Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Proactive release – Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Cabinet papers and relevant documents

13 October 2026

The following documents have been proactively released in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 04.

Some information has been withheld on the basis that it would not, if requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) be released. Where that is the case, the relevant section of the OIA has been noted and no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

No.	Document	Comments
1.	**Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Deed of Settlement** *Cabinet paper* Office of the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations 2 December 2024	Some information has been withheld in accordance with the following sections of the OIA: • section 9(2)(j) – to enable negotiations to continue; • section 9(2)(g)(i) – to allow for the provision of free and frank advice; and • section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain confidentiality of tendered advice.
2.	**Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Deed of Settlement** *Minute of decision CBC-24-MIN-0087* Cabinet Business Committee Meeting date: 2 September 2024	Some information has been withheld in accordance with the following sections of the OIA: • section 9(2)(j) – to enable negotiations to continue; • section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain confidentiality of tendered advice; and • section 9(2)(g)(i) – to allow for the provision of free and frank advice.
3.	**Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 6 September 2024** *Cabinet minute CAB-24-MIN-0335* Cabinet Office Meeting date: 9 September 2024	Redacted in part because out-of-scope.
4.	**Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction** *Cabinet paper*	Some information has been withheld in accordance with the following sections of the OIA:

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	Office of the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations 3 March 2026	• section 9(2)(j) – to enable negotiations to continue; and • section 9(2)(g)(i) – to allow for the provision of free and frank advice.
5.	**Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction** *Minute of decision CBC-26-MIN-0004* Cabinet Business Committee Meeting date: 23 February 2026	Some information has been withheld in accordance with the following section of the OIA: • section 9(2)(g)(i) – to allow for the provision of free and frank advice;
6.	**Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 27 February 2026** *Cabinet minute CAB-26-MIN-0055* Cabinet Office Meeting date: 2 March 2026	Some information has been withheld in accordance with the OIA due to being out-of-scope.

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

NGĀTI RUAPANI MAI WAIKAREMOANA DEED OF SETTLEMENT

Proposal

1 This paper seeks Cabinet agreement to the final settlement package for the comprehensive settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana (Ngāti Ruapani). Subject to Cabinet agreement and addressing outstanding overlapping interests, I intend to initial a deed of settlement (deed) with Ngāti Ruapani in December 2024.

Relation to government priorities

2 This proposal directly relates to the Government's priority of settling all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims.

Executive Summary

3 Ngāti Ruapani are a group of approximately 3,500 people and their area of interest is centred around Lake Waikaremoana (see **Appendix 1**). Ngāti Ruapani have close whakapapa links and significant overlapping interests with Ngāi Tūhoe (Tūhoe) and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa (Te Wairoa).

4 Cabinet agreed a comprehensive offer to Ngāti Ruapani on 1 November 2021 with an upper limit of 9(2)(j) [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers]. The Crown and Ngāti Ruapani signed an Agreement in Principle (AIP) in August 2022.

5 I seek agreement to variations to the settlement package that have not been approved under Cabinet delegation. The full settlement package is detailed in **Appendix 2.**

6 The AIP included a commitment to explore redress at Onepoto Conservation Area, as authorised by Cabinet [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers]. Since then, Ngāti Ruapani negotiators have advised they would like to see Crown-owned land, including Onepoto Conservation Area, added into Te Urewera on their behalf (see **Appendix 2, Table 1**).

7 The Minister of Conservation and I have considered a proposal to add land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani settlement legislation. I seek Cabinet approval to add the land detailed in **Appendix 2, Table 1** into Te Urewera.

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8 I seek delegated Cabinet authority for myself and relevant Ministers to finalise or vary redress relevant to their portfolios within the financial parameters set by Cabinet. I also seek Cabinet authority to address any final issues including the resolution of overlapping interests prior to initialling the deed.

9 Once the deed is initialled, Ngāti Ruapani will vote on whether to ratify it. I seek Cabinet authority for myself and the Minister for Māori Development to assess whether the results of the ratification demonstrate sufficient support for the deed, and if so, authorise me to sign the deed between Ngāti Ruapani and the Crown.

Background

History

10 Ngāti Ruapani are a group of approximately 3,500 people with an area of interest centred in and around Lake Waikaremoana. They have close whakapapa links and shared interests with Tūhoe and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa (who settled in 2014 and 2018 respectively).

11 Ngāti Ruapani historical Treaty of Waitangi claims relate to the effects of the New Zealand Land Wars, raupatu through the East Coast Land Titles Investigation Act 1866, the effects of the Native Land Court, Crown purchasing activities which led to the impoverishment of Ngāti Ruapani in the later nineteenth century, the Urewera Commission, the Urewera Consolidation Scheme, issues surrounding Lake Waikaremoana (including the investigation of title, the lease of the lake and effects of hydroelectric generation), and Crown policies relating to the Te Urewera National Park.

Background to mandate and negotiations

12 Ngāti Ruapani were initially part of the Tūhoe mandate and settlement negotiations until they withdrew in 2008. In 2009, the Crown recognised Ngāti Ruapani as a large natural group for Treaty settlement purposes.

13 In October 2019, the Crown formally recognised the mandate of the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Negotiating Group (the Negotiating Group) to negotiate the comprehensive settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Ruapani. Terms of Negotiation were signed in March 2021. Cabinet approved a comprehensive settlement offer valued at 9(2)(j) comprising $24.000 million financial redress and 9(2)(j) 9(2)(j) , and an AIP was signed in August 2022 [CAB-MIN-21-0041 refers].

Scope of settlement

14 The settlement will finally and comprehensively settle all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Ruapani. Except as provided in the Ngāti Ruapani deed, the settlement will not affect any ongoing rights Ngāti Ruapani may have under common law (including existing aboriginal title), legislation, or the Treaty of Waitangi.

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Impetus to conclude settlement negotiations in 2024

15 During settlement negotiations with Te Wairoa it was agreed that the Patunamu Crown Forest Licenced land (Patunamu) would be transferred to a company structure through their settlement. Te Wairoa have a 50% percent shareholding in the company, and the other 50% shareholding is held by the Crown on trust for use in a future Treaty settlement with Ngāti Ruapani. The land is currently not physically divided.

16 Te Wairoa settled in 2018 – the shareholders agreement and trust deed for the company states that the 50% shareholding held by the Crown for Ngāti Ruapani must transfer within 8 years of the Te Wairoa settlement date (November 2026). Should the Crown fail to transfer its interest in the company by that date, the Crown's beneficial interest, including the entitlement to 50% of the forest land, must be redeemed. Patunamu would then need to be physically divided up into two areas for Te Wairoa and Ngāti Ruapani. This process would be complicated 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

17 My officials have considered alternative ways to address the time pressure, however, it would not be possible without significantly amending provisions in the Te Wairoa settlement legislation and deed.

18 To ensure the 50% shareholding held by the Crown is transferred to Ngāti Ruapani within 8 years of the Te Wairoa settlement date, the Ngāti Ruapani deed will need to be initialled by December 2024 and signed by May 2025 to allow the settlement legislation to be introduced into the House of Representatives and enacted by July 2026, with settlement date by 11 November 2026.

19 If the Ngāti Ruapani deed is not successfully ratified by the claimant community, it is unlikely that the prescribed timeframes will be met.

Variations to the settlement package

20 The settlement package approved by Cabinet in 2021 comprises financial redress of $24.000 million, commercial redress over twelve properties, relationship agreements with three Crown agencies, five place name changes, the right to purchase the Crown's interest in Patunamu Forest Limited, and a commitment to explore conservation redress [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers].

