

The Honourable Parekura Horomia
Minister of Maori Affairs
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON



The Waitangi Tribunal
110 Featherston Street
WELLINGTON

8 October 2004

E nga Minita tena korua

E te Minita Maori, tena koe e tu ana i te kei o te waka Maori. E te Minita Nona te Mana Whakarite Take e pa ana ki Te Tiriti o Waitangi, tena koe, te kai whakamoe i te wairua riri o te iwi Maori. Tena korua i o tatou tini mate, e tuhono nei ratou ki a ratou.

We have the honour of presenting you with our report on the claims of the iwi, hapu and whanau of Turanganui a Kiwa.

As you know, we trialled a new form of inquiry process in Turanga by committing the parties to increased preparation time and reduced hearing time. We had hoped as a result, to have our report available in 2003, but in the event that did not prove possible. We are none the less pleased that, in completing the whole process (from the first judicial conference to the handing over of the report to the claimants) within 4½ years, we have considerably reduced the time which the claimants and the Crown spend in the inquiry process. With other improvements, we are confident that further savings in time and resources can be made without affecting the quality of our inquiry.

In Turanga, we heard the claims of all major iwi and hapu groupings. We heard of the horrific events that unfolded in this district from 1865 to 1869, and the lasting impact they had on Maori and non-Maori. Of particular concern to us was the fact that Turanga Maori lost proportionately more killed at the hands of Crown forces in the New Zealand wars than any other district. We were struck also by the lawless brutality of many of those killings. We heard further of the numerous attempts by Maori from the 1870s on, to make the best they could of the new order which transformed the district after the wars. Some of those attempts were successful, some were not. We devoted particular attention to the operations of the Native Land Court in Turanga, in the hope that our work in this respect might provide greater guidance to you and the claimants in your negotiations.

The process by which Turanganui a Kiwa became Poverty Bay contains salutary lessons for us today as we struggle to accommodate our distinctive characteristics and aspirations as many peoples living in this country. We were reminded throughout that enduring and just peace in New Zealand must be founded on three things: the rule of law, wise and protective government, and the recognition of Maori autonomy. Our forebears, Maori and Pakeha in

Turanga, failed to find the fulcrum point at which these three great elements could be held in balance. It falls to this generation of leaders to find a new balance that works for all in the twenty-first century.

We have made no general recommendations in respect of possible settlements. We prefer instead to leave it to the parties to construct settlements which represent their choices rather than ours, although it is always open to claimants or the Crown to seek further assistance from us if that is desired. We have given some thought to relativities between claimant groups and our views on that matter can be found in chapter 16. They are intended to do no more than provide an independent guide in the hope that this will assist the parties to focus on the real issues in the negotiation such as overall quantum for the district.

We wish you and the claimants well in your search for a fair and durable settlement of these long-standing grievances.

Ma te ringa o Te Atua koutou hei pupuri, hei arahi i roto i a koutou korero me a koutou whiringa.



JV Williams
Presiding Officer