

Frequently Asked Questions about Mandating



What is a mandate?

A mandate is the support given to representatives by hapū to represent them in Treaty settlement negotiations. In order to enter Treaty settlement negotiations, the Crown must decide to recognise this mandate.

Who provides the mandate?

It is given by the hapū, not by the Crown. The Crown must decide if it will recognise the mandate.

Can a mandate be withdrawn?

Yes. A mandate can be withdrawn by hapū if support is withdrawn. In this case the Crown may cease to recognise a mandate. The mandated representatives should carry out 'mandate maintenance' to ensure the mandate continues.

Who will the Crown negotiate with?

In the Ngāpuhi context, the Crown's strong preference is to negotiate with groupings of hapū, rather than individual hapū or individual Wai claimants.

How can I participate?

You should be able to engage with the entity seeking a mandate often, at hui, or by contacting them directly. You can make a submission on the mandate strategy, and deed of mandate. As a registered hapū member, you can vote on who has the mandate to represent the hapū grouping in negotiations with the Crown.

What is a claimant definition?

A claimant definition is a description of the group whose claims will be settled and who will benefit from the settlement. A claimant definition needs to be developed as part of a mandate.

Is funding available to support mandate work?

Funding is available from the Crown to support work towards reaching a mandate. Te Tari Whakatau can advise on the funding process.