21 Prior to signing the AIP in 2022, the previous Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations made one final variation to the settlement package under Cabinet authority to offer Camp Kaitawa as a two-year deferred selection property along with a right of first offer over the property.

22 Since signing the AIP, relevant Ministers and I have made several decisions (none of which have financial implications for the total settlement value) regarding the Ngāti Ruapani settlement, the most significant of which involves adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani settlement. I now seek Cabinet agreement to these changes.

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Adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani settlement

Background

23 Te Urewera was established as a legal entity through the Te Urewera Act 2014 (the Act) in the context of Treaty settlement negotiations with Tūhoe. It was the first time that land and place was recognised as having its own legal identity as owning itself in New Zealand. The intention was to establish and preserve in perpetuity the legal identity and protected status of Te Urewera, for its intrinsic worth, its distinctive natural and cultural values, and its national importance. A key purpose of the Act is to strengthen and maintain the connection between Tūhoe and Te Urewera [CAB Min (12) 30/13 and CAB Min (13) 2/9 refer].

24 In 2012, during settlement negotiations with Tūhoe, Ngāti Ruapani opposed the inclusion of some of the land in Te Urewera National Park into the new Te Urewera legal entity – specifically land at Onepoto to the south of Waikaremoana.

25 In recognition of Ngāti Ruapani's strong association to Te Urewera, the Minister of Conservation and the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations agreed to exclude an area of approximately 99 hectares of Te Urewera National Park at Onepoto (south of Lake Waikaremoana), and retain it in Crown ownership as a conservation area. This decision was reflected in the Tūhoe deed, which noted that Onepoto would form part of future redress discussions between the Crown, Tūhoe and Ngāti Ruapani through Ngāti Ruapani settlement negotiations.

26 Section 4.258 of the Tūhoe deed contains an acknowledgement that, at the time of signing, the Crown was at various stages of Treaty settlement negotiations with groups who may claim interests in Te Urewera, and that future negotiations may result in redress being provided in relation to parts of Te Urewera through future Treaty settlement legislation.

27 The Act established the Te Urewera Board (Board) to act on behalf of, to provide governance for, and in the name of, Te Urewera. The Board has 9 members – 6 appointed by Te Uru Taumatua (TUT), the Tūhoe post-settlement governance entity, and 3 appointed by the Crown.

28 Ngāti Ruapani do not have a seat on the Board, however, the Act recognises that Ngāti Ruapani have interests in Te Urewera and provides for the Board and Ngāti Ruapani to enter into a memorandum of understanding.

29 The Waikaremoana Tribal Authority appoint a representative to the Board through TUT. The Waikaremoana Tribal Authority is one of the four tribal entities affiliated to TUT, and represent the interests of local hapū and marae around Te Urewera. The Ngāti Ruapani claimant community is significantly overlapped with the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority. Ngāti Ruapani have advised that they do not wish to have a seat on the Board as they are comfortable with existing processes.

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Ngāti Ruapani aspirations at Te Urewera

30 Following engagement with their claimant community after signing the AIP, Ngāti Ruapani negotiators have reconsidered their approach to redress.

31 In February 2024, Ngāti Ruapani negotiators communicated their refreshed approach and aspirations for a settlement which included the addition of Crown-owned (Department of Conservation, Treasury and Land Information New Zealand) land in and around Waikaremoana into Te Urewera, including Onepoto Conservation Area (see **Appendix 2, Table 1**).

32 Ngāti Ruapani consider that Te Urewera is the most appropriate entity to receive and administer the land and they see this as a way to recognise their aspirations to protect and associate with the land without owning it themselves.

33 TUT have expressed support for the Ngāti Ruapani aspiration for areas of Crown-owned land in and around Te Urewera to be added into Te Urewera and will continue to work alongside the Crown and Ngāti Ruapani as negotiations progress. The Board are aware of Ngāti Ruapani's aspirations at Te Urewera.

34 The request to add land into Te Urewera is significant, both in terms of the scale of land involved and the complexity of adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani settlement.

Accounting treatment for Crown-owned land being added into Te Urewera

35 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

36 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

37 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

38 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

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48. I seek delegated authority of Cabinet for relevant portfolio Ministers and I to make final decisions about the accounting treatment within the current financial parameters of the Ngāti Ruapani settlement.

Process for adding land into Te Urewera

39 The Minister of Conservation and I have considered multiple approaches to adding land into Te Urewera. There are two existing prescribed processes within the Act that enable privately owned land and public conservation land to be added into Te Urewera via Executive Order in Council.

40 The Minister of Conservation and I have considered this matter and consider that adding the land directly into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani settlement legislation is the most appropriate way to deliver a timely and effective settlement for Ngāti Ruapani.

41 While I propose to follow a process different to the one laid out in the Act, I consider that there are parts of the prescribed process that should still be followed including:

a. ensuring land meets the Act's criteria for addition into Te Urewera (section 101);

b. recognising the role of the Board in making, considering and recommending a proposal to add land into Te Urewera; and

c. consulting with relevant parties as stipulated in the Act (including the public through the select committee process for the Ngāti Ruapani settlement legislation).

42 I therefore seek Cabinet approval to use the Ngāti Ruapani settlement legislation as the mechanism for adding land into Te Urewera.

RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ADDING LAND INTO TE UREWERA THROUGH THE NGĀTI RUAPANI SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION

43 There are some risks associated with adding land into Te Urewera directly through the Ngāti Ruapani settlement, namely:

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

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

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

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

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

44 There are also several benefits to adding land into Te Urewera directly through the Ngāti Ruapani settlement, including:

a. providing more certainty to Ngāti Ruapani before they initial and sign their deed – the other approach the Minister of Conservation and I explored cannot happen within the Ngāti Ruapani settlement timeframes, and do not have certainty of outcome as the Crown cannot bind the Board to a future decision. This could potentially result in no land being added into Te Urewera resulting in a diluted settlement for Ngāti Ruapani. The options to utilise extant provisions in the Act do not provide the certainty Ngāti Ruapani require in order to conclude settlement negotiations with the Crown;

b. addressing the interests of key parties – the approach to use the Ngāti Ruapani settlement legislation rather than relying on the existing provisions in the Act is preferred by the Ngāti Ruapani negotiators; TUT who are the recipient entity for the Tūhoe Treaty settlement; and the Board, who are the voice of Te Urewera; and

c. enabling the provision of a timely settlement which will:

i. prevent settlement negotiations from losing momentum and/or stalling 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

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ii. 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted] and

iii. enable the Crown to transfer its beneficial interest in Patunamu Forest before the deadline imposed by the Te Wairoa settlement (see paragraph 15-19).

Land proposed for addition into Te Urewera

45 The Ngāti Ruapani negotiators have requested the land detailed in **Appendix 2, Table 1** be added into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani settlement. The land is also depicted in the maps attached at **Appendix 3**

46 The Act outlines a series of requirements for land that is proposed to be added into Te Urewera. A key consideration is the natural, cultural and historic values of the land. More information is required to determine whether the land in **Appendix 2, Table 1** meets the criteria for addition into Te Urewera. This analysis will require the input of the Ngāti Ruapani negotiators, the Board, TUT, the DOC and Te Arawhiti.

