

Record of Meeting

Hui: Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi initial information hui, Kaeo Memorial Hall, Whangāroa

Date: Friday 17 January 2020

Present: Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi

Opening remarks

The hui opened at approximately 5:00pm with karakia.

The facilitator advised:

- an attendance list was in circulation;
- a speakers list was also in circulation for those who wished to speak during the hui however this did not restrict anyone's ability to speak; and
- Te Arawhiti would present a slideshow and answer any questions throughout.

The presentation was presented in full however there were a number of questions and comments throughout that were answered and acknowledged (as detailed below). The specific presentation has not been recorded as it followed closely to the information on the slides.

Matters raised by Whangāroa hapū

He Wakaputanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Waitangi Tribunal inquiries

1. Many speakers made strong statements regarding He Wakaputanga and the Waitangi Tribunal's Stage 1 report, specifically the conclusion that Ngāpuhi did not cede sovereignty. Speakers asked when the Crown would respond to the Tribunal's Stage 1 report and the importance of progressing these discussions.
2. Speakers questioned whether a Treaty settlement would extinguish Ngāpuhi sovereignty and asserted the Crown needed to provide its position on this upfront.
3. Speakers queried when the Waitangi Tribunal's Stage 2 report would be available and considered the Crown should provide resourcing for this to happen as soon as possible. Speakers advised they feel strongly that they cannot enter into negotiations until the Tribunal's conclusions are dealt with.

Hapū rangtiratanga

4. Speakers emphasised hapū rangatiratanga needs to be respected, protected and enhanced in any mandate discussions.

5. There was a request for the Crown to define hapū rangatiratanga before it tries to move forward with ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi in mandate discussions. The Crown acknowledged this was a conversation that needs to be had.
6. There were calls for the Crown to work with Whangāroa hapū and find a pathway forward together rather than the Crown dictating the mandate process. The Crown advised it is willing to work with Whangāroa hapū to develop an acceptable process.
7. Speakers stressed that Whangāroa hapū should be able to negotiate their own financial and commercial redress.
8. Whāngaroa hapū want equality with the Crown as Treaty partners.

Discontinued recognition of the TIMA mandate and views on new proposal

9. There was strong support for the Crown's decision to discontinue its recognition of the TIMA mandate.
10. Statements were made about the Crown learning from the TIMA mandate process and engaging in meaningful discussions with ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi and listening to what they have to say.
11. Speakers noted the damage the TIMA mandate process has done to ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi and advised that ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi need the time and space to hohou te rongo amongst themselves and to meet and discuss what their needs are.
12. Speakers advised the proposed timeframes for submitting new mandate proposals were seen as unattainable, and extended timeframes were needed to enable meaningful engagement. Speakers highlighted how the Crown had said it had been listening to ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi but the timeframes that have been imposed indicates the Crown has not been. It was agreed the Crown needs to be flexible with the mandate process and timeframes.
13. Speakers stated the Crown should not be dictating any processes to ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi, and hapū should be determining the processes they want to follow with the Crown accepting these.
14. Although there is support for the new mandate opportunity, many people feel as though the Crown is still dictating the process and there are significant concerns things will be no different this time around.

Collective mandate proposal

15. Speakers questioned why the Crown is still seeking to negotiate financial and commercial redress collectively and asked the Crown not to predetermine what the next steps will be. The Crown explained how it considers common issues could be better addressed through a collective negotiation but noted this may not be everyone's view.
16. Speakers requested the Crown remove any cap or limitations on commercial redress.
17. Some speakers expressed a view that Whangāroa hapū should be able to negotiate their own financial and commercial redress.

Regional hapū mandate proposals

18. The opportunity to negotiate specific cultural redress by regional hapū groupings was welcomed however it was reiterated some hapū want the opportunity to negotiate their own financial and commercial redress.
19. There was discussion around how Whangāroa hapū could organise themselves into hapū groupings and questions about whether the Crown would consider individual hapū mandates. The Crown advised that Ministers would be unlikely to approve individual hapū mandates.
20. Some hapū signalled they were readying themselves to hui with Crown officials to discuss progressing a mandate.

Funding

21. There was feedback on providing adequate resourcing to ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi to engage and wānanga together to develop their own approaches.
22. There were calls for the Crown to give hapū a lump sum of money for hapū to use as they please in the pre-mandating process.
23. Some speakers advised it will cost more than \$500 to get hapū members living elsewhere in New Zealand or in other countries together for a hui, and requested the Crown revise its funding limits.

Other feedback

24. One speaker noted the Crown should refer to He Wakaputanga not He Whakaputanga.
25. Speakers stated that different terminology will need to be used if the Crown wants to enter into discussions with ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi. For example, the Crown should confess to its wrongdoings rather than provide an apology, and hapū want to receive reparation and restitution for their claims not a settlement.
26. Some speakers informed how they want all land that had been taken by the Crown to be returned and this should not require negotiations.
27. One speaker advised that environmental issues and environmental redress is important to them.
28. There was strong consensus amongst speakers that Whangāroa is not part of Ngāpuhi and needs to be addressed as just Whangāroa.
29. One speaker asked if he could re-write the Crown's presentation and then give it back to officials so the Crown is more aware of Whangāroa hapū views. Officials agreed to this.

Closing remarks

Following all speakers, Te Arawhiti summarised the key messages heard by the Crown including:

- Further discussions around He Wakaputanga and hapū rangatiratanga need to be had;

- Whangāroa hapū want to be able to determine their own way forward and negotiate their own redress;
- Hapū need more time and resources to consider and develop any mandate proposals;
- Crown funding needs to be adequate and reliable;
- Crown officials are willing to come back and meet with hapū who want to further discuss progressing a mandate proposal.

Copies of the presentation, funding application form and guidance for mandate proposals were available for all attendees to take away.

The hui closed at approximately 7.45pm with karakia.