Ngāti Whakahemo
(draft) DEED OF MANDATE

2026

LARGE NATURAL GROUP	Ngāti Whakahemo
NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE BODY	Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust (NWCT)

Ngāti Whakahemo is recognised as a Large Natural Group for the purposes of Treaty settlement. The representative body authorised to hold the mandate on behalf of Ngāti Whakahemo is the Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust (NWCT). The mandate of NWCT is to represent Ngāti Whakahemo in direct negotiations with the Crown, with the objective of achieving a durable, full and final settlement of the iwi's historic claims under Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi.

The scope of this mandate is to negotiate a draft Deed of Settlement on behalf of Ngāti Whakahemo. Once an initialled Deed of Settlement has been reached, together with a proposed Post-Settlement Governance Entity, NWCT will present these to Ngāti Whakahemo for their collective consideration and decision through a ratification process. In this way, the ultimate authority remains with Ngāti Whakahemo as an iwi, ensuring that settlement arrangements reflect both the Crown's requirements and the tikanga, aspirations, and rangatiratanga of our people.

NGĀTI WHAKAHEMO CLAIMS TRUST: POINT OF CONTACT

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1. WHAKAPAPA

The founding ancestor of Ngāti Whakahemo is Maruahaira, who arrived in our rohe aboard a waka taua and established ahi kā on the whenua that continues to define our identity today.

The whakapapa that connects us to Maruahaira is as follows:

Maruahaira
↓
Maraika
↓
Kaiakau
↓
Te Ingo
↓
Paretira
↓
Tirangi
↓
Ngamakini
↓
Te Awhe o Te Rangi – Te Aweawe

This line grounds our iwi's connection to the whenua, our tīpuna, and our shared obligations to protect, uphold, and advance the mana of Ngāti Whakahemo.

2. IWI / HAPŪ

There are no constituent hapū of Ngāti Whakahemo.

Ngāti Amonga and Ngāti Maruahaira are historical names for Ngāti Whakahemo used by cross claimants in hearings before the Native Land Court during the late 19th century.

3. MARAE

Pukehina Marae:

- Wharenui – Tawakemoetahanga
- Wharekai – Tuparewhaitaita

Te Awhe Marae:

- Wharenui – Te Awhe o Te Rangi
- Wharekai – Te Rokiroki-o-Whakaotiranga

4. WAI CLAIMS

WAI 1471

- Filed: February 2008
- Original Claimants: Mihi Anaru and Murray Anaru

- Focus: Issues relating to Pukehina

WAI 2536

- Filed: August 2008
- Original Claimant: Hemi Anderson
- Focus: Issues relating to Pongakawa and Maketū

NWCT seeks a comprehensive settlement of all Ngāti Whakahemo historical claims (including all registered Wai claims or unregistered claims).

5. ROHE / AREA OF INTEREST

The area covered by the claims of Ngāti Whakahemo extends along the coastline from Te Tumu in the west to Ōhinepanea in the east, and inland from Motunau and Mōtītī to Rotoehu and Matawhaura. It includes the offshore islands of Motunau, Motuhaku, and Mōtītī.

This rohe reflects the areas where Ngāti Whakahemo has maintained ahi kā and mana whenua, or places where the iwi shares longstanding interests and intergenerational connections with neighbouring iwi and hapū. It provides the geographic basis of the historical grievances raised in Wai 1471 and Wai 2536 and is the defined area of interest for which mandate is sought (Appendix A).

Within this rohe are key whenua and communities of significance to Ngāti Whakahemo, including Te Tumu, Pukaingataru, Maketū, Waihi, Paengaroa, Wharere, Pukehina, Pongakawa, Rotoehu, and Matawhaura.

Ngāti Whakahemo acknowledges that parts of this rohe are shared with neighbouring iwi and hapū, while also recognising the distinct boundaries that define our own rohe. The mandate sought provides a pathway to address claims across both shared and unique spaces, while strengthening relationships and ensuring a just settlement for our people and future generations.

6. OVERLAPPING CLAIMS/IWI

The Ngāti Whakahemo area of interest overlaps with the following iwi and hapū:

- **Ngāti Awa** – Motītī, Waihi, Wharere, Pukehina, Pongakawa, Rotoehu, Matawhaura
- **Ngāti Pūkenga** – Motītī, Te Tumu, Pukaingataru, Maketū, Waihi, Paengaroa
- **Ngāi Te Rangi** – Motītī, Te Tumu, Pukaingataru, Maketū, Waihi, Paengaroa
- **Ngāti Ranginui** – Motītī
- **Ngāti Mākino** – Maketū, Waihi, Paengaroa, Wharere, Pukehina, Pongakawa, Rotoehu, Matawhaura
- **Ngāti Pikiao** – Pukaingataru, Maketū, Waihi, Paengaroa, Wharere, Pukehina, Pongakawa, Rotoehu, Matawhaura
- **Ngāti Whakaue** – Te Tumu, Pukaingataru, Maketū, Waihi, Paengaroa, Wharere, Pukehina
- **Waitaha** – Te Tumu, Maketū, Waihi
- **Tapuika** – Te Tumu, Pukaingataru, Maketū, Waihi, Paengaroa
- **Ngāti Rangiwewehi** – Te Tumu, Pukaingataru, Paengaroa
- **Ngāti Rangiteaorere** – Te Tumu, Pukaingataru
- **Ngāti Rangitihi** – Maketū, Waihi, Paengaroa, Wharere, Pukehina, Pongakawa, Rotoehu, Matawhaura

All of the above iwi and hapū have concluded full and final settlements with the Crown, with the exception of Ngāti Whakaue (in negotiations) and Ngāi Te Rangi (awaiting settlement legislation).

7. PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT

Ngāti Whakahemo were included as a subgroup of Ngāti Pikiao in the Deed of Settlement of the Historical Claims of Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi/Hapū dated 11 June 2008 as amended and Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapū Claims Settlement Act 2008 (Affiliate Te Arawa settlement).

The position of Ngāti Whakahemo, as recorded in subsequent correspondence to the Crown, is that there was no engagement with Ngāti Whakahemo on their inclusion in the Affiliate Te Arawa settlement as a subgroup of Ngāti Pikiao.

Ngāti Whakahemo consider their inclusion in the Affiliate Te Arawa settlement as inappropriate and will seek to address this matter with the Crown in addition to negotiating a settlement of their unsettled historical claims as outlined in this deed of mandate.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

8. REPRESENTATIVES

Ngāti Whakahemo's Treaty settlement journey has, for more than three decades, been guided by a consistent, tikanga-based process of selecting and confirming leadership. This process is designed to ensure that those entrusted with the kaupapa have the skills, integrity, and lived connection to carry the iwi's aspirations forward.

The koeke who led those early discussions made it clear: Anyone chosen to represent us needed to know how to find Ngāti Whakahemo on a map — both literally and spiritually. They needed to have a lived connection to our whenua and our people, or the heart and drive to build that connection authentically.

This guiding principle still shapes every appointment we make today.

The current Trustees of the Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust are: Mita Ririnui, Kura Paul-Burke, Kerri Kerr, Jasmine Stoneley, and Adrian Jaram.

Our Process for Selecting and Confirming Trustees

Our process blends tikanga Māori, collective accountability, and the practical needs of the settlement kaupapa:

1. **Nominations sought to fill casual vacancy**
    - Any member may raise the name of a candidate for potential appointment to the vacant trustee position, for discussion at a general meeting;
    - Notice of the future general meeting to discuss nominations will be sent to all registered members of Ngāti Whakahemo as well as widely advertised.

- Iwi members will discuss potential candidates for the trustee position, whose names are advanced into the next stage in the process.

2. **Initial Vetting by Kaumātua**
   - Before any name is taken to a vote, the names are floated in front of a core group of koeke for feedback.
   - These discussions assess the candidate's suitability, skill set, and readiness for the demands of the role.
   - The expectation is that representatives are deeply grounded in Ngāti Whakahemo — able to navigate both our physical landscape and the tikanga, kaupapa, and relationships that give us identity.
   - If any koeke express serious concerns, the name is withheld until those matters are resolved.
3. **Taking the Name to the People**
   - If supported by kaumatua, the proposal is placed on the agenda of a future Hui-ā-Iwi or Pukehina Marae Hui.
   - All registered and unregistered Ngāti Whakahemo descendants may attend — and we encourage it. We value and rely on their presence, because decisions of this significance cannot happen without their voice.
   - The floor remains open for additional nominations from whānau at this stage. All names presented are treated as equal contenders.
4. **Open Discussion and Vote**
   - The candidate's name is openly discussed, along with any strengths, concerns, or background relevant to the role.
   - The people then vote on the appointment. This may be by consensus or indicative voting, depending on the hui and kaupapa at hand.
   - This vote is formalised and recorded in minutes.
5. **Public Accountability and Ongoing Mandate**
   - Trustees report back to the iwi at least six times a year through marae hui, as well as via special hui, general meetings, or written updates.
   - Whānau may raise concerns at any of these hui, prompting a reshuffle or the introduction of new advisory voices (kaimahi) alongside Trustees.
   - The Trust Deed provides clear processes for removing Trustees where required.

Election Cycles and Re-Election Process

Historically, prior to forming the Trust, Ngāti Whakahemo operated as a working group whose membership shifted according to Crown processes of the day and the skill sets needed.

Once the Trust was established, we retained our tikanga-led approach rather than imposing arbitrary term limits.

The reasoning:

- Our Trustees have repeatedly sought and received reaffirmation from the people over successive decades, through hui-ā-iwi and formal votes.
- The continuity of leadership has provided stability in complex negotiations.
- The mandate can be refreshed at any time by the iwi — and our history shows we are not afraid to stand again before our people for confirmation.

While the Trust Deed specifies that voting ordinarily occurs at general meetings, the Chairperson may also call a special hui to seek confirmation or fill a vacancy, ensuring responsiveness to iwi needs outside the AGM cycle.

Kaimahi/Staff – Succession in Action

Alongside Trustees, Ngāti Whakahemo maintains a group of kaimahi — whānau who actively support the kaupapa without holding Trustee responsibilities. These roles might not carry a title — but they carry the kaupapa.

