



Office of Hon Christopher Finlayson

04 MAY 2017

Professor Margaret Mutu
Chairperson
Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāti Kahu
PO BOX 392
KAITAIA 0410

E-MAILED
4/5/17

By email: Nqātikahu@xtra.co.nz

Tēnā koe

Suspension of Crown recognition of the mandate of Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāti Kahu

We wrote to you on 7 April 2017 on your proposed mandate reconfirmation project plan and advised that if Te Rūnanga-ā-iwi o Ngāti Kahu (**the Rūnanga**) chose to continue to pursue binding recommendations through the Waitangi Tribunal we would consider it appropriate to suspend Crown recognition of the Rūnanga mandate to negotiate a Treaty settlement on behalf of Ngāti Kahu.

As you know for some time now representatives of some Ngāti Kahu marae and some Ngāti Kahu members have raised concerns about the Rūnanga mandate. Suspending Crown recognition of your mandate recognises those issues have not yet been resolved and are very unlikely to be resolved before a reconvened remedies inquiry. Given that we do not consider it would be appropriate, as matters currently stand, for the Rūnanga to be held out as having the Crown recognised mandate for all of Ngāti Kahu.

We are advised that 16 April 2017 the Rūnanga informed the Waitangi Tribunal it intended to continue to pursue binding recommendations. In these circumstances we consider Ngāti Kahu mandate issues are now for the Tribunal to consider during its reconvened inquiry. We therefore advise you the Crown has suspended its recognition of the Rūnanga mandate. The Crown will reassess its approach to the Ngāti Kahu mandate after the remedies hearing taking into account any recommendations made by the Tribunal on the matter.

Nā māua

Hon Christopher Finlayson
**Minister for Treaty of Waitangi
Negotiations**

Hon Te Uruora Flavell
Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori