



He Rau Tukutuku

DEED OF SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE CROWN
AND NGĀ HAPŪ O TE IWI O WHANGANUI

General background

The Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement redress area centres on Whanganui city and the river mouth area, up the Whanganui River to Pipiriki. The eastern boundary extends towards Taihape in the North and the Whangaehu River in the South. The north-western boundary extends to Whanganui National Park.

In 2017, the Crown recognised the mandate of Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust to represent Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui in negotiating a comprehensive historical Treaty settlement with the Crown.

On 25 July 2017, the Crown signed Crown Expectations and Matters for Agreement with Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust.

On 30 August 2019, the Crown and Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust signed an Agreement in Principle, which formed the basis for this settlement.

On 4 December 2025, Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust and the Crown initialled a Deed of Settlement (“Deed”) called He Rau Tukutuku. It was then ratified by Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui members and signed on 2 May 2026 at Kaiwhaiki Pā. The settlement will be implemented following the passage of settlement legislation.

Te Tari Whakatau - the Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana, with the support of Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation, Toitū Te Whenua - Land Information New Zealand, and other government agencies, represented the Crown in day-to-day negotiations.

The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Hon Paul Goldsmith, and his predecessors, Hon Andrew Little and Hon Christopher Finlayson, represented the Crown in high-level negotiations with Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui.

Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi me Ngā Mātāpono

Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi me Ngā Mātāpono, the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui tikanga and values, are central to He Rau Tukutuku - Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement (“Deed”). These values are:

Toitū Te Kupu: A relationship of Innate Integrity

A relationship of innate integrity founded on both the intent of one’s word and the truth of its expression.

Toitū Te Mana: A relationship of Inherited Authority

A relationship of inherited authority founded on the recognition of iwi and hapū permanence and the shared responsibility to uphold that mana.

Toitū Te Whenua: A relationship of Physical and Metaphysical Sustenance

A relationship of sustenance found on humanity having an inalienable connection with, and responsibility to, te taiao and its health and wellbeing.

Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi and Ngā Mātāpono are acknowledged in the Deed and settlement legislation and recognised through relationship instruments with Crown agencies and local authorities.

Summary of the historical background to the claims by Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui

In 1839, several rangatira signed a deed purporting to convey over a million acres, including the entire rohe of the hapū and iwi of Whanganui, to the New Zealand Company (“Company”). In May 1840, Whanganui rangatira signed te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, several days after the Governor had proclaimed sovereignty.

In the same month, 32 Whanganui rangatira also signed the Company deed. By 1841 Company settlers had established a township near Pūtiki Pā. The Crown appointed a Land Claims Commission to inquire into Company transactions and, in 1844, Whanganui rangatira refused to accept the Commissioner’s “award” of 40,000 acres to the Company in return for another payment of £1000. In 1846, the Crown began negotiations to complete the Company purchase on the terms of this award, but these broke down due to war in Heretaunga. The Crown extended martial law to Whanganui in 1846, where there was inconclusive fighting in 1847. In 1848, the Crown recommenced negotiations to secure the “award” for the Company, but the block transacted included 89,600 acres, though the payment remained at £1000. The Crown negotiated hard for Māori to make considerable compromises about the reserves set aside.

In 1863, some members of the hapū of Whanganui fought in support of the Kingitanga in Taranaki and Waikato. Fighting spread into Whanganui in 1864 when some Whanganui Māori stopped other Whanganui Pai Mārire adherents from attacking the European township at the battle of Moutoa Island. In 1865, the Crown ordered its Whanganui allies to advance upriver and they attacked the Kingitanga pā at Ōhoutahi and Pipiriki. After warfare ended in the 1860s, many Whanganui Māori joined the community at Parihaka which practised peaceful resistance and were present in 1881 during the Crown’s invasion.