- Kaimahi are presented for feedback and informal confirmation at hui so whānau are familiar with new voices.
- This space is often a steppingstone for rangatahi, those returning home, or whānau new to the settlement process.
- It ensures a constant pool of emerging leaders — people who are building strong connections to our whenua, our people, and the values that guide our iwi, so they are ready to lead in the future.

Historical Record of Mandated Leadership

Our process and continuity of leadership are evidenced through key hui:

- **1998 Hui-ā-Iwi** – Established first working committee: Margaret Williams, Adrian Jaram, Te Awhi o Te Rangi Anderson-Manahi. Advisor: Mita Ririnui. (Appendix B)
- **2009 Hui-ā-Iwi** – Mandated members: Te Awhi o Te Rangi Anderson-Manahi, Paku Jackson, Rangiuia Ngawhika, Mihi Anaru, Huriwaka Rewa. Support: Adrian Jaram, Jimmy McLean, Hare Williams, Hokohinu Horne, Maria Horne, Kura Paul-Burke, Jasmine Stoneley. (Appendix C)
- **2014 Pukehina Marae Hui** – Added Kerri Kerr; active members acknowledged: Mita Ririnui, Adrian Jaram, Te Awhi o Te Rangi Anderson-Manahi, Kura Paul-Burke, Jasmine Stoneley, Maria Horne, Kerri Kerr. (Appendix D)
- **2023 Hui-ā-Iwi & Pukehina Marae Hui** – Reaffirmed leadership for next settlement phase. (Appendix E)
- **2025 Mandate Vote** – Formal iwi-wide vote confirmed NWCT as mandated entity to negotiate with the Crown.

In summary, the Ngāti Whakahemo process for Trustee appointment is:

- **Tikanga-led** (grounded in koeke guidance and iwi consensus)
- **Transparent** (open floor discussion and voting)
- **Responsive** (can occur outside AGM if needed)
- **Stable** (leaders reconfirmed over decades, providing continuity)
- **Inclusive** (open to all iwi members to attend and nominate — and we encourage it, because decisions cannot happen without their voice)
- **Future-focused** (succession planning through kaimahi involvement)

Above all, we remain faithful to the principle laid down by our koeke — that those entrusted with this role must be anchored in our whenua, our people, and our tikanga, with the knowledge and heart to carry Ngāti Whakahemo forward.

This continuity, combined with openness to challenge and change, has ensured that those leading the Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust do so with the confidence and mandate of our people, at every stage of the settlement journey.

9. STRUCTURE

Ngāti Whakahemo's representatives operate within a tikanga-led structure, given legal form through the Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust (NWCT).

The NWCT is the formal legal entity mandated by Ngāti Whakahemo to negotiate directly with the Crown. Established as a charitable trust under the Trusts Act 2019, NWCT provides the legal framework required for settlement negotiations, while its authority is drawn from tikanga and the collective will of our people.

The trustees sit as the governing body of NWCT. They are not appointed through external or top-down processes, but are selected, confirmed, and reconfirmed by iwi members themselves through hui-ā-iwi and marae hui conducted in line with our tikanga. This ensures that the legal structure of the Trust operates in harmony with Ngāti Whakahemo's tikanga-based processes of accountability, representation, and leadership.

The Trust's role is not to sit above the iwi, but to act as its expression. It exists to serve all members of Ngāti Whakahemo, including our hapū, whānau groupings, and marae communities. It is through these lines of accountability that the heartbeat of the iwi is maintained, and the Trust remains grounded in those relationships.

Engagement and accountability are upheld through:

- Hui-ā-iwi and marae hui open to all descendants, regardless of residence.
- Whakawhiti kōrero and consensus building based on whakapapa, mātauranga, and lived connection to place.
- Formal votes when required (e.g. mandate or Deed ratification), ensuring transparency and iwi-wide participation.
- Ongoing dialogue with koeke, who provide cultural, ethical, and strategic guidance.

In this way, the NWCT brings together the requirements of Crown process (a legally recognised entity) with the enduring tikanga of Ngāti Whakahemo (a people-led, koeke-guided decision-making model).

Its legitimacy is grounded not only in statute, but in more than three decades of reaffirmation by the iwi through hui-ā-iwi and marae hui, formal votes, and collective participation.

The trustees are known to the people, accountable to the people, and guided by our koeke. This continuity of service, combined with tikanga-led processes for renewal, ensures the NWCT remains responsive, transparent, and representative of the collective aspirations of Ngāti Whakahemo.

10. KEY GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The operations of the Ngāti Whakahemo Charitable Trust (NWCT) and its negotiators are governed by:

- The Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust – Trust Deed (Appendix F).
- Trusts Act 2019

These documents set out the Trust's structure, responsibilities, and accountability to the iwi. The Trust Deed was approved as part of the Crown mandate process.

11. ACCOUNTABILITY

NWCT's accountability to Ngāti Whakahemo is both legal and tikanga-based, ensuring decisions are collective and reporting is transparent at every stage of the settlement journey.

The Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust (NWCT) is accountable to Ngāti Whakahemo in accordance with the Trust Deed (Appendix F), the Trusts Act 2019, and the tikanga of Ngāti Whakahemo. Its legitimacy rests on both its legal structure and its repeated affirmation by iwi members through hui-ā-iwi and marae hui.

Decision-making

- Trustees make decisions collectively in accordance with sections 24 and 25 of the Trust Deed, usually by majority vote.
- All strategic matters relating to negotiations — such as the Mandate Strategy, Deed of Mandate, Terms of Negotiation, Overlapping Claims Strategy, Agreement in Principle, and Deed of Settlement — must be considered and approved at trustee meetings.
- Trustees are guided by tikanga and informed by koeke, alongside advice from expert consultants, historians, and legal counsel. This tikanga-led process ensures that decisions are anchored in whakapapa, mātauranga, and the collective aspirations of Ngāti Whakahemo.

Reporting and Engagement with the Claimant Community

- NWCT reports to Ngāti Whakahemo through hui-ā-iwi and marae hui held throughout the settlement process. These are advertised as widely as practicable through electronic communications and national and local media.
- In addition to ongoing updates, NWCT is required to hold an Annual General Meeting under clause 17 and 18 of the Trust Deed, where financial statements, funding reports, and negotiation progress are presented.
- Special Meetings may also be convened as needed to seek direction or provide updates on significant milestones.
- Milestones such as the Deed of Mandate, Terms of Negotiation, Agreement in Principle, and the initialled Deed of Settlement will be taken back to the iwi through hui-ā-iwi and marae hui for discussion and endorsement.
- The initialled Deed of Settlement must be formally presented to all iwi members for ratification before any final agreement is signed.

Transparency and Communications

- NWCT is committed to a clear communications strategy, ensuring whānau are kept well-informed of progress through hui, pānui, online platforms, and direct correspondence.
- All Crown funding received will be applied for, managed, and reported on transparently, with regular updates provided to iwi members.

Trustees May Be Removed under Ngāti Whakahemo Tikanga

- Trustees serve with the support of the community, and may be removed if appropriate, through discussion at hui-ā-iwi, under the tikanga of Ngāti Whakahemo.

12. IWI REGISTER

Ngāti Whakahemo's iwi register is maintained through a tikanga-led process of whakapapa verification, given legal form through the Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust (NWCT).

The NWCT has established and will maintain a secure register of members eligible to participate in the Treaty settlement process. Under the Trust Deed, membership includes all individuals who descend from Maruahaira, the founding tūpuna of Ngāti Whakahemo. All descendants are entitled to register, with voting rights at General and Special Meetings limited to those aged 18 years and over.

Registration Process

- A registration form — available both online and in paper format — includes a whakapapa section where applicants provide ancestral details.
- These details are cross-referenced with a recognised whakapapa chart to confirm descent.
- Verification is carried out by the NWCT Whakapapa Team in consultation with the Taumata Kaumātua group, ensuring accuracy and tikanga integrity.

Management of the Register

- The register is securely managed online, with access limited to authorised personnel trained in privacy and data protection.
- A weekly hard copy backup ensures preservation and integrity of all records.
- The process complies with the Privacy Act 2020, including Information Privacy Principle 3, which requires transparency around the purpose, use, and handling of personal information.
- Explicit, informed consent is obtained from each registrant.

Promotion and Outreach

- NWCT actively promotes registrations to ensure all eligible descendants — wherever they live — can fully participate in the settlement process.
- Outreach specifically targets kaumātua (who may prefer non-digital engagement), whānau outside the rohe or overseas, and younger generations not yet connected to the iwi register.
- Registration is supported through kanohi ki te kanohi engagement, pānui, marae-based hui, social media, and the iwi website.

Purpose

Registration is more than an administrative step — it is a pathway for whānau to reconnect with their whakapapa, whenua, and identity as Ngāti Whakahemo. Maintaining a robust, accurate register ensures that the Treaty settlement process reflects the collective voice of Ngāti Whakahemo and that all descendants of Maruahaira have the opportunity to shape the iwi's future.

13. CROWN POLICY REGARDING FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

Summary of Ngāti Whakahemo's Claimant Funding Management Process (Appendix H)

Claimant funding is managed by the Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust (NWCT), which is the mandated entity responsible for the transparent and accountable use of all pūtea received for the purposes of negotiating a Treaty settlement.

The process is overseen by the NWCT Trustees, with financial management delegated to the Treasurer and Chairperson, and subject to two-signatory approval for all payments. A dedicated bank account is used solely for Crown claimant funding, and other sources of pūtea are managed in separate accounts.

All income and expenditure are tracked through detailed financial reporting, with invoices reviewed and approved via a structured internal process. Financial reports are presented annually at hui-ā-iwi, and at any Special Hui where financial updates or decisions are required. An independent annual review of negotiation-related financial statements is conducted, submitted to Te Tari Whakatau, and shared with Ngāti Whakahemo to ensure transparency and accountability.

NWCT confirms full compliance with Crown policy requirements and maintains this process in line with Ngāti Whakahemo tikanga, ensuring mana whakahaere and trust are upheld throughout.

