Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

1 APR 2025

Rawiri Bhana
Chair
Te Komiti Nui o Ngāti Whakaue

By email: chair@whakaue.org

Tēnā koe Rawiri

Recognition of mandate to represent Ngāti Whakaue in Treaty settlement negotiations with the Crown and Crown contribution to negotiation costs

Recognition of mandate

Thank you for submitting a refreshed deed of mandate to negotiate a comprehensive settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi claims of Ngāti Whakaue.

I am pleased to advise that the Minister for Māori Development and I have agreed to recognise, with conditions, the refreshed mandate of Te Komiti Nui o Ngāti Whakaue (**TKN**) to negotiate a settlement of all remaining Ngāti Whakaue historical Treaty of Waitangi claims.

We consider the process followed by TKN to obtain the support of the Ngāti Whakaue claimant community was fair, open and transparent.

Although TKN received the support of a majority of the members of Ngāti Whakaue who participated, the Minister for Māori Development and I remain concerned that the level of support received was relatively low compared to other Crown-recognised mandates.

We are concerned with the ongoing tensions between TKN, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketū (**the Rūnanga**) and the trustees of Whakaue Marae (**the Marae trustees**). We consider these tensions have potential to erode the overall health of the mandate and compromise negotiations unless the matters are addressed.

Our decision to recognise the refreshed mandate is conditional on TKN making every effort without delay to reconcile with the Rūnanga and the Marae trustees. That should include:

- making every effort to meet with the Rūnanga and the Marae trustees at least once a month;
- reporting back to the Crown on those meetings; and

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- agreeing to facilitation if you are not able to make progress with the Rūnanga and the Marae trustees independently.

My officials will update me on your progress after six months, and I expect that you will make best efforts to address issues with the Rūnanga and Marae trustees during this time. However, should these efforts not meet the expectations set out in this letter, the Minister for Māori Development and I will consider whether the Crown should continue to recognise TKN's mandate.

Crown contribution to negotiation costs

I am also pleased to advise you that claimant funding of up to $1,811,000 has been approved as a contribution towards your negotiation costs. This figure is the Crown's overall amount of claimant funding associated with achieving each negotiation milestone. Funding allocation by each milestone is attached to this letter.

This funding allocation has been calculated on the basis that TKN has already completed some work towards the deed of mandate and terms of negotiation milestones.

I expect to shortly appoint a Chief Crown Negotiator to work with you to refresh terms of negotiation and recommence work towards an agreement in principle. If you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in this letter, please contact James Mitchell, Negotiation and Settlement Manager, at James.Mitchell@tearawhiti.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

cc: Pauline Tangohau, pauline@whakaue.org

Claimant Matrix Funding Allocation

Milestone	Amount of claimant funding	Purpose of payment
Approved Deed of Mandate	$75,000	Towards costs incurred in the process of recognising the Deed of Mandate
Terms of Negotiation	$30,000	Towards costs incurred in reaching an agreement on the Terms of Negotiation
Agreement in Principle	$616,000	Towards costs of preparation for negotiations and reaching an Agreement in Principle
Deed of Settlement	$714,000	Towards negotiation of an initialled Deed of Settlement
Ratification	$242,000	Towards the ratification process following the initialling of the Deed of Settlement
Legislation and Governance	$134,000	Towards costs incurred in establishing the governance entity and work associated with passage of legislation through the house
Total	**$1,811,000**	