

Progress of Claimants

This year the Trust has established its funding priorities based on its assessment of the readiness of claimants in engaging in the process and the anticipated work programmes of the Waitangi Tribunal and the Office of Treaty Settlements.

Below is the summary of progress of the claimant groups which the Trust has funded over the last year.

Northland

This region contains over 165 Waitangi Tribunal claims spread over six different Waitangi Tribunal districts from Cape Reinga to Auckland. These districts include Muriwhenua (which completed the Waitangi Tribunal process in 1997), Whangaroa, Hokianga, Bay of Islands, Whangarei and Mahurangi & Gulf Islands.

Claimant groups began research in late 2004 and this is expected to be completed in 2007. The Northland Research Programme for the remaining five Northland Waitangi Tribunal Inquiry districts, approved by Trustees at their November 2004 meeting, is gathering momentum. Fifteen major research projects have been contracted and are expected to be completed over the next year. Te Tai Tokerau Roopu Whakapiripiri has met regularly to inform claimants of the research work underway and planned for Northland.

There were some initial objections to the work that the Trust is funding in Northland, in particular, the Northland Research Programme, Te Tai Tokerau Roopu Whakapiripiri, and choice of historians contracted to do the work. Trust staff have listened to claimant concerns and have taken steps to improve communication.



In 2004 the Waitangi Tribunal reported on its hearings into the raupatu and other land claims for the Tauranga Inquiry District prior to 1886.

The Waitangi Tribunal has convened two Judicial Conferences (December 2005 and March 2006) to discuss how the Northland claims should be heard. It was agreed that a Ngapuhi Design Group would be convened to develop a process by which all the claims in Ngapuhi-nui-Tonu would be heard. A further Judicial Conference is scheduled in Waitangi for late September 2006 to discuss and confirm how the hearings will proceed.

After a pause in settlement negotiations last year, the Trust is now hopeful that Te Aupouri will be in the position to initial its Deed of Settlement within the next few months. Te Aupouri negotiators are currently developing a post-settlement entity to receive and administer the settlement package. Hopefully both the settlement package and the governance body will be presented to Te Aupouri beneficiaries for ratification by December 2006.

Te Rarawa and Ngati Kahu are working towards their respective Agreements-in-Principle with the Office of Treaty Settlements. The Trust anticipates that both these claimant groups will have achieved this settlement milestone by the end of 2006.

Finally the Trust has been advised that Ngati Whatua, Ngati Kuri and Ngai Takoto are preparing their respective mandating plans which they hope to progress over the next year. The Trust anticipates that it will soon be approached by these groups for funding to help them through this process.

Tauranga

In 2004 the Waitangi Tribunal reported on its hearings into the raupatu and other land claims for the Tauranga Inquiry District prior to 1886. Ngai Te Rangi, Ngati Ranginui and Ngati Pukenga wish to have the remainder of their claims heard by the Waitangi Tribunal at the Tauranga Moana Stage 2 Inquiry before entering into settlement negotiations with the Crown. Ngati Hinerangi and the Hauraki Maori Trust Board will also be participating in the Tauranga Inquiry. The Trust has funded these claimant groups to prepare for and participate in the Stage 2 hearings. Four weeks of hearings are scheduled commencing at the end of May 2006.

Central North Island

Claimants from the Rotorua, Kaingaroa, Taupo, Urewera and National Park Inquiry districts are included in this section of the report. This region has by far the largest area of Crown forest licensed land and proportion of accumulated rentals held by the Trust.

Waitangi Tribunal hearings were completed for Te Urewera in June 2005. This has been a monumental task as reflected by the announcement that the Waitangi Tribunal report will take two years to complete. A new group, Te Kotahi a Tuhoe, has recently formed and is currently seeking support from Tuhoe whanui as the body to enter negotiations with the Crown. However, the most immediate task for Te Kotahi a Tuhoe is to secure agreement from the Office of Treaty Settlements for their mandating plan. At that time the

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Trust will be in the position to provide funding assistance to support them in achieving a Deed of Mandate.

Central North Island (taking in the Rotorua, Kaingaroa and Taupo Inquiry districts) Stage 1 hearings were completed in November 2005. The Waitangi Tribunal expects that a report on the claims will be released in the next few months. Hearings commenced in the National Park Inquiry District in February 2006. Nine weeks of hearings are scheduled and are expected to be completed by November 2006. The Trust is supporting seven claimant groups through the hearings process. Map books and major historical reports have been commissioned by the Trust and are available to assist claimants at the hearings.