14. REMOVING OR AMENDING THE MANDATE CONFERRED BY THE CLAIMANT COMMUNITY

The mana and authority to hold, amend, or withdraw a mandate always rests with the iwi of Ngāti Whakahemo. This principle ensures that the mandate remains valid only so long as it retains the confidence of our people.

Step 1: Transparency and Informed Decision-Making

A first and essential step in empowering iwi members is to ensure they are fully informed. Robust decisions can only be made when whānau have clear access to the Trust Deed and Mandate Strategy. To support this, NWCT has made these documents widely available throughout the mandate process by:

- Distributing hard copies at hui.
- Emailing directly to registered members.
- Publishing online at www.ngatiwhakahemo.com.

Step 2: Dispute Resolution

If concerns arise, they are addressed through the dispute resolution process set out in section 36 of the Trust Deed. This process is grounded in tikanga o Ngāti Whakahemo and includes:

- Written notice outlining the nature of the dispute.
- Formal acknowledgment from trustees within 14 days.
- Referral to the Kaumātua Taumata for non-binding advice where the dispute relates to whakapapa, tikanga, kawa, reo, or kōrero.
- Efforts by the Chairperson to resolve the matter in good faith, followed by trustee deliberation.
- A decision by trustees based on tikanga and any advice received.
- If unresolved, referral to mediation, and if still unresolved, progression to legal pathways.

Step 3: Removal or Amendment of Mandate

Where serious issues remain unresolved, or where there are substantive reasons supported by evidence, the iwi may choose to amend or remove NWCT's mandate in accordance with section 37 of the Trust Deed.

- Any such proposal must be widely advertised and notified to all registered members.
- Discussion takes place at hui-ā-iwi and marae hui, guided by tikanga and koeke oversight.
- A formal iwi-wide vote (postal, online, and kanohi ki te kanohi) confirms the decision.
- The outcome is binding, recorded in minutes, and reported to the iwi and the Crown.

Step 4: Transitional Arrangements

- If the iwi withdraws the mandate, NWCT will work with Te Tari Whakatau to agree on appropriate transitional arrangements to ensure continuity and protect the interests of Ngāti Whakahemo.

Ultimately, the settlement journey belongs to the iwi of Ngāti Whakahemo. The ability to amend or withdraw the mandate is a safeguard of our tino rangatiratanga — ensuring that leadership remains accountable and that the voice of the people is always paramount. Transitional arrangements provide stability during any change, but the direction of the kaupapa will always rest with the collective will of Ngāti Whakahemo.

15. DISPUTES RESOLUTION PROCESS

The Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust (NWCT) confirms that any disputes arising in relation to the mandate or the operation of the Trust during the Treaty settlement process will be addressed in accordance with the dispute resolution process set out in section 36 of the Trust Deed. NWCT has agreed to be bound by this process for the full duration of negotiations with the Crown.

This process ensures that disputes are addressed in a fair, transparent, and culturally appropriate manner, recognising that such matters must ultimately be resolved in accordance with the tikanga of Ngāti Whakahemo.

Key steps in the dispute resolution process include:

- Disputes must be raised in writing and submitted to the Trustees, setting out the full nature of the dispute.
- Trustees will provide a written response within 10 working days.
- Where a dispute relates to tikanga, whakapapa, kōrero tuku iho, reo, or kawa, it will be referred to the Kaumātua Taumata, who may provide non-binding advice to assist resolution.
- For other disputes, the Chairperson will work to resolve the matter in good faith, in alignment with tikanga, and report to the full board of Trustees.
- Trustees will then make a decision, having regard to any advice received and to tikanga.
- If unresolved, the matter will proceed to mediation, undertaken by Taumata Kaumātua, as agreed between the parties. If necessary, parties may pursue further options, including legal proceedings.
- A full record of all disputes and their outcomes will be kept by NWCT.

This process provides a culturally grounded yet legally robust mechanism for resolving disputes, ensuring that challenges are dealt with openly and fairly. It reflects the tikanga of Ngāti Whakahemo while meeting the Crown's expectation for stability and accountability.

Above all, it guarantees that issues are settled in a way that maintains confidence in the mandate and keeps the iwi united in the settlement journey.

16. NEGOTIATORS

Ngāti Whakahemo has authorised the Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust (NWCT) to appoint, oversee, and remove negotiators in accordance with clause 11.5 of the Trust Deed. This ensures that negotiators remain accountable to the trustees, and ultimately to the iwi.

Appointment and Removal

NWCT will appoint two or three of its trustees to act as negotiators.

As trustees, they are already bound by the Trust Deed, tikanga o Ngāti Whakahemo, and collective accountability to the iwi.

Negotiators may be removed by resolution of the trustees if they breach their obligations, fail to uphold tikanga, or lose the confidence of the iwi.

Basis for Selection

Negotiators will be chosen on the basis of:

- Understanding of the Treaty settlement process.
- Commitment to tikanga o Ngāti Whakahemo and the guidance of our koeke.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to represent iwi interests effectively.

Authority and Terms of Reference

- Negotiators will operate under a formal Terms of Reference approved by NWCT.
- This document will clearly set out their role, scope of authority, limits on decision-making, and reporting requirements.
- Negotiators cannot sign any binding agreements (including Agreement in Principle or Deed of Settlement) without the approval of the full Board and, where required, the endorsement of the iwi through hui-ā-iwi.