In the 1860s, the Crown established the Native Land Court to individualise customary land tenure and facilitate colonisation. Court processes were expensive. The hapū of Whanganui were required to travel to Whanganui township and stay for long periods. They paid survey costs and other expenses, sometimes selling land to do so. The hapū of Whanganui tried to protect their whenua. In the 1880s, they attempted to vest land in a trust under Te Keepa Te Rangihiwini, but the Crown did not support this. Between the 1870s and the 1930s, the Crown and private parties purchased a significant amount of Whanganui land from individual owners. The native land laws continued to fragment Māori land ownership in the twentieth century and rendered it difficult to manage and utilise.

In 1895, Pipiriki Māori agreed to the development of Pipiriki Native Township on their land, but it ended in failure. By 1905, the hapū of Whanganui had vested around 80,000 acres in a Māori land council for lease for 42 years to be developed while remaining in their ownership. However, the Crown did not protect Māori from failures in the administration of this land which meant all of it was not returned to their control for many decades.

Since 1870, the Crown has compulsorily taken thousands of acres from hapū of Whanganui for public purposes. This included almost 3,000 acres of scenic reserves along the Whanganui River which later formed the basis of the Whanganui National Park. Crown public works projects have at times damaged wāhi tapu, including urupā. Lands, forests, and waterways have undergone significant and irreversible changes since 1840. Environmental mātauranga among the hapū and iwi of Whanganui has eroded.

In the twentieth century, Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui have suffered poor health outcomes, fewer employment opportunities, substandard housing, and lower educational achievement. In Crown schools, members of the hapū of Whanganui were punished for speaking te reo Māori which affected transmission between generations. Many have left the Whanganui rohe to seek better opportunities and taonga tūturu are housed in museums and other institutions.

Overview

The Deed is the final settlement of all historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992, and is made up of a package that includes:

- an agreed historical account, Crown acknowledgments and apology;
- cultural redress; and
- financial and commercial redress.

The benefits of the settlement will be available to all members of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui wherever they may live. The redress was negotiated by the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust.

While the Deed settles all Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui historical claims, the Deed provides that cultural redress over Whanganui National Park will be negotiated separately as collective redress for all iwi with interests.

Crown acknowledgements and apology

The Deed contains a series of acknowledgements by the Crown for its acts and omissions that have breached te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles and have caused the iwi prejudice. These include its conduct during warfare of the 1840s, failure to complete the 1848 Whanganui block transaction fairly or in good faith, and for causing the outbreak of war in Whanganui in the 1860s. The Crown has also acknowledged the grave impact of the native land laws system on the hapū and iwi of Whanganui and the alienation of land, particularly resulting from extensive public works takings.

The Deed also includes the Crown's apology to the hapū and iwi of Whanganui for its failure to honour its obligations as a Treaty partner and to respect the relationship with the hapū of Whanganui. They have acted with great mana, always remaining committed to their whenua, rangatiratanga, and their people. The Crown failed to protect their collective control and instead promoted legislation that facilitated the alienation of land and resources. The Crown regrets that it left the hapū of Whanganui feeling marginalised and suffering from socio-economic deprivation. Through its acknowledgments and apology, the Crown seeks to rebuild its relationship with Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and restore its tarnished honour.

Cultural redress

The Deed provides for recognition of the traditional, historical, cultural, and spiritual associations that Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui have with places and sites owned by the Crown within their settlement redress area. This allows Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and the Crown to protect and enhance the conservation values associated with these sites.

CULTURAL REVITALISATION FUND

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui will receive on settlement date Kia Mana Motuhaketia (cultural revitalisation) funding of \$15.5 million, including:

- \$3 million for Kia Kōrerotia (Te Reo Māori revitalisation);
- \$3 million for Kia Maraetia (marae revitalisation); and
- \$500,000 for establishing the joint reserve board Ngā Tutei a Maru Statutory Board.

