



**Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations**  
**Minita Nōna te Mana Whakarite Take e pā ana ki**  
**Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

01 APR 2004

Eru George  
Chairperson  
Ngā Kaihautū o Te Arawa Executive Council  
PO Box 6084  
ROTORUA

Tēnā koe

Thank you for the Deed of Mandate submitted to the Crown in December 2003 stating the intention of Ngā Kaihautū o Te Arawa Executive Council ("the Executive Council") to represent the people of Te Arawa in negotiations for the settlement of their historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. We would like to acknowledge the considerable effort of the Executive Council, and in particular Mr Rawiri Te Whare, to submit the Deed of Mandate.

As you are aware the Crown publicly notified the Deed of Mandate in December 2003 and January 2004. In response to the public notification, 52 submissions were received, of which 39 submissions expressed support for the Executive Council, and 13 were opposed.

The Crown has completed its assessment of the Deed of Mandate and the submissions. We have come to the conclusion that the Executive Council has considerable support from the Te Arawa claimant community, and is an appropriate entity to represent the people of Te Arawa in negotiations. We are therefore pleased to recognise the mandate of the Executive Council.

The Crown is strongly committed to addressing the wrongs of the past and establishing the basis for a strong, ongoing relationship with Te Arawa. We look forward to working with you in negotiations. The negotiation and signing of the Terms of Negotiation is the next milestone to be achieved in the settlement process. Following that, formal negotiations can begin.

It is important for you to continue to build on your mandate, and there are several matters that it would be prudent for you to address. At the Ngati Rangitihī mandating hui (held on 10 August 2003), the hui minutes do not show that specific resolutions seeking a mandate were put to the people. While the minutes suggest that there was overall consensus for Ngati Rangitihī to give their mandate to the Executive Council, Ngati Rangitihī should have the opportunity to again demonstrate their support for the Executive Council at a reconfirmation hui, to be held before Terms of Negotiation between the Crown and Te Arawa are signed.

We note that two groups (Ngāti Rangiwewehi and Ngāti Rangiteaorere) have yet to finalise the appointment of their representatives on the Executive Council. We encourage the Executive Council to assist those groups to complete this election process.

We note that although the Executive Council's mandate does not currently cover the historical claims of Ngāti Makino, Waitaha and Tapuika, there are seats available on both the Kaihautū and the Executive Council for representatives of these groups, should they choose to join the negotiations. The Crown's preference is that these groups be included in the negotiations, and officials will continue to encourage these groups to join with Te Arawa.

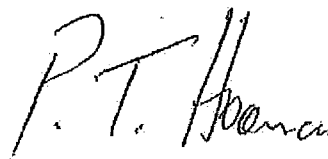
Given the size of the Te Arawa population that has come together for the purpose of negotiations, we consider that open and regular communication between the Executive Council, the Kaihautū and Ngā Uri o Te Arawa is particularly essential in order to achieve a durable settlement. We understand that the Executive Council is developing a communication strategy. It will be important for the strategy to reinforce the point to the people of Te Arawa that it is the Executive Council that holds the mandate. Office of Treaty Settlements officials will monitor these processes throughout the negotiations.

In conclusion, we congratulate the Executive Council in achieving this significant milestone. We look forward to meeting you in Rotorua to celebrate this achievement with you and the people of Te Arawa.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Margaret Wilson  
Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



Hon Parekura Horomia  
Minister of Māori Affairs