Reporting and Accountability

- Negotiators report directly to the full Board of Trustees, providing written and verbal updates.
- Trustees in turn ensure accountability by reporting regularly to iwi members through hui-ā-iwi and marae hui.
- Updates will also be communicated through pānui, the iwi website, and other outreach channels to ensure transparency.

This structure ensures that negotiators are not independent actors but remain firmly accountable to NWCT and the iwi. Their authority is limited, their role is clearly defined, and their accountability is reinforced by tikanga, the Trust Deed, and continuous iwi oversight.

THE MANDATE PROCESS

17. MANDATE STRATEGY

Ngāti Whakahemo and the Crown have agreed that the mandating process needs the following steps to be completed:

1. NWCT prepares a draft mandate strategy
2. NWCT submits the draft mandate strategy to the Crown for consideration (see Appendix I)
3. The Crown accepts the draft mandate strategy
4. The draft mandate strategy is publicly notified, with a period for public submissions
5. Public submissions on the draft mandate strategy are considered by NWCT and the Crown
6. The Crown endorses the draft mandate strategy for Ngāti Whakahemo (see Appendix I)
7. NWCT holds information hui at Pukehina and Maketū
8. NWCT holds mandate hui at Pukehina, Auckland, Wellington, Maketū, and online
9. Ngāti Whakahemo votes on the draft Deed of Mandate
10. Voting results and a mandate hui report are submitted to the Crown
11. NWCT submits the draft Deed of Mandate to the Crown for consideration
12. The Crown accepts the draft Deed of Mandate
13. The draft Deed of Mandate is publicly notified, with a period for public submissions
14. Public submissions on the draft Deed of Mandate are considered by NWCT and the Crown
15. Crown officials provide a final report to Ministers on the Deed of Mandate

18. HUI TIME/LOCATION

Information Hui

NWCT held two information hui within the Ngāti Whakahemo rohe to present the draft mandate strategy and respond to pātai from the claimant community:

- Pukehina: 15 February 2025
- Maketū: 8 March 2025

Mandate Hui

Mandate hui were held nationally and within the rohe to enable members of Ngāti Whakahemo to consider and vote on the mandate resolutions:

- Pukehina: 3 May 2025
- Wellington: 6 May 2025
- Auckland: 7 May 2025
- Online Hui (Zoom): 15 May 2025
- Maketū: 17 May 2025

The online hui on 15 May was recorded and shared via email to registered members and marae mailing lists, and also uploaded to the Ngāti Whakahemo website. This allowed whānau to watch in their own time and submit any questions by email.

19. HUI ADVERTISING

All hui were publicly notified in accordance with Crown requirements, including the time, location, purpose, voting process, eligibility, and resolutions.

Information Hui Advertising (Appendix J)
NWCT managed advertising for the information hui, placing public notices on 24 January and 31 January 2025 in:

- The New Zealand Herald
- The Dominion Post
- Bay of Plenty Times
- Waikato Times

Mandate Hui Advertising (Appendix K)
ElectioNZ.com managed mandate hui advertising as part of their contracted services. Notices appeared in:

- New Zealand Herald – 19 April
- The Post – 19 April
- Bay of Plenty Times – 19 and 28 April
- Whakatāne Beacon – 23 and 30 April

Additional Promotion
NWCT also used:

- Email (to registrants and marae mailing lists)
- The Ngāti Whakahemo website
- Social media

If a mandate is recognised, NWCT will continue to hold regular information hui, promoted widely through online channels.

20. HUI PRESENTATION

The presentations delivered at our hui were developed independently and reflect the aspirations, priorities, and goals of Ngāti Whakahemo. This approach ensured that the information shared was firmly iwi-led and grounded in our own tikanga, while providing whānau with the clarity needed to make informed decisions.

At each information hui, NWCT delivered a PowerPoint presentation covering the background to Ngāti Whakahemo's claims, the draft mandate strategy, the Trust Deed, and the proposed comprehensive settlement.

Hard copies were made available at hui, and the presentation was also:

- Emailed directly to registered members.
- Shared via marae mailing lists.
- Uploaded to the Ngāti Whakahemo website.

An accompanying information booklet (Appendix L) provided further detail on the claims, mandate process, and iwi aspirations. This was also distributed both in person and online.

Feedback was actively gathered through pātai sessions, written comments, follow-up emails, and kōrero at marae hui. This feedback informed updates to the presentation and ensured that it evolved in response to whānau input.

The final presentation (Appendix M), delivered at the Mandate Hui, incorporated these refinements. It responded to common questions raised during the information hui process and included deeper content on Ngāti Whakahemo's history, claims, and aspirations.

There was a strong turnout of whānau at several of the Mandate Hui presentations, reflecting the importance of open dialogue and iwi-led engagement throughout the mandate process.

21. RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were presented to the iwi of Ngāti Whakahemo for approval as part of the mandating process:

- The iwi of Ngāti Whakahemo approves the terms of trust for NWCT as set out in the trust deed.
- The iwi of Ngāti Whakahemo gives NWCT the mandate to represent Ngāti Whakahemo in negotiations with the Crown in respect of the full and final settlement of all Ngāti Whakahemo's historical claims including Wai 1471 and Wai 2536.