47 I consider that the most appropriate step is to seek Cabinet approval to add the land detailed in **Appendix 2, Table 1** into Te Urewera, conditional on:

a. consultation with relevant stakeholders such as the New Zealand Conservation Authority, local conservation boards, Fish and Game, local authorities and Genesis Energy;

b. consultation with, and final approval of, TUT, the Board, and Ngāti Ruapani;

c. determination on whether each of the properties are suitable for transfer into Te Urewera in accordance with the Act;

d. engagement with overlapping groups (Te Wairoa have interests in some of the land proposed for transfer and Te Whānau a Kai and Ngāti Pāhauwera have interests nearby);

e. standard Treaty settlement due diligence (disclosure, protection of public access, Crown assets if required, and third party interests);

f. engaging with, and seeking the agreement of, the Auditor-General and DOC's auditors, to the accounting treatment of the land proposed to be added into Te Urewera; and

g. protection of third-party interests, public access and assets (Te Arawhiti, DOC and Treasury officials will work together to ensure these are appropriately protected ahead of final proposals being considered by joint Ministers).

48 In addition to the consultation and engagement with relevant parties, the public will have opportunities to express views on the proposal following the

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initialling of the Ngāti Ruapani deed and through the select committee process for the Ngāti Ruapani settlement legislation.

49 Additionally, I ask that Cabinet authorise the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Conservation, and I to make final determinations on adding land into Te Urewera.

Other conservation redress

50 The focus in negotiations since AIP have been on adding land into Te Urewera. The settlement offer does not contain any of the kind of conservation redress that is often included in Treaty settlements such as:

a. small areas of conservation land vested exclusively in the post-settlement governance entity, either with or without conservation protections and encumbrances;

b. statutory recognition instruments over areas of public conservation redress not proposed for transfer;

c. provision for access to cultural materials; and

d. management arrangements for marginal strips.

51 I seek delegated Cabinet authority for the Minister of Conservation and I to agree further redress of this nature should it be raised by Ngāti Ruapani and can be covered within the current financial parameters of this settlement.

Place name changes

52 Cabinet approved five place name change proposals, subject to the New Zealand Geographic Board recommendation. Cabinet agreed to invite Ngāti Ruapani to submit further place name changes within their area of interest. On 18 June 2024, the New Zealand Geographic Board considered six place name changes from Ngāti Ruapani, being the five original proposals, with some amendments to the spelling and/or geographic feature type, plus one further place name change. The New Zealand Geographic Board recommended all six place names proposed by Ngāti Ruapani, as detailed below:

Table 1: Official geographic names in Ngāti Ruapani settlement

Proposed name	Existing name	Feature type
Tūwai	Tuai	Locality
Ngā-Hina-o-Te-Pūrewa	*Unnamed*	Historic site
Puna-hōkio	Puna Hokoi	Wetland
Puna-te-ao	Puna Teao	Wetland
Hopuāruahine	Hopuruahine Landing	Historic site
Hopuāruahine Stream	Hopuruahine Stream	Stream

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53 I seek Cabinet approval to the place name changes in Table 1 above.

Te Kura o Waikaremoana

54 Cabinet previously approved a right of first refusal over Te Kura o Waikaremoana, currently owned and operated by the Ministry of Education [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers]. After further investigation into the history of the site, and confirmation from the Ministry of Education that it is appropriate, I seek Cabinet approval to amend the redress over Te Kura o Waikaremoana from a right of first refusal to a settlement date transfer, for sale and lease back to the Ministry of Education.

55 9(2)(j) [redacted]

Camp Kaitawa and former Tuai School

56 Cabinet have previously approved redress over the former Tuai School, a landbank property, as a two-year deferred selection property [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers]. Under delegated authority of Cabinet, the former Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations approved additional redress over Camp Kaitawa, a Land Information New Zealand property, as a two-year deferred selection property.

57 I seek Cabinet approval to amend the redress over the former Tuai School and Camp Kaitawa from a deferred selection property to a settlement date property.

Relationship redress

58 Cabinet have previously approved relationship redress with the Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Police and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment. Ngāti Ruapani have indicated that they are interested in additional relationship redress with the following agencies:

a. Housing and Urban Development;

b. Te Ara Taonga Agencies (Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Archives New Zealand, National Library, Te Papa Tongarewa, Department of Internal Affairs);

c. Ministry for the Environment; and

d. the combined Justice Sector Agencies (Te Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections, the Ministry of Justice and New Zealand Police).

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59 It is possible that Ngāti Ruapani may seek additional relationship redress prior to initialling. I therefore seek delegated authority from Cabinet for relevant Ministers and I to approve the provision of additional relationship redress should an agency be amenable to do so.

Overlapping interests

60 The deed will be subject to overlapping interests being addressed to the Crown's satisfaction. This requirement is understood by Ngāti Ruapani and it was detailed in the AIP.

61 The Ngāti Ruapani area of interest is overlapped by the areas of interest of six groups. Of these:

a. four are settled: Rongowhakaata (2012), Ngāti Pāhauwera (2012), Tūhoe (2014) and Te Wairoa (2018); and

b. two are yet to settle and are currently involved in remedies proceedings in the Waitangi Tribunal: Te Whānau-a-Kai and Te Āitanga-a-Māhaki.

62 The Negotiating Group have been actively engaging with all overlapped groups regarding their settlement aspirations for settlement. Prior to, and after signing the AIP, the Crown wrote to all overlapping groups seeking their views on the proposed Ngāti Ruapani redress.

63 The Crown and Ngāti Ruapani continue to work with the outstanding groups to resolve overlapping interests prior to initialling the deed.

64 I propose that Cabinet authorise me to make a final determination that overlapping interests have been resolved prior to initialling the deed.

Final matters

65 There may be some final details that require variation as negotiations conclude. I therefore propose that Cabinet authorise myself and any other relevant Ministers to finalise or vary redress relevant to their portfolios within the financial parameters set by Cabinet.

Tax indemnity

66 An indemnity will be sought from the Minister of Finance for income tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST) upon the transfer of settlement redress. The Inland Revenue Department has published interpretation statements that support the view that the transfer of settlement redress does not give rise to either income tax or GST consequences. To ensure that Ngāti Ruapani retain the full value of their settlement, and for the avoidance of doubt, the Minister of Finance's agreement will be sought to indemnify the post-settlement governance entity against income tax and GST on the transfer of redress.

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Governance and mandate

67 When the former Ministers for Māori Development and Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations recognised the mandate of the Negotiating Group, they were aware there were members of the Ngāti Ruapani claimant community who opposed the mandated entity. While it is difficult for any mandated group to achieve one hundred percent support, it is crucial they continue to maintain the mandate conferred by the claimant community.

68 The Negotiating Group has maintained an open-door policy to those in opposition and continues to engage and inform its claimant community as negotiations have progressed. It has provided regular mandate maintenance reports and updates to Te Arawhiti outlining their engagement.

69 In May 2021 and again in January 2022, members of Ngāti Ruapani filed in the Waitangi Tribunal seeking an urgent hearing into the Crown's recognition of the mandate of the Negotiating Group (Wai 3048). The Waitangi Tribunal has declined both applications for urgency. It is possible a further application will be made as the Crown and Ngāti Ruapani come closer to finalising the deed for initialling and signing.

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

70 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

71 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

Ratification of settlement

72 After the deed has been initialled, the Ngāti Ruapani claimant community will be asked to ratify the deed.

73 I seek delegated authority for myself and the Minister for Māori Development to consider whether the deed ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from Ngāti Ruapani for the deed.

