



WPCT Response to Waitangi Tribunal Decision

Whakatōhea Pre-Settlement Claims Trust welcomes the Waitangi Tribunal decision to hold a hearing on the Crown's decision to recognise our mandate to negotiate a Treaty of Waitangi settlement for Whakatōhea. We look forward to addressing any concern that the Tribunal, or anyone else might have in the same forthright and transparent way that we always have.

We respect the right of any member of Whakatōhea to challenge the process. However, we remain committed to getting the best outcome for our people, to brighten our futures and facilitate the ability of our iwi to thrive culturally, socially, and economically.

The Crown provided a comprehensive settlement offer to Whakatōhea on 2nd August 2017. That offer was presented at a Hui-a-Iwi at Waiaua Marae on Saturday 5th August 2017 and has since been accepted in principle by the Whakatōhea Pre-settlement Claims Trust.

We will now work toward bringing the offer together into an Agreement in Principle that will be signed on the 18th of August. That agreement will set out the specific components of the proposed redress, however it will not be binding and our people will have the final say about whether we settle or not.

WPCT has held a number of hui throughout Aotearoa to ensure that the views and aspirations of our people are reflected in any settlement outcome. Through this engagement, we are confident that we maintain the support displayed by our people when they chose to mandate the WPCT. We are humbled by the encouragement of our people for the progress that has been achieved to date, and their confidence in our efforts to secure a robust and enduring platform for Whakatōhea into the future.

As always, our door is always open to anyone who has whakapapa to Whakatōhea, who might want to discuss these matters and participate within the process, as this is a settlement for all our people.

Graeme Riesterer (Chair)

Whakatōhea Pre-Settlement Claims Trust