



88 McDonald Street, NAPIER

19 April 2011

Honourable Chris Finlayson
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Private Bag 18041,
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Tena koe e te Minita,

We acknowledge receipt of your formal Crown Offer to settle the Historical Treaty Claims of the Ahuriri Hapu.

With respect Minister it is extremely disappointing and somewhat insulting to Mana Ahuriri Incorporated that we find the Offer to be neither "fair, final or durable" and certainly not one that we can in good conscience take back to our people. Their expectations are based on a very good understanding of the real loss that has occurred and which continues to occur today.

Yes we are reminded daily of the many years our Tipuna worked hard to address this compounding loss and those of us still involved today have grown up at their feet with this same sense of loss and we have spent many years continuing their work through countless political changes both central and local.

All the while our Tipuna have passed on in great numbers clinging to the hope that the Treaty breaches acknowledged by the Crown would be fairly and justly compensated for. In this case the Offer makes a mockery of any sense of justice for the Ahuriri Hapu.

On signing the "Treaty of Ahuriri" our people had a legitimate expectation of sharing in the collateral advantages of European settlement. This never happened instead we lost Ahuriri, then Te Whanga and finally having been subject to the whims of the Native Land Court during its most destructive period this then led to the loss of all our Reserves within the Ahuriri Block itself as well as the loss of our "real reserve south of the Tutaekuri River".

In 1998 the Waitangi Tribunal made recommendations on remedies for the Wai 55 Te Whanganui a Orotu which we have held patiently for thirteen (13) years.



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The main points of the report included;

- The return of the Land Corp Farm, Roro O Kuri and Tapu Te Ranga.
- A management regime for the Ahuriri Estuary that ensures the claimants have effective representation.
- That the Crown's interest in the Hawkes Bay Airport form part of the negotiation between the Claimants and the Crown.
- A cash compensation of \$23m.

The Crown Offer takes no account of or consideration for these recommendations.

Te Whanganui a Orotu was never sold and was never part of the Ahuriri Purchase because of its sacredness and special uniqueness to us in our history. The Crown assumed ownership of Te Whanga as an "arm of the sea". Our people have continuously challenged this assumption which resulted in several enquiries.

The Harbour Endowment Lands themselves form part of Te Whanganui a Orotu and were never sold by our people. However the Crown assumed ownership and vested the lands in the yet to be established Harbour Board and more recently in the local Council. We know that the value of these endowment lands is well in excess of \$150m. Where is any acknowledgement and compensation for this in the Crown Offer Minister?

Mataruahou again was never sold as part of the Ahuriri Purchase. The only cultural acknowledgement in the Crown Offer relates to Matapane Pa, but falls seriously short of even meeting McLeans Promise to the Ahuriri Hapu. There is no cultural acknowledgement that recognises our tipua Pania at all. How is this fair Minister?

The Crown offer gives Ahuriri Hapu the option of buying back the Land Corp farm valued at \$17.4m with a quantum of \$14m. During the course of negotiations Mana Ahuriri have provided full information to the Crown regarding the so called "Quantum factors" and what we believe are fair and comparable benchmarks for us which should be assessed according to what is the full value of the settlement to Ahuriri Hapu or the total cost to the Crown of the settlement – all assessed at today's value.

As an example the table of settlements provided by your officials suggests that Taranaki Whanui received \$25m in quantum, however the true value of their settlement is closer to \$50m due to various mechanisms such as gifting commercial properties, payment for negotiation, and tribunal costs, and towards the establishment of a Whare Waka. In addition they benefited from various kinds of "offline redress" which probably takes the total value of their settlement closer to \$100m. Taranaki Whanui started from a base of some wealth (estimated at some \$60m) due to their HISTORIC RESERVES.

Ahuriri Hapu have not had the benefit of such reserves starting from a base of nothing. Where is the compensation for the reserves lost to Ahuriri Hapu?



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How do we apologise to our Tipuna for the Crown's total disregard for our history and the countless episodes through time of theft, manipulation and legislative plunder that they have undergone. How do we maintain the Mana of our "old people"? How do we look our mokopuna in the eye and justify this as a settlement for their future, having given them an account of our history already?

Our team was stunned, angry and close to tears at the Crown's presentation, Minister. Our customs demanded that we maintain our dignity and respect the Crown as "Manuhiri" and so we did.

Minister with respect we would ask you to seriously reconsider the Crown Offer in light of the matters raised but more particularly taking account of the presentations to you of our Aspirations, Special Quantum Factors and Final Issues in December 2010.

Naku Noa

Na

Piriniha Prentice

Chairman

Mana Ahuriri Incorporated