74 I also seek delegated authority to sign the deed on behalf of the Crown should ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from Ngāti Ruapani.

Conditions of the settlement

75 The settlement will be conditional on ratification of the deed by Ngāti Ruapani and the enactment of settlement legislation to implement certain aspects of the deed.

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Next steps

76 If Cabinet approves the proposed settlement package to Ngāti Ruapani as detailed in this paper, I intend to initial the deed with Ngāti Ruapani in December of this year subject to their agreement to the final package.

77 Depending on the outcome of the deed ratification process, I anticipate signing by May 2025.

Consultation

78 In preparing this paper Te Arawhiti has consulted with, and incorporated the views of, Land Information New Zealand, the Department of Corrections, The Treasury, the Department of Conservation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Geographic Board – Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, and the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development. Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage were also given the opportunity to comment.

Proactive Release

79 I intend to proactively release this paper, making any necessary redactions, once the deed has been initialled, as all of the content will remain negotiations sensitive until that time.

Financial Implications

80 The table below details how Ngāti Ruapani will benefit from the comprehensive settlement of their historical Treaty of Waitangi claims and the estimated cost to the Crown of the settlement.

Table 2: Financial implications of the Ngāti Ruapani settlement

Financial implications of the proposed settlement	$m
On-account - former Tuai Hostel (2020 present value) ($0.288 million at date of transfer)	0.721
Financial redress on settlement date	24.000
9(2)(j)	[redacted]

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81 The total cost of the settlement is within the amount set aside in the fiscal forecasts for this settlement after timing adjustments. Therefore, no new funding is required.

82 The total cost of the proposed Ngāti Ruapani settlement less the on-account settlement will be charged against the *Vote Treaty Negotiations Multi-Year Appropriation: Historical Treaty of Waitangi Settlements 2021-2025* when a deed is initialled.

Department of Conservation implementation costs

83 Treaty settlements establish extra commitments for DOC. These impose additional costs on DOC, for example, enhanced iwi engagement on managing specific sites and implementing relationship agreements.

84 By adding a significant quantity of Crown land into the management of Te Urewera, there may be significant financial implications for operational implementation at Te Urewera (for which DOC currently provides funding).

85 DOC is not in a position to estimate implementation costs for the additional land at this time. Once the further work has been completed and joint Ministerial approval of the final redress has been obtained, the implementation costs will be determined by the Department and a Cabinet decision for these implementation costs will be sought.

86 DOC will seek implementation funding shortly after the settlement legislation is enacted, as was the agreed process by Cabinet in 2010 [CAB Min (10) 9/7 refers].

Department of Conservation impairment costs

87 9(2)(j) 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

88 9(2)(j) 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

89 Book values can be used to estimate maximum impairment costs. The book value in the 2024/2025 financial year for the DOC lands detailed in this proposal is 9(2)(j) 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted].

90 9(2)(j) 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

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91 I seek Cabinet authorisation for the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, and the Minister of Conservation to approve any necessary increases to *Vote Conservation: Impairment of Public Conservation Land* once any impairment costs are known after initialling the deed.

Human Rights

92 The proposals outlined in this paper are consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Legislative Implications

93 Legislation is required to implement aspects of the settlement. Draft legislation will be attached to the deed. Once the deed is signed, I will seek Cabinet approval to introduce the settlement legislation.

Regulatory Impact Analysis

94 A regulatory impact statement is not required because the proposal does not amend or affect existing regulatory arrangements.

Publicity

95 The Te Arawhiti and the Negotiating Group will develop a communications strategy, alongside relevant agencies, to ensure affected and interested parties are informed of the content of the deed at the time it is initialled.

96 Te Arawhiti will make the initialled and signed deed available to the media and public on its website.

Recommendations

The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations recommends that the Committee:

Background

1 **note** the Crown and Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana are close to initialling a deed of settlement settling the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana;

2 **note** that Cabinet approved a comprehensive settlement offer valued at [redacted] comprising $24.000 million financial redress and 9(2)(j) 9(2)(j) [redacted] [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers];

3 **note** Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana and the Crown signed an Agreement in Principle in August 2022;

Impetus to conclude settlement negotiations in 2024

4 **note** there are significant time pressures for this settlement due to provisions relating to Patunamu Forest in the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa settlement legislation;

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

5 **note** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations intends to initial a deed of settlement by the end of 2024;

Variations to the cultural redress package

6 **note** that should Cabinet agree to the proposals in this paper, the full Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement package is detailed at **Appendix 2**;

Adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement

BACKGROUND

7 **note** that through the Ngāi Tūhoe settlement, Te Urewera was declared a legal entity and the Te Urewera National Park land was vested in that entity to be protected by Te Urewera Act 2014, and governed by a board comprising of Crown and Ngāi Tūhoe appointees [CAB Min (12) 30/13 and CAB Min (13) 2/9 refer];

8 **note** at the time of settlement with Ngāi Tūhoe, there was consideration on how to give effect to Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana's interests and as a result Crown land near Lake Waikaremoana was held back for Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana;

NGĀTI RUAPANI ASPIRATIONS AT TE UREWERA

9 **note** Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana negotiators have asked for the land detailed at **Appendix 2, Table 1** to be added into Te Urewera;

ACCOUNTING TREATMENT FOR CROWN-OWNED LAND TO BE ADDED INTO TE UREWERA

10 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

11 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

12 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

PROCESS FOR ADDING LAND INTO TE UREWERA

13 **note** there are two prescribed processes within Te Urewera Act 2014 to add land into Te Urewera, however, neither process is suitable for the current situation as they cannot be completed within the Ngāti Ruapani mai

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

Waikaremoana settlement timeframe and cannot provide necessary certainty for Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana or the Crown to initial a deed of settlement;

14 **note** it is possible to add land into Te Urewera directly through the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation and this approach is supported by the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana negotiators and Ngāi Tūhoe;

15 **note** that while the process to add land into Te Urewera will differ from the process within the Te Urewera Act 2014, appropriate measures will be taken to ensure the integrity of Act is preserved where possible;

16 **approve** the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation as the mechanism for adding land into Te Urewera;

RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ADDING LAND INTO TE UREWERA THROUGH THE NGĀTI RUAPANI MAI WAIKAREMOANA SETTLEMENT LEGISLAITON

17 **note** there are several risks to adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation including:

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

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

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

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

18 **note** there are several benefits to adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation including:

a. provides certainty to Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana before they initial and sign their deed of settlement;

b. Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana negotiators, Ngāi Tūhoe and the Te Urewera Board all consider this the most appropriate approach; and

c. 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted];

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

LAND PROPOSED FOR ADDITION INTO TE UREWERA

19 **approve** the land detailed in **Appendix 2, Table 1** to be added into Te Urewera;

20 **note** the addition of any of the Crown-owned land into Te Urewera will be conditional on a series of actions including consultation with relevant stakeholders, determination on whether each of the properties are suitable for transfer into Te Urewera, and appropriate resolution on the accounting treatment;

21 **note** officials from Te Arawhiti, the Department of Conservation and the Treasury will work to ensure the protection of third-party interests in the land proposed for transfer into Te Urewera ahead of any final proposals being considered by joint Ministers;

22 **authorise** the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, and the Minister of Conservation to make final determinations on adding land into Te Urewera;

Other conservation redress

23 **authorise** the Minster for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister of Conservation to agree further redress of this nature should it be raised by Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana;