VESTING OF LAND

A total of 27 sites of cultural significance will be transferred to Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui as cultural redress. Some sites will transfer subject to certain conditions which will protect existing third-party rights, and existing values such as public access and conservation. Images of each site can be found in the Deed Plans in the Attachments Schedule to the Deed. The settlement legislation will vest these sites in the post-settlement governance entity, Takapau Whāriki Trust, on settlement date.

The following sites will be vested in fee simple in Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui:

Name of Site

- Kai Iwi Road Property
- Kai Iwi 6A1 Site A
- Kai Iwi 6A1 Site B (urupā)
- Kaurapaoa Road property
- Mōwhānau Site A
- Mōwhānau Site B
- Pitangi Village property
- Rapanui Road property
- Whanganui River Road property

The following will be vested as scenic reserves in Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui:

Name of Site

- Kaurapaoa property
- Koriniti property
- Kotiti Stream property
- Ohotu property
- Otawaki property
- Otoko property
- Paetawa property
- Puketarata property
- Ranana/Morikau property
- Raorikia property
- Tauakira property
- Taukoro Forest property

- Whanganui River property
- Whitiāu property

The following will be vested as local purpose reserves (cultural activities and ecological restoration) in Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui:

Name of Site

- Kai Iwi 6A1 Site C
- Mōwhānau Site C

The Pākaitore property will be vested in Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui as a historic reserve.

The Ohoutahi property will be jointly vested in Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and Te Korowai o Wainiārua as a historic reserve.

OVERLAY CLASSIFICATION

An overlay classification acknowledges the traditional, cultural, spiritual, and historical association of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui with certain sites of significance. The declaration of an area as an overlay classification provides for the Crown to acknowledge Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui values in relation to that area.

The Deed provides for the following overlay classifications:

- Ahuahu area including Ahu Ahu Stream Conservation Area, Ahuahu Conservation Area, Haehaekupenga Scenic Reserve, and Te Tuhi Scenic Reserve;
- Jean D'Arcy – Powataunga area including Part Jean D'Arcy Memorial Conservation Area and Powataunga Scenic Reserve;
- Pitangi area including Mangahowhi Conservation Area and Pitangi Scenic Reserve; and
- Tokomaru East area including Tokomaru East Block Conservation Area.

STATUTORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DEEDS OF RECOGNITION

A statutory acknowledgement recognises the association between Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and a particular site or area and enhances the iwi's ability to participate in specified resource management processes. Deeds of Recognition oblige the Crown to consult with Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui on specified matters and give due consideration to their views regarding their special associations with certain areas.

The Crown offers a statutory acknowledgement over the following eight areas:

Name of Site

- Aramoana Domain Recreation Reserve
- Lake Kohata Wildlife Management Reserve
- Mystery Block Conservation Area
- Owairua Scenic Reserve
- Raukawa Scenic Reserve
- Taukoro Conservation Area
- Taunoka Conservation Area
- Te Komai Conservation Area

The Crown offers a deed of recognition over the following four areas:

Name of Site

- Lake Kohata Wildlife Management Reserve
- Mystery Block Conservation Area
- Owairua Scenic Reserve
- Taunoka Conservation Area

NGĀ TUTEI A MARU STATUTORY BOARD

The settlement legislation will provide for the establishment of a joint board known as Ngā Tutei a Maru Statutory Board to jointly administer Part Queen's Park (Pukenuamu), Part Gonville Domain (Tāwhero), Mōwhānau Village Recreation Reserve sections 54, 55, 69, 70, 71, 82, and 83, and Moutoa Gardens Historic Reserve (Pākaitore). The board will comprise three members appointed by Takapau Whāriki Trust and three members appointed by Whanganui District Council. Subject to the agreement of the Crown, Whanganui District Council, and iwi, the board will have the ability to administer further sites in future.

