



## Office of Hon Christopher Finlayson

Attorney-General  
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations  
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

25 JAN 2010

Chairperson  
Te Au Māro o Ngāti Pūkenga  
652 Welcome Bay Road  
RD 5  
TAURANGA

Tēnā koe

We write to confirm the Crown's recognition of the mandate of Te Au Māro o Ngāti Pūkenga (**Te Au Māro**) to negotiate a settlement of all the historical Treaty claims of Ngāti Pūkenga with the Crown.

The deed of mandate you have submitted shows a very high level of support for Te Au Māro from the four regions in which you claim interests. We have concluded that Te Au Māro is an appropriate body to represent Ngāti Pūkenga in settlement negotiations with the Crown.

We note that you have been working through representation issues relating to the Hauraki Māori Trust Board mandate and your interests in Manaia. We understand that you have been engaging in discussions with the Hauraki Māori Trust Board and we encourage you to continue these discussions to ensure that they do not hamper progress with your negotiations.

In conclusion, we are pleased to recognise the mandate of Te Au Māro to represent Ngāti Pūkenga in negotiations for the settlement of their historical Treaty claims. Congratulations on attaining this milestone in your path to reaching settlement with the Crown. We look forward to working with you.

Nā māua noa,

Hon Christopher Finlayson  
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Dr Pita R Sharples  
Minister of Māori Affairs