Place name changes

24 **note** Cabinet previously approved the provision of five place name changes [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers];

25 **approve** the place name changes detailed at **Appendix 2, Table 2**;

Te Kura o Waikaremoana

26 **note** Cabinet have previously approved a right of first refusal over Te Kura o Waikaremoana, currently owned and operated by the Ministry of Education [CAB-21-MIN-0041refers];

27 **approve** an amendment of the redress over Te Kura o Waikaremoana for sale and lease back to the Ministry of Education;

Camp Kaitawa and former Tuai School

28 **note** Cabinet have previously approved redress over the former Tuai School, a landbank property, as a two-year deferred selection property and under delegated authority of Cabinet, the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations approved additional redress over Camp Kaitawa, a Land Information New Zealand property, as a two-year deferred selection property [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers];

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

29 **approve** an amendment of the redress over former Tuai School and Camp Kaitawa from a deferred selection property to settlement date transfers;

Relationship redress

30 **note** Cabinet previously approved relationship redress with the Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Police and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment [CAB-21-MIN-0041 refers];

31 **authorise** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and other relevant Ministers to approve the provision of additional relationship redress where appropriate;

Overlapping interests

32 **note** the deed of settlement will be subject to overlapping interests being addressed to the satisfaction of the Crown;

Conditions of settlement

33 **note** the settlement is conditional on ratification of the deed by Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana;

Financial implications

34 **approve** the figures in the table below being charged against the *Vote Treaty Negotiations Multi-Year Appropriation: Historical Treaty of Waitangi Settlements 2019-2023* when the deed of settlement is initialled;

Financial implications of the proposed settlement	$m
On-account - former Tuai Hostel (2020 present value) ($0.288 million at date of transfer)	0.721
Financial redress on settlement date	24.000
9(2)(j)	[redacted]

Department of Conservation implementation and impairment costs

35 **note** that the Department of Conservation is not in a position to estimate implementation and impairment costs;

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

36 **note** the Minister of Conservation will report back to Cabinet should impairment costs exceed the maximum estimated impairment costs;

37 **note** the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of Finance will report back to Cabinet on the Department of Conservation's estimated implementation costs;

38 **note** once further work has been completed and joint Ministerial approval of the final redress has been obtained, the Department of Conservation will seek implementation funding shortly after settlement legislation is enacted as per the Cabinet-agreed process [CAB min (10) 9/7 refers];

Delegation to act

39 **authorise** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations:

a. to make a final determination that overlapping interests have been resolved prior to initialling the deed of settlement;

b. jointly, with the Minister for Māori Development, to consider whether the ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana claimant community for the deed of settlement;

c. together with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Conservation to approve any necessary increases to *Vote Conservation: Impairment of Public Conservation Land* once any impairment costs are known after initialling the deed;

d. to sign the deed of settlement on behalf of the Crown, should ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana claimant community; and

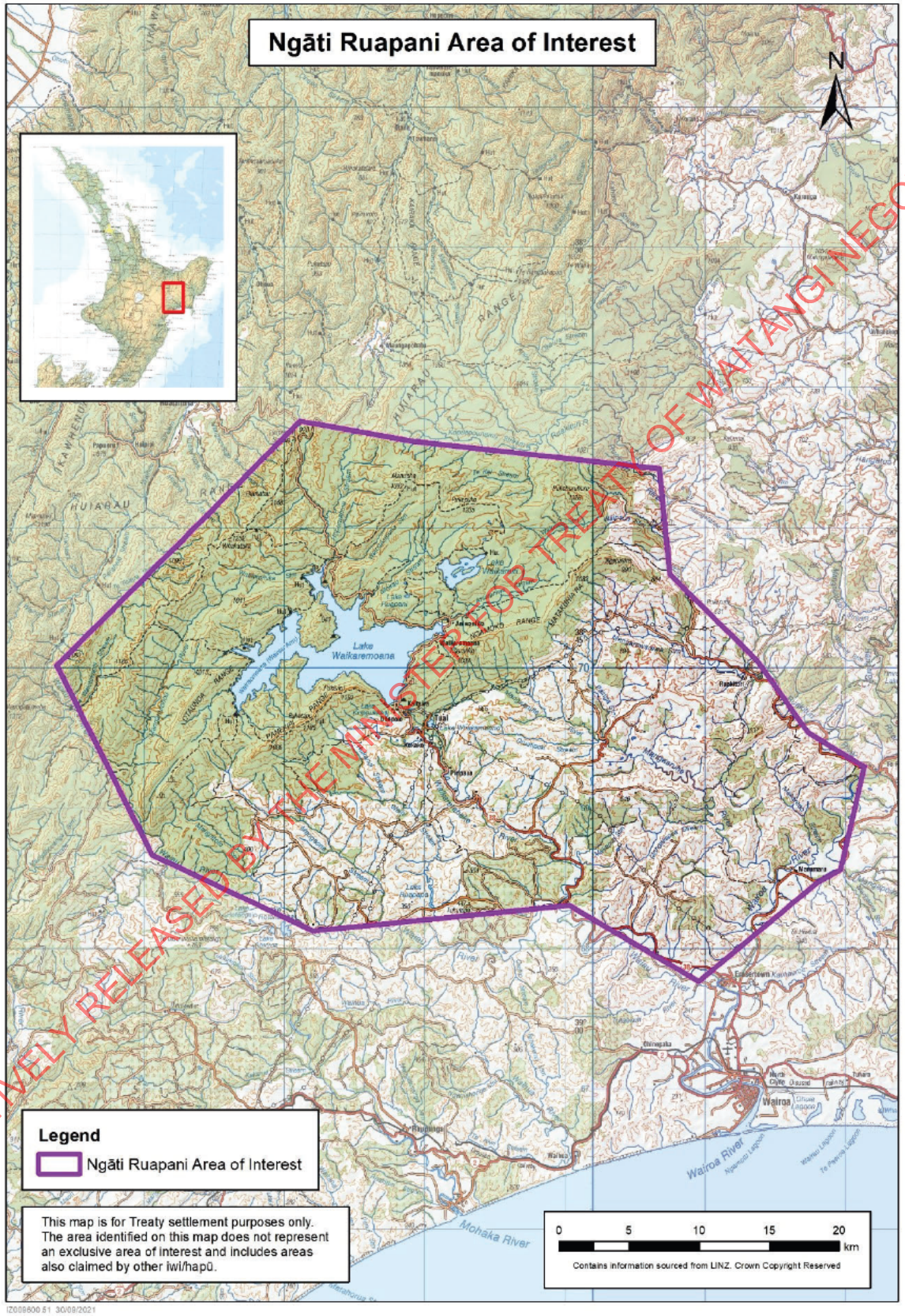
e. together with any relevant Ministers, to finalise or vary redress relevant to their portfolios within the financial parameters set by Cabinet, to take account of any final issues.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

APPENDIX 1: NGĀTI RUAPANI AREA OF INTEREST



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APPENDIX 2: FINAL SETTLEMENT REDRESS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DEED OF SETTLEMENT

Historical redress

1 Historical account

2 Crown acknowledgement

3 Crown apology

Financial redress

1 $24.000 million (less the value of the Crown interest in Patunamu Forest Limited of $2.466 million)

