

## WHAKATŌHEA PĀNUI

In December 2016, the Crown recognised the Whakatōhea Pre-Settlement Claims Trust as the body with the authority or mandate to negotiate the settlement of all Whakatōhea historical Treaty of Waitangi grievances. The Crown's decision followed a vote in June 2016. The Claims Trust and the Crown then proceeded quickly into negotiations and an Agreement in Principle was signed in August 2017.

However, a number of Whakatohea groups challenged the Crown's decision to recognise the Claims Trust's mandate. The Waitangi Tribunal agreed to conduct an urgent inquiry into the June 2016 voting process, which took place in November and December 2017.

The Tribunal's Report was released in April 2018. It found that the Crown breached the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by recognising the Claims Trust mandate. The Tribunal recommended that Whakatōhea now be provided with an opportunity to vote hapū by hapū on what should happen next. The Crown and Whakatōhea Pre-Settlement Claims Trust have agreed to this.

All adult members of Whakatōhea are now being asked to take part in this vote. This is an important time for Whakatōhea to have a say in how Whakatōhea should move forward towards settling its historical Treaty grievances. There are two real choices: either supporting the Claims Trust's existing negotiations, and/ or stopping the negotiations so the mandate process can start again, and the Tribunal can carry out a historical inquiry into our grievances.

Voting, subject to the approval of Minister of Maori Development, is planned to commence on 01 October 2018 and end on 26 October 2018. Information hui will be held between 6 and 14 October 2018 at the following venues:

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 06 October 2018	10.30am	Opotiki RSA, St John St Opotiki
Monday 08 October 2018	6.00pm	Club Mt Maunganui, 25 Kawaka St, Mt Maunganui
Tuesday 09 October 2018	6.00pm	Taharangi Marae, Tarewa Road, Rotorua
Wednesday 10 October 2018	6.00pm	Eastbay REAP, 21 Pyne St, Whakatane
Friday 12 October 2018	6.00pm	Waikato University, Room KG11, K Block, Gate 1 off Knighton Road, Hillcrest Hamilton
Saturday 13 October	10.00am	Glen Eden Primary School, 3 Glenview Road, Glen Eden, Auckland
Sunday 14 October 2018	10.00am	Lyll Bay School Hall Opposite 27 Freyberg Street, Lyall Bay, Wellington

Adult registered members of Whakatōhea will receive explanatory information and a voting form in the post and may vote online or return their vote in the envelope provided.

Those adults of Whakatohea descent who are not registered may request a registration form or special voting pack by contacting election helpline. See contact details below.

Further information on the proposed Whakatohea settlement is available from a resource page at [www.electionz.com/whakatohea](http://www.electionz.com/whakatohea) or by contacting the election helpline by phone on 0800 666 033 or (03) 377 3530 or by email to [iro@electionz.com](mailto:iro@electionz.com)