Nga Kaihautu o Te Arawa signed an Agreement-in-Principle with the Crown in September 2005. It is now negotiating the details of its settlement with the Crown which it hopes to have finalised in September 2006.

After a slow start Ngati Manawa and Ngati Whare negotiators are now well on their way to achieving their respective Agreements-in-Principle. The Trust has funded additional research to assist with their negotiations and continues to provide funding support to these negotiating teams.

The Office of Treaty Settlements disengaged with the Tuwharetoa Hapu Forum in early 2005 and is waiting until Ngati Tuwharetoa has completed its Waitangi Tribunal hearings in the National Park at the end of 2006. At that point Ngati Tuwharetoa will be in a better position to determine its settlement strategy.

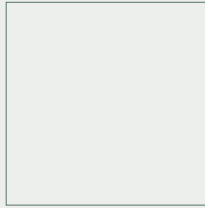
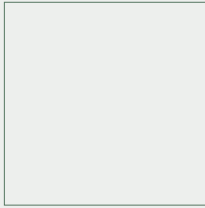
Whanganui

Whanganui claimants were scheduled for hearings in early 2006, but due to the Waitangi Tribunal changing its schedule they will not be participating in hearings until late 2006. All four clusters formed in the Whanganui District have interests in the National Park Inquiry. Trust staff are working closely with these Whanganui claimants to ensure that they are able to participate effectively in both the Whanganui and the National Park hearings. The research casebook for this district is currently being reviewed.

Rangitikei/Manawatu

Ngati Apa is working steadily through settlement negotiations with the Office of Treaty Settlements. This resulted in its Terms of Negotiations being agreed to by the parties in July 2005. Ngati Apa leadership, organisation and drive to settle has seen it move forward with confidence into the settlement negotiations process. The completion of Ngati Apa historical redress report has been delayed until September 2006 which in turn will delay the achievement of its Agreement-in-Principle to late 2006.

Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Incorporated resubmitted its Deed of Mandate to the Office of Treaty Settlements for recognition in early January 2006. The Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations is likely to be in a position to make a decision on Tanenuiarangi's Mandate in mid 2006.



Northern South Island

Kurahaupo ki te Waipounamu Trust and Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira submitted their respective Deeds of Mandate to the Crown in June 2005. Their Deeds of Mandate were formally recognised by the Crown in November 2005.

The remaining Northern South Island claimant group, Tainui Taranaki ki te Tonga, completed its mandating hui with its constituent claimants and submitted its Deed of Mandate to the Office of Treaty Settlements in December 2005. Submissions on its mandate closed in April 2006 and a decision on Crown recognition of its mandate is expected by mid 2006.

The high level of organisation and leadership of all the Northern South Island groups has seen the area elevated as a priority district firstly with the Waitangi Tribunal then more latterly, with the Office of Treaty Settlements. The Northern South Island contains the second largest area of Crown forest licensed land after the Central North Island.

East Coast / Gisborne / Wairoa

Progress of claimants towards forming clusters on the East Coast has been slow. However, five clusters have now been formed and recognised by the Trust for funding purposes. The Waitangi Tribunal has established a Research Co-ordinating Committee comprised of claimant, Waitangi Tribunal and Trust representatives to progress research. Research will commence this year in preparation for Waitangi Tribunal hearings which are expected to commence in late 2007.

Claimants in the Gisborne region have organised themselves as three mandated bodies. Te Pou a Haokai, Nga Tamanuhiri and Rongowhakaata had their respective Deeds of Mandate confirmed by the Crown in August 2005. The Trust is currently funding Te Pou a Haokai and Nga Tamanuhiri to complete their respective Terms of Negotiation with the Crown. The Trust is unable in terms of its Trust Deed to fund Rongowhakaata as this group does not have a claim to a Crown forest licensed land.

The Wairoa Working Group has had some difficulty in making preparations to engage with the Office of Treaty Settlements to commence the negotiation process. There have been a number of reasons for this, including changes in management personnel and new groups that have only recently joined whose members are not familiar with the settlement negotiations process. The Trust has funded a Project Manager to coordinate the Wairoa Working Group's mandating plan. The Wairoa Working Group aims to submit its Deed of Mandate by late 2006.

Other Groups

We have also assisted other claimant groups during 2005/06. The Southern Hawke's Bay and King Country claimants have been funded to organise their claims infrastructure and prepare a plan for managing their research requirements and respective settlement negotiations strategies. Work has proceeded rapidly and the Trust expects to see good progress over the coming year. We will continue to work with these and other groups in the coming year.