Te Urewera

Table 1: Properties proposed for addition into Te Urewera

Name of site	Landholding Agency
Onepoto Conservation Area (209 ha)	DOC
Onepoto – Conservation Area (91.6 ha)	DOC
Onepoto Conservation Area (Secondary Use Area) (7.8ha)	DOC
Part Tuai Conservation Area (ca. 19.3 ha)	DOC
Tutaemaro Conservation Area (627.80 ha)	DOC
Mangaone Conservation Area (3,842.00 ha)	DOC
Waikareiti Conservation Area (4,022.4 ha)	DOC
Panekirikiri Conservation Area (2758.24 ha)	DOC
Ruakituri Scenic Reserve (248.07 ha)	DOC
Waihi South Conservation Area (365.72 ha)	DOC
Waikaretaheke River Marginal Strip (4.4 ha)	DOC
15132 Kokako Road, Tuai(46.39 ha)	LINZ
Section 5 SO 8881 (3.38 ha)	Treasury
Section 6 SO 8881 (14.76 ha)	Treasury
Section 7 SO 8881 (2.94 ha)	Treasury
Section 8 SO 8881 (3.87 ha)	Treasury
Section 9 SO 8881 (68.19 ha)	Treasury
Section 10 SO 8881 (18.81 ha)	Treasury

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Cultural redress

Table 2: Official geographic place names proposals		
Current Name	Proposed New Name	Responsible agency
Tuai	Tūwai	New Zealand Geographic Board
Unnamed	Ngā-Hina-o-Te-Pūrewa	
Hopuruahine Landing	Hopuāruahine	
Hopuruahine Stream	Hopuāruahine Stream	
Puna Teao	Puna-te-ao	
Puna Hokoi	Puna-hōkio	

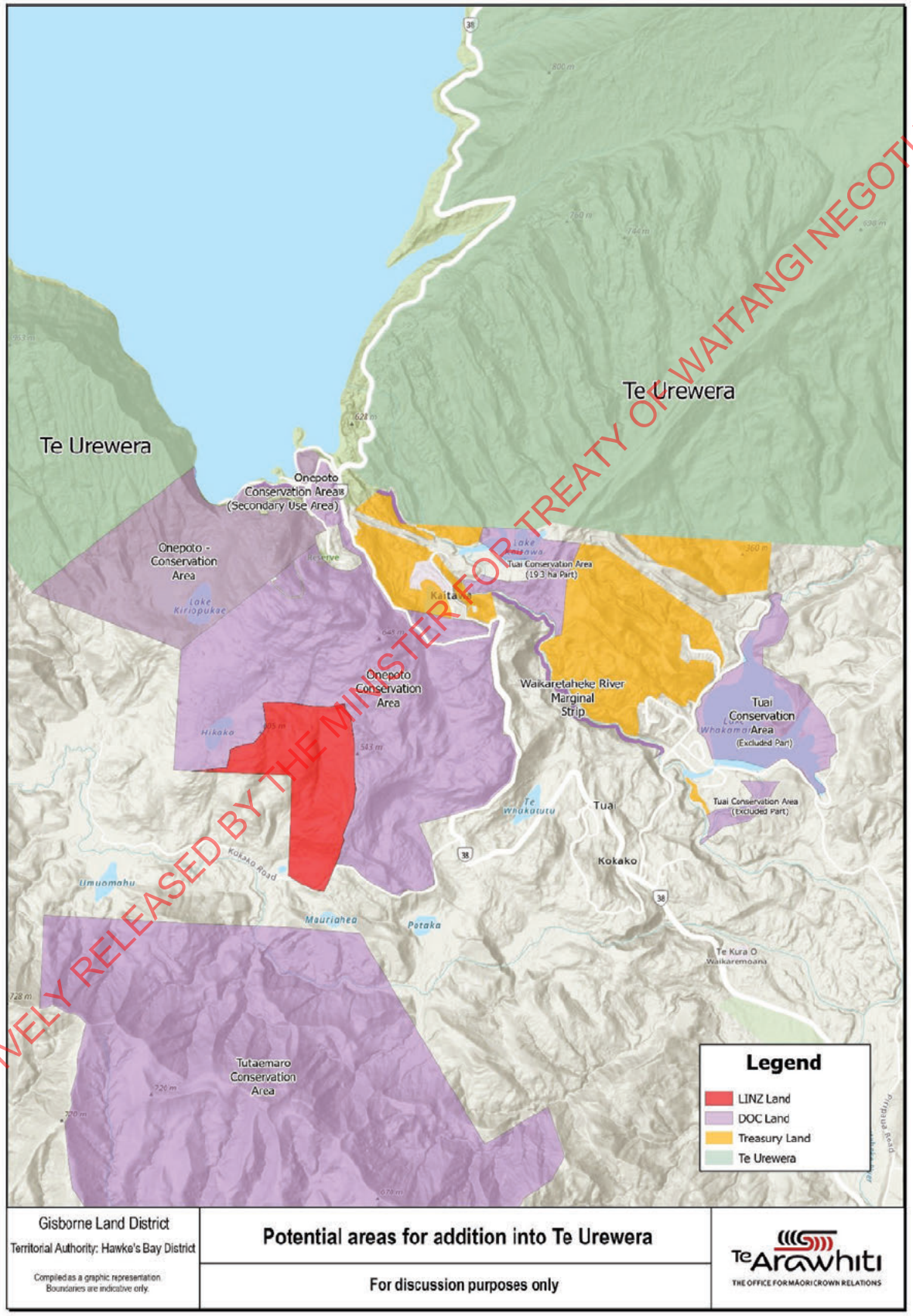
Table 3: Relationship redress	
Agency	Form of agreement
Department of Conservation	Relationship agreement
New Zealand Police	The form of the agreement is subject to confirmation by the agencies
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	

Commercial redress

Table 4: Commercial redress properties		
Name and address	Redress	Landholding agency
Former Tuai School, Piripaua & Renga Roads, Tuai (PF1598) – 0.5265 ha	Settlement date transfer	LINZ (Treaty Settlements Landbank)
Camp Kaitawa	Settlement date transfer	LINZ
Te Kura o Waikaremoana, 4764 State Highway, Wairoa (land only) (PID: 4137407) - 1.6187 ha	Sale and leaseback and right of first refusal	MOE
Tuai Police Station and House, 63 Hill Street, Tuai (PID 4117410) – 0.0983 ha	Right of first refusal	NZ Police
Kāinga Ora property, Tuai (PID: 4146290) – 0.1402 ha	Right of first refusal	Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

APPENDIX 3: MAPS OF LAND PROPOSED FOR ADDITION INTO TE UREWERA



PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Deed of Settlement

Portfolio **Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations**

On 2 September 2024, the Cabinet Business Committee:

Background

1 **noted** that the Crown and Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana are close to initialling a deed of settlement settling the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana;

2 **noted** that in October 2021, the previous government approved a comprehensive settlement offer valued at 9(2)(j) comprising $24.000 million financial redress and 9(2)(j) 9(2)(j) [MCR-21-MIN-0016];

3 **noted** that Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana and the Crown signed an Agreement in Principle in August 2022;

Impetus to conclude settlement negotiations in 2024

4 **noted** that there are significant time pressures for this settlement due to provisions relating to Patunamu Forest in the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa settlement legislation;

5 **noted** that the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations intends to initial a deed of settlement by the end of 2024;

Variations to the cultural redress package

6 **noted** that the full Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement package is detailed at Appendix 2 to the paper under CBC-24-SUB-0087;

Adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement

Background

7 **noted** that through the Ngāi Tūhoe settlement, Te Urewera was declared a legal entity and Te Urewera National Park land was vested in that entity to be protected by the Te Urewera Act 2014, and governed by a board comprising of Crown and Ngāi Tūhoe appointees [CAB Min (12) 30/13, CAB Min (13) 2/9];

8 **noted** that at the time of settlement with Ngāi Tūhoe, there was consideration on how to give effect to Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana's interests and, as a result, Crown land near Lake Waikaremoana was held back for Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana;

Ngāti Ruapani aspirations at Te Urewera

9 **noted** that Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana negotiators have asked for the land detailed at Appendix 2, Table 1 to the paper under CBC-24-SUB-0087 to be added into Te Urewera;

Accounting Treatment for Crown-owned Land to be added into Te Urewera

10 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

11 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

12 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

Process for adding land into Te Urewera

13 **noted** that there are two prescribed processes within the Te Urewera Act 2014 to add land into Te Urewera, however neither process is suitable for the current situation as they cannot be completed within the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement timeframe and cannot provide necessary certainty for Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana or the Crown to initial a deed of settlement;

14 **noted** that it is possible to add land into Te Urewera directly through the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation and this approach is supported by the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana negotiators and Ngāi Tūhoe;

15 **noted** that, while the process to add land into Te Urewera will differ from the process within the Te Urewera Act 2014, appropriate measures will be taken to ensure the integrity of the Act is preserved where possible;

16 **approved** the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation as the mechanism for adding land into Te Urewera;

Risks and opportunities of adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani Mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation

17 **noted** that there are several risks to adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation including:

17.1 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

17.2 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

17.3 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

17.4 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

18 **noted** that there are several benefits to adding land into Te Urewera through the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana settlement legislation including:

18.1 provides certainty to Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana before they initial and sign their deed of settlement;

18.2 Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana negotiators, Ngāi Tūhoe, and the Te Urewera Board all consider this the most appropriate approach;

18.3 that it will:

18.3.1 enable the provision of a timely settlement, which will prevent settlement negotiations from losing momentum and/or stalling 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

18.3.2 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

18.3.3 enable the Crown to transfer its beneficial interest in Patunamu Forest before the deadline imposed by the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa settlement legislation;

Land proposed for addition into Te Urewera

19 **approved** the land detailed in Appendix 2, Table 1 under CBC-24-SUB-0087 to be added into Te Urewera;

20 **noted** that the addition of any of the Crown-owned land into Te Urewera will be conditional on a series of actions, including consultation with relevant stakeholders, determination on whether each of the properties are suitable for transfer into Te Urewera, and appropriate resolution on the accounting treatment;

21 **noted** that officials from Te Arawhiti, the Department of Conservation, and the Treasury will work to ensure the protection of third-party interests in the land proposed for transfer into Te Urewera ahead of any final proposals being considered by the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, and the Minister of Conservation;

22 **authorised** the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, and the Minister of Conservation to make final determinations on adding land into Te Urewera;

Other conservation redress

23 **authorised** the Minster for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and the Minister of Conservation to agree to further conservation redress should it be raised by Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana;

Place name changes

24 **noted** that as part of the comprehensive settlement offer, the previous government approved the provision of five place name changes [MCR-21-MIN-0016];

25 **approved** the place name changes detailed at Appendix 2, Table 2 to the paper under CBC-24-SUB-0087;

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

Te Kura o Waikaremoana

26 **noted** that as part of the comprehensive settlement offer, the previous government approved a right of first refusal over Te Kura o Waikaremoana, currently owned and operated by the Ministry of Education [MCR-21-MIN-0016];

27 **approved** an amendment of the redress over Te Kura o Waikaremoana for sale and lease back to the Ministry of Education;

Camp Kaitawa and former Tuai School

28 **noted** that as part of the comprehensive settlement offer, the previous government approved redress over the former Tuai School, a landbank property, as a two-year deferred selection property, and under delegated authority from Cabinet, the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations approved additional redress over Camp Kaitawa, a Land Information New Zealand property, as a two-year deferred selection property [MCR-21-MIN-0016];

29 **approved** an amendment of the redress over former Tuai School and Camp Kaitawa from a deferred selection property to settlement date transfers;

Relationship redress

30 **noted** that as part of the comprehensive settlement offer, the previous government approved relationship redress with the Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Police, and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment [MCR-21-MIN-0016];

31 **authorised** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and other relevant Ministers to approve the provision of additional relationship redress where appropriate;

Overlapping interests

32 **noted** that the deed of settlement will be subject to overlapping interests being addressed to the satisfaction of the Crown;

Conditions of settlement

33 **noted** that the settlement is conditional on ratification of the deed by Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana;

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

Financial implications

34 approve the figures in the table below being charged against the Vote Treaty Negotiations Multi-Year Appropriation: Historical Treaty of Waitangi Settlements 2019-2023 when the deed of settlement is initialled;

Financial implications of the proposed settlement	$m
On-account - former Tuai Hostel (2020 present value) ($0.288 million at date of transfer)	0.721
Financial redress on settlement date	24.000
Cultural redress	0.900
9(2)(j)	[redacted]

Department of Conservation implementation and impairment costs

35 **noted** that the Department of Conservation is not in a position to estimate implementation and impairment costs;

36 **noted** that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Conservation will report back to Cabinet on the Department of Conservation's estimated implementation costs;

37 **noted** that the Minister of Conservation will report back to Cabinet should impairment costs exceed the maximum estimated impairment costs;

38 **noted** that, once further work has been completed and joint Ministerial approval of the final redress has been obtained, the Department of Conservation will seek implementation funding shortly after settlement legislation is enacted as per the Cabinet-agreed process [CAB Min (10) 9/7];

Delegation to Act

39 **authorised** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations:

39.1 to make a final determination that overlapping interests have been resolved prior to initialling the deed of settlement;

39.2 jointly, with the Minister for Māori Development, to consider whether the ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana claimant community for the deed of settlement;

39.3 together with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Conservation, to approve any necessary increases to *Vote Conservation: Impairment of Public Conservation Land* once any impairment costs are known after initialling the deed;

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

39.4 to sign the deed of settlement on behalf of the Crown, should ratification results demonstrate sufficient support from the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana claimant community;

39.5 together with any relevant Ministers, to finalise or vary redress relevant to their portfolios within the financial parameters set by Cabinet, to take account of any final issues.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:
Rt Hon Winston Peters (Chair)
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Penny Simmonds

Officials present from:
Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 6 September 2024

On 9 September 2024, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Business Committee for the period ended 6 September 2024:

Out of scope	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
CBC-24-MIN-0087	**Ngati Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Deed of Settlement** Portfolio: Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations	CONFIRMED
Out of scope	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Cabinet Legislation Committee

Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction

Proposal

1 I seek approval to introduce the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill (the Bill).

2 The Bill will give effect to the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana (Ngāti Ruapani) deed of settlement (the deed), which is scheduled to be signed by the Crown and Ngāti Ruapani on 25 February.

Policy

Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana

3 Ngāti Ruapani are a group of approximately 1,662 people (2023 census data). Their area of interest is in and centres around Waikaremoana.

4 Ngāti Ruapani have close whakapapa links and overlapping interests with Ngāi Tūhoe (Tūhoe) and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa. Customary interests in and around Waikaremoana have been strongly contested between the three groups.

