

## Te Rarawa Initial a Deed of Settlement Media Release



On the 3rd November in Wellington Te Rarawa initialled a deed for the settlement of their historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi claims against the Crown. The settlement offer is worth an estimated \$70million and is made up of land, cash and other components.

Chairman of Te Runanga o Te Rarawa, Haami Piripi sees this significant event as a key moment in the history of Te Rarawa and the other iwi of Te Hiku o Te Ika and an important step for their future development.

"This settlement will form the foundation of our future development and for the future sustainability of Te Rarawa as an iwi along with the other iwi in Te Hiku o Te Ika. 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."

The deed of settlement sets out:

- Historical account agreed between Crown and Te Rarawa, Crown acknowledgements and apologies to Te Rarawa
- Commercial redress of \$33.84M, the transfer of 2 Crown-owned farms, and sale to Te Rarawa of other Crown properties, some of which will be leased back to the Crown

- Transfer of 22 thousand hectare Crown forest licensed land and accumulated rentals to Te Rarawa, Te Aupouri, Ngai Takoto and Ngati Kuri
- Cultural redress including the return of lands that are culturally significant to the iwi

The deed also covers a number of collective items of redress alongside the other iwi of Te Hiku o Te Ika including Ngati Kuri, Te Aupouri and Ngati Takoto.

The collective redress includes a co-governance arrangement with Northland Regional Council and the Far North District Council over Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē / Ninety Mile Beach to protect and manage the beach. A board called Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē Board will be established and public access will remain the same.

Te Rarawa iwi will also now have a seat at the decision-making table in the development and protection of public conservation lands remaining in Crown ownership through the Korowai, an initiative that will affirm hapu kaitiakitanga and see the creation of a new Te Hiku Conservation Board.

The deed of settlement includes a Social Accord that sets out how the Crown and iwi will work together to advance the social circumstances of the Te Hiku whānau, hapū, iwi and wider community.

Haami Piripi believes that the settlement fits into the 100 year vision for the Te Rarawa's development. "Most importantly it allows for the affirmation of kaitiakitanga at a hapu level. This is probably the most important aspect of the settlement because it recognises our relationship to the environment and the planet, our relationship to each other and to the state," he says.

Te Rarawa will now take the deed of settlement out to their people for ratification. Starting in January 2012 a vote will be held and a series of hui will run around the country and on Te Rarawa marae for iwi members to consider the settlement package and to make a decision about whether or not to accept the settlement package.

Haami Piripi reflects on the expectation that were set at the beginning of the negotiations. "We have taken 26 years of hard work and negotiations to get here. It's important that we acknowledge the contribution of the many kaumatua and kuia who worked on these claims over the years, the likes of Simon Snowden, Ephraim Te Paa, Bob Harris, Haki Campbell, Hone Kamareira, Rima Edwards and of course, Whina Cooper. 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."

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