

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Proactive release – Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu: Total Settlement Value

Date of issue: 16 April 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.	Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu Treaty Settlement: Total Settlement Value Cabinet paper	Some information has been withheld in accordance with the following sections of the OIA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• section 9(2)(f)(iv) – protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and• section 9(2)(j) – negotiations sensitive.
2.	Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu Treaty Settlement: Total Settlement Value Cabinet Committee minute	Some information has been withheld in accordance with the following sections of the OIA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• section 9(2)(j) – negotiations sensitive.
3.	Report of the Cabinet Business Committee Cabinet Committee minute	Some information has been withheld due to it being outside of the scope of this release.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

MŌKAI PĀTEA NUI TONU TREATY SETTLEMENT: TOTAL SETTLEMENT VALUE

Proposal

1. This paper seeks Cabinet approval for a total settlement value of s9(2)(j) for the settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu. s9(2)(j)

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. Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu is a confederation of four iwi with a population of around 5,900, based in the central North Island, around Taihape. The Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu area of interest extends from Rāta in the south to the Kaimanawa Ranges in the north, including the Waiouru Military Training area and is approximately 395,500 hectares in size.
4. The Crown signed Terms of Negotiation with Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu in September 2021. I expect to sign an Agreement in Principle with Mōkai Pātea by mid 2025.
5. I seek Cabinet approval for a total settlement value of s9(2)(j), including the financial redress and the value of any cultural redress. s9(2)(j)
6. s9(2)(j)
7. I expect to seek Cabinet decisions on remaining redress for a comprehensive Crown-offer to Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu in early 2025.

s9(2)(j)

Background

8. Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu (**Mōkai Pātea**) is the confederated iwi of Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Tamakōpiri. The close interrelationships between Mōkai Pātea groups have enabled them to respond to external threats by drawing on shared whakapapa to form political or military alliances with each other from time to time.
9. Historically, due to a lack of recognition of the four iwi by the Crown, Mōkai Pātea has been overshadowed by their more populous and prominent neighbours Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Kahungunu leading Mōkai Pātea to feel invisible. Since the 1980s Mōkai Pātea has been undertaking a process of re-establishing its distinct tribal and hapū identities.
10. The iwi of Mōkai Pātea are based in the central North Island. They have an area of interest of approximately 395,500 hectares that spans from Waiouru in the north to Rāta in the south and from the Ruahine Ranges in the east to the western tip at the town of Otairi, near Hunterville (see **Appendix One**). Of this, 318,000 hectares has been lost from Māori ownership, leaving 78,000 hectares (approximately 20 percent) in Māori ownership.
11. Mōkai Pātea's key grievances arise from:
 - a. the rapid alienation of their best-quality land through Native Land Court processes;
 - b. their inability to access most of the land they retain (landlocking);
 - c. the invisibilisation of their tribal identities; and
 - d. the Crown's repeated failure to uphold its obligations as a Treaty partner.
12. The Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust (the **Claims Trust**) undertook a mandating process for comprehensive negotiations to settle all historical claims on behalf of Mōkai Pātea. The Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations recognised the mandate in March 2021 and Terms of Negotiation were signed shortly thereafter.
13. For settlement purposes the Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti (**Te Arawhiti**) assesses Mōkai Pātea's population to be approximately 5,900.

Negotiations with Mōkai Pātea

14. Negotiations began between Mōkai Pātea and the Crown in November 2021. Mōkai Pātea presented their settlement aspirations and 'special factors' to me on 7 March 2024.
15. I expect to sign an Agreement in Principle (**AIP**) with Mōkai Pātea by mid 2025.

Mōkai Pātea settlement aspirations

16. Mōkai Pātea are seeking a quantum offer that provides appropriate financial compensation for each of the four iwi of the confederation of Mōkai Pātea.
17. Mōkai Pātea aspire to improve the social and economic wellbeing of its people through its Treaty settlement, particularly in the areas of education, housing, health and employment. Mōkai Pātea also seek long term investment and economic development opportunities in a manner consistent with its cultural values. Mōkai Pātea wishes to re-assert its role as kaitiaki of the environment and resources in its area of interest.

s9(2)(j)

Approach to Crown offer to Mōkai Pātea

20. I intend to make a financial redress (quantum) offer of settlement to Mōkai Pātea in December 2024. s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Next steps

31. Officials and the Claims Trust negotiators are continuing to work on other aspects of the redress package for Mōkai Pātea. I intend to report further to Cabinet in early 2025 to seek agreement to the remaining elements of the Crown offer to Mōkai Pātea. At this time, I will also provide an update on the likelihood of reaching an AIP with Mōkai Pātea in 2025. s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

33. The signing of a deed will be subject to ratification of an initialled deed (including the draft Claims Settlement Bill) by Mōkai Pātea.

