

MEDIA RELEASE



(Ngāti Paoa Negotiators Hauāuru Rawiri and Morehu Wilson initial the NgātiPaoa Deed of Settlement at Wharekawa Marae, Whakatiwai on 18 August 2017)

‘Ngāti Paoa Deed of Settlement Initialled’

On the 18th August 2017 at Wharekawa Marae, Whakatiwai, Ngāti Paoa initialled a deed for the settlement of their historical te Tiriti o Waitangi claims against the Crown. The settlement offer is made up of a variety of redress components; in particular the Cultural Redress will allow Ngāti Paoa to repatriate areas of significant interest to them such as Pt.England (Te Whanake).

The commercial and financial redress will assist in providing Ngāti Paoa with the opportunity to exercise their own tino rangatiratanga.

Iwi negotiators, Hauāuru Rawiri and Morehu Wilson see this significant event as a key moment in the history of Ngāti Paoa as it brings closure to one chapter, while opening another.

“Initialling the Ngāti Paoa Deed of Settlement at Wharekawa Marae, Whakatiwai is important to Ngāti Paoa because this is where the bosom of Ngāti Paoa is nestled”, says Morehu Wilson.

Fellow Iwi Negotiator, Hauāuru Rawiri reflects on the expectations that were set at the beginning of the negotiations. "We have taken literally decades of hard work and negotiations to get here. It's important that we acknowledge the contribution of the many kaumatua and kuia who set in motion what has been achieved thus far. Most of whom are no longer with us, who worked on or supported these claims over the years, the likes of Hariata Gordon, Te Aomarama Wilson, and Te Kaho

Andrews. We also acknowledge the contribution made by Joe Tupuhi in realising this achievement. The importance of this settlement needs to honour those people of the past, and we need to be sure in our minds that they would be happy with what we are entering into. In my mind, I am absolutely certain of that."

The deed of settlement sets out:

- Historical account agreed between the Crown and Ngāti Paoa, Crown acknowledgements and a Crown apology to Ngāti Paoa. The Crown apology to Ngāti Paoa for its failure to protect them from the rapid alienation of land in the decades following the signing of te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, the loss of life and the devastation caused by hostilities, and the enactment of laws and policies that have led to the massive loss of Ngāti Paoa land and language. The Crown unreservedly apologises to Ngāti Paoa for its breaches of te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.
- Commercial and financial redress, the transfer of 16 Crown properties to Ngāti Paoa, and the first opportunity to purchase the development land at Point England and to enter into a development agreement with the Crown in for the development of housing.
- Cultural redress including the return of lands in Auckland, Coromandel, and Hauraki including on islands in Tikapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf that are culturally significant to Ngāti Paoa. The cultural redress package for Ngāti Paoa recognizes their traditional, historical, cultural and spiritual associations of Ngāti Paoa with places and sites owned by the Crown within their area of interest.

The deed also covers a number of collective items of redress alongside the other iwi of Hauraki, Marutūāhu and Tāmaki. The collective redress is intended to include commercial redress and co-governance arrangements with local authorities over rivers.

Ngāti Paoa will soon take the Deed of Settlement out to their people for ratification. Before the end of 2017 a vote will be held and a series of hui will run around the country and on Ngāti Paoa marae for iwi members to consider the settlement package and to make a decision about whether or not to accept the settlement package.

Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust Chair, Gary Thompson says "This settlement will form the foundation of our future development and for the future sustainability of Ngāti Paoa as an iwi. Strategically it lines up with our current direction and compliments our objectives. The settlement also needs to meet our quadruple bottom line which includes: environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability and development. Most importantly, we need to be able to demonstrate through this settlement package areas of iwi, hapu, whanau and marae development as we grow the settlement for future generations to come. Hence, our vision statement 'Paoa ki tua o Matariki' (Paoa beyond the horizon of Pleiades)."

The initialled Deed of Settlement, and a summary, are available on the Office of Treaty Settlements website www.ots.govt.nz and Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust website www.ngatipaoaiwi.co.nz