written update addressing:

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- the present status of the draft mandate strategy and any steps taken since your letter; draft mandate strategy is still in draft, we are thinking seriously about the matters raised in submissions and how the mandate strategy could be amended to address those concerns
- whether Te Tari Whakatau is considering recognising, endorsing, approving, funding, or otherwise progressing the proposed mandate; outline steps in the process – key message to come through is that we're a long way from recognizing a mandate, but we're still in the process with WPH. [redacted] 9(2)(g)(i)
- the dates and sequence proposed for further engagement, submissions, reporting, and any decision; no dates for next steps in the process (voting, subs, decisions) – to be determined (will be communicated widely when determined)
- the criteria Te Tari Whakatau will apply when assessing mandate, representation, accountability, and hapū support; should have some policy lines on this one – play it straight with what we typically advise Ministers on
- who will make each decision, and how reasons and supporting material will be communicated; and hapu make decision whether to vote in support, Ministers consider [the above criteria] and decide whether there is sufficient demonstrable support to recognise the mandate, will be widely communicated
- whether the process will be paused until affected hapū have received the relevant information and had a fair opportunity to meet, deliberate, and respond. This needs a bit more of a nuanced response I think – no we're not technically 'pausing' the process, but we are wanting to ensure affected hapu have received all the info, met and deliberated etc. etc. within that process. Hopefully that will come through in some of the answers to the above questions too

We request this update within 10 working days so that hapū and whānau can participate with certainty about the process and its consequences.

A shift to a hapū inclusive engagement model

We are concerned that engagement framed primarily around Te Tari Whakatau, Whangaroa Papa Hapū as the claimant body, and the Whangaroa Treaty Action Group risks treating the matter as a disagreement between organisations. The central issue is broader: whether the hapū whose whakapapa, mana, claims, and future interests are affected have been fully informed, have had a direct opportunity to participate, and have freely expressed their position through processes they regard as legitimate.

Claimants and claimant groups have important knowledge and standing, but engagement should not be exclusive to them. A mandate affecting Whangaroa must be grounded in the informed participation of the hapū concerned. We therefore recommend moving from a claimant-exclusive model to a hapū-inclusive model in which claimant groups remain participants, but do not act as the sole channel between Te Tari Whakatau and hapū.

Proposed open and transparent process

A hapū-inclusive process could operate as follows: To me, this seems like a really reasonable set of expectations. I hink we need to engage fully on these terms. Let's try get a November date locked down now, so we can communicate it widely to meet the '20 working day' request. But really, I think we should be able to agree to most of this. We will need to let WPH know what our intentions are too – so when we go back to confirm a date, let's set out what we think the agenda should be (and the process). What're your thoughts Tarn?

- Scope and participation: identify all hapū, marae, claimant groups, and other affected Whangaroa communities at the outset. Invite each hapū directly through its recognised contacts and allow it to nominate its own representatives and preferred method of engagement.
- Common information base: circulate a complete, indexed information pack before any hui. It should include the draft mandate strategy, mandate boundaries, claimant definitions, representation and voting proposals, submissions and responses, assessment criteria, key correspondence, and an indicative decision timetable. Information should be available electronically and in hard copy, subject only to lawful privacy redactions.

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- Adequate notice: provide at least 20 working days' notice of hui and sufficient time after disclosure for hapū to hold their own hui, seek advice, and develop positions. Participation should be available kanohi ki te kanohi and online where practicable.
- Independent facilitation and tikanga: jointly agree on an independent facilitator who has the confidence of participants. Hui should be conducted in a manner consistent with tikanga determined with the affected hapū, with space for kōrero at hapū level rather than requiring all views to be expressed through claimant bodies.
- Open record: circulate agendas in advance, keep an accurate record of attendance and kōrero, and distribute draft minutes for correction. Publish confirmed minutes, presentations, written questions, answers, and action points in a shared and accessible place.
- Direct hapū feedback: invite written and oral feedback from each hapū. Record support, opposition, conditions, and unresolved matters separately rather than treating attendance, silence, or participation as consent.
- Transparent assessment: prepare a report showing the issues raised, how each was addressed, the evidence of support relied on, and any matters that remain contested. Circulate the draft report for factual correction before it is finalised.
- No predetermined outcome: confirm that no recognition or other material step will be taken until this process is complete. Any final decision should be issued in writing with reasons, the evidence relied on, and information about review or reconsideration options.
- Ongoing accountability: if a mandate proceeds, require regular reporting to all affected hapū, open access to key records, clear processes for replacing representatives, and periodic confirmation that the mandate continues to have hapū support.

Immediate next steps

As an immediate step, we propose that Te Tari Whakatau circulate a draft process and timetable to the Whangaroa Treaty Action Group, Whangaroa Papa Hapū and all identified affected hapū. A short planning hui could then settle the participant list, facilitator, information pack, notice period, hui locations, record-keeping arrangements, and the pathway for hapū feedback before any substantive mandate hui occurs.

We remain willing to engage constructively. Our objective is not to exclude any claimant group, but to ensure that the process recognises hapū as active participants with their own authority, information needs, and right to reach and communicate their own conclusions. An open process of this kind would improve confidence, reduce misunderstanding, and provide Te Tari Whakatau with a more reliable basis for any future decision.

Please confirm within 10 working days the current status and timetable, whether Te Tari Whakatau agrees in principle to a hapū-inclusive process, and who will be responsible for coordinating the next steps.

Nā mātou noa, nā

Whangaroa Treaty Action Group

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