22. VOTING PROCESS

The mandate voting process was administered by ElectioNZ.com, an independent election management provider. Voting was conducted by postal, online, and ballot box, ensuring accessibility for all eligible members of Ngāti Whakahemo.

Who Could Vote

- All registered members of NWCT aged 18 years and over (including those turning 18 before voting closed) received an information and voting pack.
- Unregistered members of Ngāti Whakahemo could cast a special vote, subject to whakapapa validation by the NWCT Whakapapa Team and Taumata Kaumātua Group.

Special votes could be made by completing an NWCT registration form and providing whakapapa details to the Independent Returning Officer or NWCT kaimahi at each hui. Special vote packs were available at mandate hui, or by contacting the Returning Officer via freephone 0800 666 030 or email vote@electionz.com.

Voting Period

- Opened: 12pm, Thursday 1 May 2025
- Closed: 12pm, Friday 6 June 2025

Transparency and Oversight

- The Chief Returning Officer from ElectioNZ.com managed and certified the voting process.
- Whakapapa verification was undertaken in partnership with the NWCT Whakapapa Team and Taumata Kaumātua Group.
- Crown observers, via Te Puni Kōkiri, attended mandate hui to oversee the process.

Information Dissemination

Details of the voting process were shared through:

- Individual voting packs
- Public notices
- NWCT's website and social media platforms

A copy of the mandate voting information sheet is attached as Appendix N.

ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST	
Ngāti Whakahemo Wai Claim Area of Interest Map	Appendix A
Hui-a-Iwi Minutes: 1 March, 1998	Appendix B
Hui-a-Iwi Minutes: 09 August, 2009	Appendix C
Pukehina Marae Hui Minutes: 09 August, 2014	Appendix D
Pukehina Marae Hui: 11 February, 2023	Appendix E
Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust – Trust Deed	Appendix F
Crown Policy regarding Financial Accountabilities	Appendix G
Ngāti Whakahemo Claimant Funding Management Process	Appendix H
Ngāti Whakahemo Mandate Strategy (2025)	Appendix I
Information Hui Advertising Schedule	Appendix J
Mandate Hui Advertising Confirmation	Appendix K
Information Booklet	Appendix L
PowerPoint Presentation	Appendix M
Mandate Voting Information Sheet	Appendix N

SUBMISSIONS ON MANDATE STRATEGY (CROWN WILL COMPLETE THIS SECTION)				
Submissions period	The submissions period took place between 2 November 2024 and 19 January 2025. This Mandate Strategy was placed on www.consultations.justice.govt.nz and submissions, views and inquiries were invited.			
Number of submissions	Total: 22	For: 21	Against: 0	Unclear: 1

Summary of submissions	Strong support was expressed across all submissions, and generally described the mandate strategy as comprehensive and well-considered, providing for representation, consultation, accountability and setting the groundwork for negotiations. Many submitters spoke of feeling inspired to support the mandate strategy out of a deep sense of responsibility to honour the work of their tūpuna (who had strongly advocated for the rights of Ngāti Whakahemo in the Māori Land Court). Several important themes arose across submissions: • Accountability and communication from NWCT to the iwi are critical; measures providing for these in the Trust Deed have received positive feedback; • Significant overlaps with other iwi were noted that would need to be worked through in good faith; OLI groups want to be kept informed (though they express general solidarity with and support for NWCT); • Ngāti Whakahemo have a longstanding grievance with the Crown over the alienation of land which has played out in the courts and the Waitangi Tribunal. The mandate strategy sets out a path for the iwi to control the narrative about how their story is told, in respect of redress they hope to receive relating to the grievance.
How has the representative body addressed any concerns raised	One submission noted a discrepancy between the indicative AOI map and the written description of the rohe at section 5 of the mandate strategy. To address this concern, NWCT and the Crown discussed and agreed on adjustments to the AOI to accurately reflect where Ngāti Whakahemo identify their interests. The adjusted map was attached to the draft mandate strategy and distributed amongst overlapping interest groups following endorsement of the mandate strategy. NWCT have been in discussion with overlapping groups to discuss concerns around the AOI.

YOUR MANDATE STRATEGY IS NOW COMPLETE

HUI RESULTS

23. RESULTS OF VOTING

Voting on the mandate resolutions achieved a 72% turnout of eligible registered voters. Of those who voted:

- 94.30% supported the NWCT Trust Deed; and
- 99.94% supported NWCT being mandated to represent Ngāti Whakahemo in settlement negotiations with the Crown.

A full breakdown of results by voting channel (postal, online, ballot box) and location is included in the declaration of results provided by ElectioNZ.com (Appendix O) and the Returning Officer's Report (Appendix P).

24. QUESTIONS / CONCERNS

TPK independent observers reported across hui that the presenters explained observers' role at the hui accurately, and the hui were conducted in an open and transparent manner (Appendix Q). Hui attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and all questions were answered accurately, in detail. NWCT (with help from TPK staff) registered attendance at the hui.