Consultation

34. In preparing this paper, Te Arawhiti has consulted with and incorporated the views of the Treasury.

s9(2)(j)

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Human Rights

40. The proposals outlined in this paper are not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Legislative Implications

41. No legislative implications arise directly as a result of this paper.

Regulatory Impact Statement

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

Cost-of-Living Implications

43. Not applicable

Use of External Resources

44. Due to the unique nature of the work that Te Arawhiti undertakes in terms of Treaty settlements, there is a need to use external experts to support the work. Examples of this include the use of Chief Crown Negotiators, experts in tikanga and te ao Māori and utilising the support of local expertise. External resources are contracted as and where required, and in line with relevant guidance. David Tapsell has been appointed as Chief Crown Negotiator for the Mōkai Pātea settlement.

Publicity

45. There will be no immediate public communications as a result of the decisions in this paper as the Crown financial redress (quantum) offer will be made to the Claims Trust through confidential negotiations. However, Te Arawhiti will develop a communications strategy, alongside relevant agencies, to ensure affected and interested parties are informed of the content of the AIP at the time it is signed. The communications strategy will address how officials and Mōkai Pātea would consult with overlapping claimants and potentially affected parties.
46. Te Arawhiti will make the AIP available to the media and public on its website.

Recommendations

I recommend that the Committee:

Background

1. note that Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu are a confederation of four iwi groups, consisting of Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Tamakōpiri and Ngāti Whitikaupeka, and are currently negotiating an Agreement in Principle with the Crown;
2. note the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust holds the mandate of Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu to negotiate the comprehensive settlement of their historical Treaty of Waitangi claims;

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

9. **note** that the total cost of this settlement will be charged against the *Vote Treaty Negotiation Multi-year Appropriation: Historical Treaty of Waitangi Settlements 2022-2026* when a deed of settlement is initialled and no new funding is required;

Next Steps

10. **agree** that the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations (or the Chief Crown Negotiator, if appropriate) make a quantum offer to Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu as outlined in this paper;
11. **note** the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations will report further to Cabinet in early 2025 to seek agreement to the remaining elements of the redress package for Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu; and

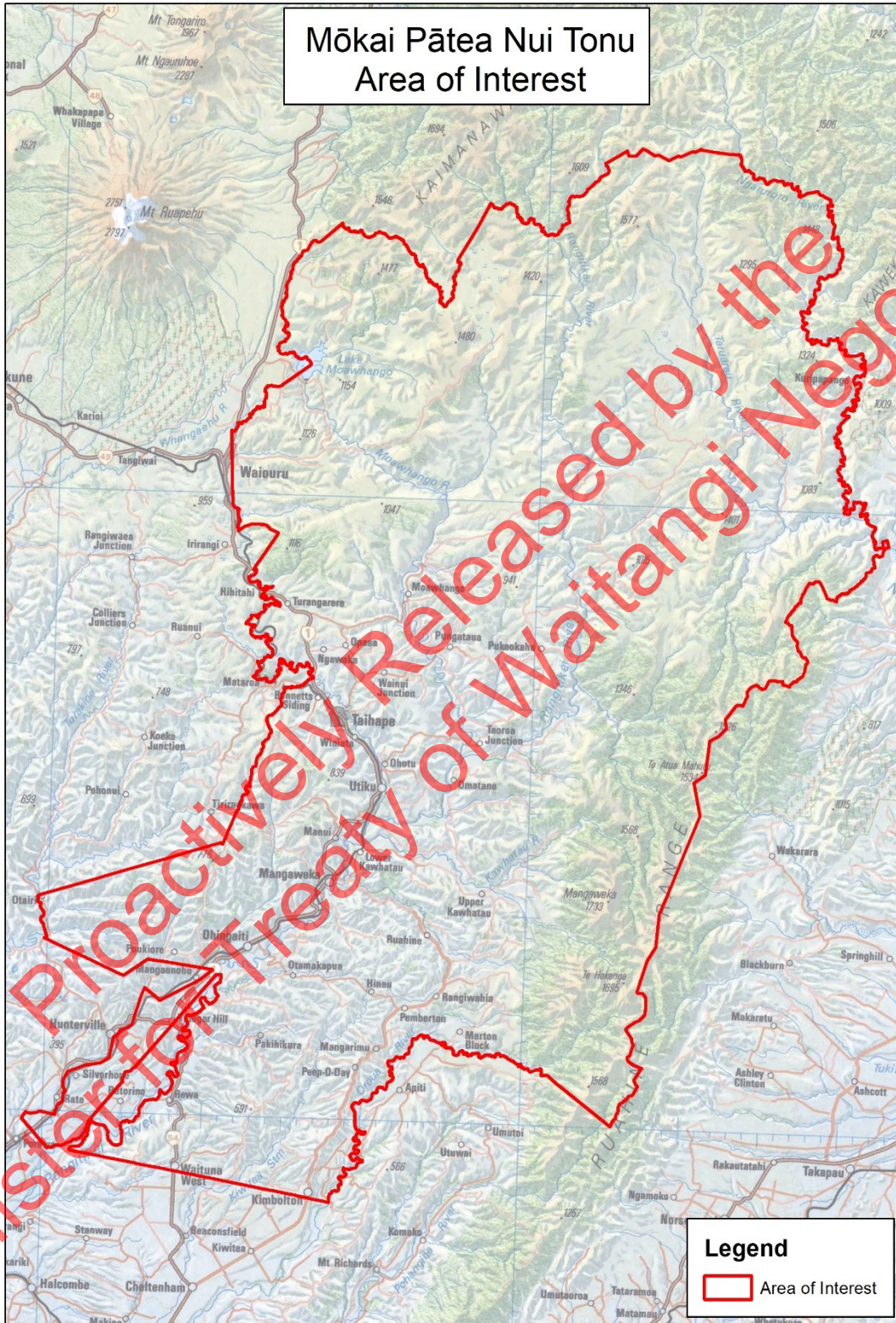
12. **note** if Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu accepts the Crown offer, the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations intends to sign an Agreement in Principle in mid 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

