

91.6 % Whakatohea Iwi vote in favour of Mandate for Settlement Negotiation

Whakatohea Iwi were asked to vote on the resolution to approve the Pre Settlement Claims Trust to represent Whakatohea in direct negotiations with the Crown. That vote was undertaken through a process as approved by an earlier vote by the Iwi. 91.6 % of those that voted, voted in favour of the resolution.

The process leading into the final validation and approval by Iwi and the Crown of the Trust was robust and inclusive leading up to the vote, that resulted in the Crown approving the Deed of Mandate.

Iwi are represented on the Trust through 1 position for each Marae and 1 position for each of the 6 Hapu, there is also one seat for the Whakatohea Maori Trust Board which also is representative of the 6 Hapu. All Hapu are represented at the Trust table bar 1 Upokorehe Hapu rep and all Marae are represented bar Roimata and Opape at this stage. The Hapu delegate for Ngati Ira is currently going through the appointment process due to the inaugural member resigning through personal circumstances.

The opportunity to engage and inform the settlement negotiations is now just commencing with the first Hui a Iwi having been held on the 5th of March and the next Hui a Iwi to be held on the 1st of April at Terere Marae, as well as hui in Whakatane, Rotorua Tauranga, Hamilton, Auckland and Wellington commencing the week of 04 April.

A Whakatohea Claims Committee has been established and meets twice a month which provides for each WAI claimant to have representation and direct access to negotiators. We encourage claimants to attend and have their say.

Those that have asked for an urgent hearing are challenging the Crown in their decision to approve the Deed of Mandate for the Whakatohea Pre Settlement Claims Trust. The Trust will continue on its engagement and feed back hui with Iwi members to seek their aspirations for the future as well as feedback on redress for Whakatohea.

Approved by : Graeme Riesterer

Chairman

Whakatohea Pre – Settlement Claims Trust

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