PLACE NAME CHANGES

Place names recognise iwi associations with geographic areas. The following eight names will be restored as official geographic names through the settlement:

Existing name	New official geographical name
Atene Pa	Kākata
Corliss Island	Mawae
Koriniti Pa	Ōtukopiri
Mount Featherston	Puketūtū
Putiki Pa	Pūtikiwharanui-a-Tamatea-pōkai-whenua
South Spit	Pātapu Spit
Sparrow Cliff	Kaimatira
Wanganui or Whanganui	Whanganui

PROVISION FOR CULTURAL MATERIALS PLAN

Post-settlement, Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and Te Papa Atawhai – Department of Conservation will jointly develop a cultural materials plan, to apply within the settlement redress area of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui covering:

- the customary taking of flora material within public conservation land, within the settlement redress area; and
- the possession of protected wildlife found dead within the settlement redress area.

Relationship redress

RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENTS AND PROTOCOLS

The settlement will provide for the following relationship redress with Crown agencies:

- 'Te Tomokanga Tiaki Taonga', a relationship agreement with Te Tari Taiwhenua – Department of Internal Affairs, the agency responsible for Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa – National Library and Te Rua Mahara o Te Kāwanatanga – Archives New Zealand; Te Papa Tongarewa – Museum of New Zealand; Pouhere Taonga – Heritage New Zealand; and Manatū Taonga – Ministry for Culture and Heritage;
- Relationship agreements with:
 - › the Education sector (Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga – Ministry of Education and Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua – Tertiary Education Commission)
 - › the Health sector (Manatū Hauora – Ministry of Health and Te Whatu Ora – Health NZ)
 - › Hīkina Whakatutuki – Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment

- › the Justice sector (Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections, Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa – New Zealand Police, and Te Tahu o Ture – Ministry of Justice)
 - › Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities
 - › Manatū Mō Te Taiao – Ministry for the Environment
 - › Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora – Ministry of Social Development
 - › Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children
 - › Tatauranga Aotearoa - Statistics New Zealand
 - › Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
 - › Toitū Te Whenua – Land Information New Zealand
- A partnership agreement with Te Papa Atawhai – Department of Conservation;
 - Letters of introduction to Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, Transpower NZ, and Waka Kotahi – NZ Transport Agency;
 - A letter of recognition and appointment as an advisory committee to the Minister of Fisheries with Manatū Ahu Mātua – Ministry for Primary Industries; and
 - A Crown Minerals Protocol with Hīkina Whakatutuki – Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in relation to Crown Minerals.

Outside of settlement, Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui will also enter into relationship agreements with Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council, and Horizons Regional Council.

Financial and commercial redress

This redress recognises the losses suffered by Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui arising from breaches by the Crown of its Treaty obligations. The financial and commercial redress is aimed at providing Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui with resources to assist them to develop their economic and social wellbeing.

FINANCIAL REDRESS

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui will receive financial and commercial redress of \$30 million plus interest. An on-account payment of interest accrued from signing the agreement in principle to signing the Deed, currently estimated to be approximately \$4.5 million, will be provided to the post-settlement governance entity upon deed signing.

COMMERCIAL REDRESS

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui will receive the right to purchase these properties under the following conditions:

- Part Lismore Hill and Part Lismore Sand Crown forestry licensed land on settlement date, which will come with in excess of \$4.3 million of forest rental proceeds and approximately 37,000 NZ Units (carbon credits);
 - Part former Aramoho School on settlement date;
 - The Te Puna Hapori site (land only), part of which is to be leased back to the Crown;
 - Whanganui Community Probation Centre (land only) on a deferred selection basis, to be leased back to the Crown;
 - Whanganui Intermediate School (land only) on a deferred selection basis, to be leased back to the Crown;
 - Whanganui Forest on a deferred selection basis;
 - Whanganui Prison (land only) on a deferred selection basis;
- One Toitū Te Whenua – Land Information New Zealand managed ex-railways property on a deferred selection basis; and
 - 53 Treaty Settlement Landbank properties on a deferred selection basis.

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui will receive:

- Rights of first refusal for 185 years from the settlement date over 493 listed Crown-owned properties within the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement redress area; and
- Rights of first refusal for 185 years over Crown-owned properties within the exclusive RFR area.