Though well-advertised, the Wellington hui was called off shortly after commencing due to lack of attendance, despite attempts to contact attendees via text. NWCT advised that there are three registered members living in the Wellington region, compared to a higher number living in Palmerston North and Levin (out of ~120 total registered members), but the rationale for holding hui in Wellington was to provide maximum opportunity for attendance. NWCT noted they would look to hold future hui in those areas instead.

Several attendees asked for clarification about the voting process, particularly regarding how to vote and how members would be kept informed. NWCT and the Electoral Commission representative were able to answer all such questions satisfactorily, referring to information in the voter packs and mandate strategy explaining the means of voting and timeframes. NWCT explained, as necessary, that they would communicate with members through posters, letters and house visits, in addition to hui and electronic forms of communication, and are open to feedback on how this could occur.

Some questions related to the general mandating process and how members would be kept informed. NWCT answered these questions by explaining that they are working on a communications plan as part of the process, with milestones to be agreed with the Crown, with progress at each stage communicated with the registered members via email, social media platforms (under development) and bimonthly hui at Pukehina Marae.

Several questions related to the Trust's structure, representation, and support. NWCT clarified that members are voting to confer a mandate to negotiate on the NWCT trustees, who were elected in 2014 and reaffirmed in 2022. Any proposed changes to the trustees would need to go through the marae committee and the 'decision power' sits with the people of Ngāti Whakahemo. NWCT should aim for a higher response rate than 40% out of the vote, particularly as their register is of good quality, however it will not be 100%. The length and fragmentation of the process adds complication to getting registrations and responses, as whānau details are no longer up to date.

Several attendees asked about the AOI and how overlapping interests with other iwi would be managed. NWCT answered these questions by noting that the map shows Ngāti Whakahemo's indicative AOI, but it is not an exclusive tribal boundary. NWCT recognise there are places of shared interests and experiences within the Ngāti Whakahemo AOI, so they see not competition with other iwi interests, but a wider area of interest, reaffirming that their ancestors have 'footprints' and lived in other spaces. The map has been considered to make sure that any tikanga, whakapapa, and tūpuna activities have not been left out.

Some attendees also appeared to confuse the Claims Trust and mandate with an eventual PSGE, but NWCT were able to explain that a PSGE would need to be established separately around the conclusion of negotiations, and any proposed PSGE structure would be taken back to the community for ratification.

ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST	
ElectioNZ.com Official Election Results Report	Appendix O
ElectioNZ.com Returning Officer's Report	Appendix P
Te Puni Kōkiri Independent Observer Reports	Appendix Q

SUBMISSIONS ON DEED OF MANDATE (CROWN WILL COMPLETE THIS SECTION)				
Submissions period	15 May – 14 June 2026			
Number of submissions	Total: 62	For: 59	Against: 0	Neither: 3
Summary of submissions	Submissions from Ngāti Whakahemo members demonstrated strong support for a Claims Trust mandate, and observed: • that the DoM provides a clear framework for representation, communication and reporting to members, and accountability to the claimant community; • that the Claims Trust has undertaken appropriate engagement with the claimant community throughout the process; and • the importance of Ngāti Whakahemo continuing to progress its historical Treaty claims and working towards outcomes that benefit the iwi and its people. Two submissions were received from overlapping interest groups. These raised concerns relating to the integrity of their completed settlements, and the need for evidence-based, good faith kōrero to understand how the Ngāti Whakahemo area of interest interacts with the interests of other iwi, particularly around Maketū.			
How has the representative body addressed any concerns raised	The Claims Trust has acknowledged in this Deed that parts of their rohe are shared with neighbouring iwi and hapū. Through settlement, they seek to provide a pathway to address claims across both shared and unique spaces, while strengthening relationships and ensuring a just settlement. As a reflection of this, they have committed to pro-active, open dialogue with overlapping groups to ensure the interests of all parties are considered fairly. They aim to hold preliminary conversations with each group before the end of 2026.			

YOUR DEED OF MANDATE IS NOW COMPLETE

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Hui-a-Iwi Minutes: 1 March, 1998	3	Appendix B
Hui-a-Iwi Minutes: 09 August, 2009	4	Appendix C
Pukehina Marae Hui Minutes: 09 August, 2014	5	Appendix D
Pukehina Marae Hui: 11 February, 2023	6	Appendix E
Ngāti Whakahemo Claims Trust – Trust Deed	7-29	Appendix F
Crown Policy regarding Financial Accountabilities	30	Appendix G
Ngāti Whakahemo Claimant Funding Management Process	31-32	Appendix H
Ngāti Whakahemo Mandate Strategy (2025)	33-39	Appendix I
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Te Puni Kōkiri Independent Observer Reports	75-92	Appendix Q
• Pukehina Hui Independent Observer Report	75-77	Appendix Q(i)
• Wellington Hui Independent Observer Report	78-79	Appendix Q(ii)
• Auckland Hui Independent Observer Report	80-83	Appendix Q(iii)
• Online Hui Independent Observer Report	84-88	Appendix Q(iv)
• Maketū Hui Independent Observer Report	89-92	Appendix Q(v)