5 Ngāti Ruapani's historical Treaty of Waitangi claims relate to: the effects of the New Zealand Land Wars; raupatu through the East Coast Land Titles Investigation Act 1866; Crown purchasing activities which led to the impoverishment of Ngāti Ruapani in the later nineteenth century; the Urewera Commission; the Urewera Consolidation Scheme; issues surrounding Lake Waikaremoana (including the effects of hydroelectric generation); and Crown policies relating to the Urewera National Park.

Negotiations

6 Ngāti Ruapani and the Crown signed Terms of Negotiation in 2021 and an Agreement in Principle in August 2022.

7 In September 2024, Cabinet approved the final package for the comprehensive settlement of Ngāti Ruapani's historical Treaty of Waitangi claims [CAB-24-MIN-0335 refers]. The total settlement value is 9(2)(j) [redacted], with a total cost to the Crown of 9(2)(j) [redacted].

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

8 On 20 November 2025, the Crown and Ngāti Ruapani initialled the deed.

9 The Ngāti Ruapani claimant community is currently considering the settlement package and their proposed post-settlement governance entity (PSGE) through a ratification process. Minor amendments will need to be made to the Bill to insert relevant details about the PSGE which will be established prior to introduction.

10 I seek agreement to introduce the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill, subject to:

10.1 the signing of the deed (which is expected to take place on 25 February);

10.2 the Bill being amended to insert details about the PSGE; and

10.3 receiving the final approval of the government caucuses and sufficient support in the House of Representatives.

Why is the Bill required?

11 Many aspects of the settlement rely on legislation to be given effect and implemented. The Bill will remove the jurisdiction of the judiciary to inquire into or make a finding in relation to the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Ruapani.

12 The deed includes a commitment that the Crown will propose the Bill will be introduced into the House of Representatives.

13 Further information on the Bill is set out in the Departmental Disclosure Statement at Appendix 1.

Potential contentious issues

Mandate risk

14 Ngāti Ruapani were initially a part of the Tūhoe settlement until they withdrew in 2008. The Crown recognised Ngāti Ruapani as a large natural group for Treaty settlement purposes in 2009.

15 In October 2019, the Crown formally recognised the mandate of the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Negotiating Group to negotiate the comprehensive settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Ruapani.

16 In May 2021 and again in January 2022 a member of the Ngāti Ruapani claimant community sought an urgent hearing in the Waitangi Tribunal into the Crown's recognition of the mandate of the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Negotiating Group (Wai 3048). The Waitangi Tribunal declined both applications for urgency. A further application was made in mid-2025 but was subsequently withdrawn.

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR TREATY OF WAITANGI NEGOTIATIONS

17 Members of the Ngāti Ruapani claimant community in opposition to the settlement are likely to make submissions against the Bill at select committee. It is possible that they may also make a further urgency application to the Waitangi Tribunal during the legislative process.

Impact analysis

18 A Regulatory Impact Statement is not required as the Bill does not alter the regulatory regime.

Compliance

19 The Bill complies with:

19.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;

19.2 advice from the Treaty Provisions Officials Group on any Treaty of Waitangi provisions;

19.3 the disclosure statement requirements;

19.4 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;

19.5 relevant international standards and obligations; and

19.6 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition).

20 An assessment of the Bill's consistency with the Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993 will be completed before the Bill is introduced.

Consultation

21 Te Tari Whakatau – The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana has consulted the following agencies: the Treasury, Te Puni Kōkiri, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Education, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, and Kainga Ora – Homes and Communities.

22 Ngāti Ruapani have received a copy of the Bill and support its introduction.

Binding on the Crown

23 The Bill will be binding on the Crown.

Creating new agencies or amending law relating to existing agencies

24 Not applicable.

Allocation of decision-making powers

25 Not applicable.

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Associated regulations

26 Not applicable.

Other instruments

27 Not applicable.

Definition of Minister/department

28 Not applicable.

Commencement of legislation

29 The Bill will come into force on the day after the date of Royal Assent. Many of the actions or matters occurring under the Bill will occur or take effect on settlement date (40 working days after the Act comes into force).

Parliamentary stages

30 The deed contains a provision stating it is conditional upon legislation coming into force and the Crown will propose the settlement legislation for introduction.

31 During settlement negotiations with Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa (Te Wairoa) it was agreed that the Patunamu Crown Forest Licenced land (Patunamu) would be transferred to a company structure through their settlement. Te Wairoa have a 50% percent shareholding in the company, and the other 50% shareholding is held by the Crown on trust for Ngāti Ruapani. The land is currently not physically divided.

32 Te Wairoa settled in 2018. The shareholders agreement and trust deed for the company states that the 50% shareholding held by the Crown for Ngāti Ruapani must transfer within eight years of the Te Wairoa settlement date (10 November 2026).

33 Should the Crown fail to transfer its interest in the company by November 2026, the Crown's beneficial interest, including the entitlement to 50% of the forest land, must be redeemed. Patunamu would then need to be physically subdivided into two areas for Te Wairoa and Ngāti Ruapani. 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

34 In order to meet the deadline to transfer the Patunamu forest redress, the Bill needs to be enacted prior to the 2026 General Election. I am seeking category 2 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme (must be passed before the 2026 General Election to meet a specific deadline).

35 I propose that the Bill be referred to the Māori Affairs Committee for consideration, and that the Committee be asked to report back to the House within a shortened timeframe of four to five months.

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Proactive Release

36 I intend to release this paper proactively, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982, within 30 business days of the Bill's introduction into the House.

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Recommendations

37 I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

37.1 **note** that the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill gives effect to aspects of the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana deed of settlement, which will be signed on 25 February;

37.2 **approve** for introduction, the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill, subject to:

37.2.1 the signing of the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana deed of settlement);

37.2.2 the Bill being amended to insert details about the post-settlement governance entity; and

37.2.3 receiving the final approval of the government caucuses and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;

37.3 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

37.4 **note** that the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations is seeking a category 2 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme (must be passed before the 2026 General Election to meet a specific deadline);

37.5 **agree** that the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill be introduced, subject to the matters set out in sub-paragraphs 37.2.1 – 37.2.3 above, before the next sitting day;

37.6 **agree** that the government propose the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill be:

37.6.1 referred to the Māori Affairs Committee for consideration and reported back within a shortened period of four to five months; and

37.6.2 enacted by the 2026 General Election.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

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Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations**

On 23 February 2026, the Cabinet Business Committee:

1 **noted** that the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill gives effect to aspects of the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana deed of settlement, which will be signed on 25 February 2026;

2 **approved** for introduction, the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill, subject to:

2.1 the signing of the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana deed of settlement;

2.2 the Bill being amended to insert details about the post- settlement governance entity;

2.3 the final approval of the Government caucuses and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;

3 9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

4 **noted** that the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations is seeking a category 2 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme (must be passed before the 2026 General Election to meet a specific deadline);

5 **agreed** that the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill [PCO 24539] be introduced, subject to the matters set out in paragraph 2 above, before the next sitting day;

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6 **agreed** that the Government propose the Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill be:

6.1 referred to the Māori Affairs Committee for consideration and reported back within a shortened period of four to five months;

6.2 enacted by the 2026 General Election

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:
Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)
Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones

Officials present from:
Office of the Prime Minister
Officials' Committee for CBC

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 27 February 2026

On 2 March 2026, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Business Committee for the period ended 27 February 2026:

Out of scope	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
CBC-26-MIN-0004	**Ngāti Ruapani mai Waikaremoana Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction** Portfolio: Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations	CONFIRMED
Out of scope	[redacted]	[redacted]

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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