Questions and Answers

1. What is the total settlement package?

- An agreed historical account;
- Crown acknowledgement and apology for historical breaches of te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi;
- Cultural redress including the return of several sites throughout the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement redress area, relationship redress with 24 Crown agencies and entities, and Kia Mana Motuhaketia (cultural revitalisation) funding of \$15.5 million, including:
 - » \$3 million for Kia Kōrerotia (Te Reo Māori revitalisation);
 - » \$3 million for Kia Maraetia (marae revitalisation); and
 - » \$500,000 for establishing the joint reserve board Ngā Tutei a Maru Statutory Board.
- Financial redress of \$30 million plus interest, currently estimated to be approximately \$4.5 million;
- Commercial redress including the right to purchase a number of sites throughout the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui settlement redress area and the right of first refusal over a number of Crown properties; and
- Commercial redress involving a right to purchase Part Lismore Hill and Part Lismore Sands Crown forestry licensed land, which will come with in excess of \$4.3 million of forest rental proceeds and approximately 37,000 NZ Units (carbon credits), and sites from the Treaty Settlements Landbank.

2. Is there any private land involved?

No.

3. Are the public's rights affected?

Generally no, except for four sites at Mōwhānau Village Recreation Reserve which will be vested in Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui without reserve status.

4. Are any place names changed?

The following place names will change:

- Wanganui or Whanganui to Whanganui;
- Atene Pa to Kākata;
- Corliss Island to Mawae;
- Koriniti Pa to Ōtukopiri;
- Mount Featherston to Puketūtū;
- Putiki Pa to Pūtikiwharanui-a-Tamatea-pōkai-whenua;
- South Spit to Pātapu Spit; and
- Sparrow Cliff to Kaimatira.

5. What are statutory acknowledgements and deeds of recognition?

Statutory acknowledgements acknowledge areas or sites with which iwi have a special relationship, and will be recognised in any relevant proceedings under the Resource Management Act 1991. These provisions aim to avoid past problems where areas of significance to Māori, such as urupā, were simply cleared or excavated for public works or similar purposes without permission or consultation with iwi. Statutory acknowledgements do not convey a property right and are non-exclusive.

Deeds of recognition set out an agreement between the administering Crown body (the Minister of Conservation) and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with a site and specify the nature of their input into the management of the site.

6. What is an overlay classification?

An overlay classification acknowledges the traditional, cultural, spiritual and historical association of an iwi with certain sites of significance administered by Te Papa Atawhai - Department of Conservation.

An overlay classification status requires the Minister of Conservation and the settling group to develop and publicise a set of principles that will assist the Minister to avoid harming or diminishing values of the settling group with regard to that land. The New Zealand Conservation Authority and relevant Conservation Boards will also be required to have regard to the principles and consult with the settling group.

7. What happens to memorials on private titles?

The legislative restrictions (memorials) placed on the title of Crown properties and some former Crown properties now in private ownership will be removed once all Treaty claims in the area have been settled.

8. When will the settlement take effect?

The settlement will take effect 40 working days following the enactment of the settlement legislation, which comprises the settlement bill passing through Parliament and gaining Royal Assent.

9. Do Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui have the right to come back and make further claims about the behaviour of the Crown in the 19th and 20th centuries?

No. When the Deed is signed and settlement legislation is passed it will be a final and comprehensive settlement of all historical (relating to events before 21 September 1992) Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui. The settlement legislation, once passed, will prevent the iwi relitigating their claims before the Waitangi Tribunal or the courts.

The settlement will still allow Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui to pursue claims against the Crown for acts or omissions after 21 September 1992 including claims based on the continued existence of aboriginal title or customary rights. The Crown also retains the right to dispute such claims or the existence of such title rights.

10. Who benefits from the settlement?

All members of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui wherever they may now live.

This and other settlement summaries are also available at www.govt.nz

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government