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Appendix One: Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu area of interest





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.

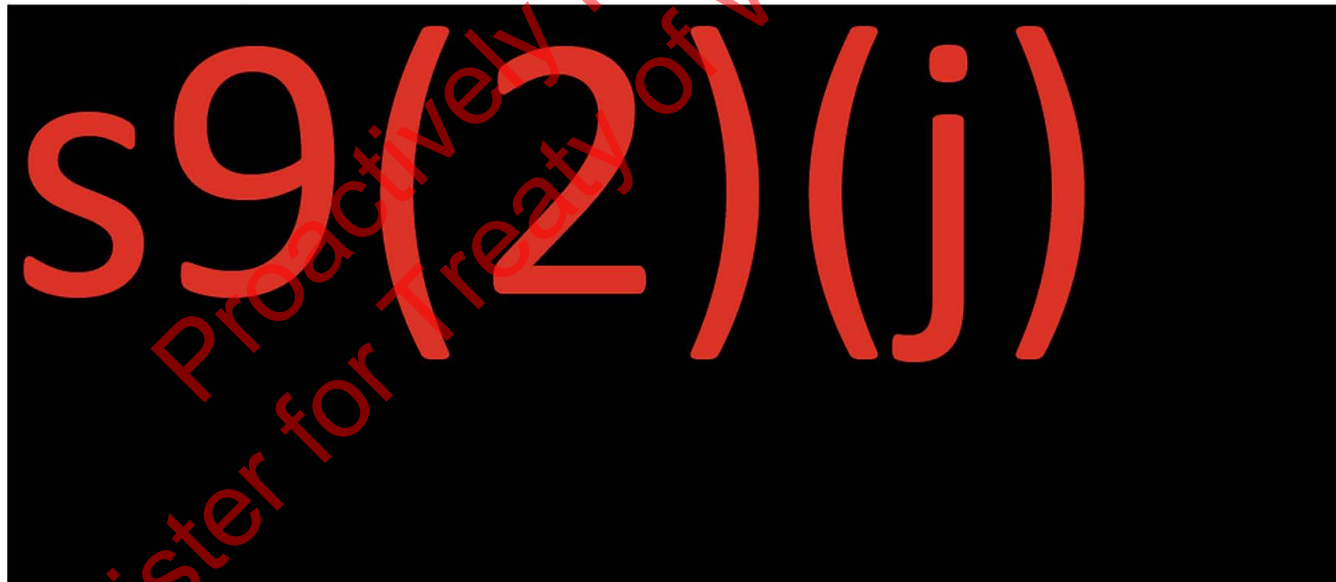
Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu Treaty Settlement: Total Settlement Value

Portfolio Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

On 2 December 2024, the Cabinet Business Committee:

Background

- 1 **noted** that Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu is a confederation of four iwi groups, consisting of Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Tamakōpiri, and Ngāti Whitikaupeka, and is currently negotiating an Agreement in Principle with the Crown;
- 2 **noted** that the Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust holds the mandate of Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu to negotiate the comprehensive settlement of their historical Treaty of Waitangi claims;



s9(2)(j)

Next Steps

- 10 **agreed** that the Minister (or the Chief Crown Negotiator, if appropriate) make a quantum offer to Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu, as outlined in the paper under CBC-24-SUB-0125;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister will report further to the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee in early 2025 to seek agreement to the remaining elements of the redress package for Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu;
- 12 **noted** that if Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu accepts the Crown offer, the Minister intends to sign an Agreement in Principle in mid-2025.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Attendance: (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Simon Watts

Officials present from:

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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

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

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Out of scope
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
CBC-24-MIN-0125	Mōkai Pātea Nui Tonu Treaty Settlement: Total Settlement Value Portfolio: Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations	CONFIRMED	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Out of scope
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

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Out of
scope

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Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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