



Issue

16 Te Haonga Mai

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QUICK UPDATE

In order to ensure that our people are informed and travelling along the journey with us, Te Haonga Mai Quick Updates will be used to inform our people on a regular basis of the progress being made on the River Claim negotiations. This is not intended to replace kano ki kano hui and we encourage you where possible to come and attend Hui A Iwi so that you can hear the information firsthand and ask any questions.

The current reality The Crown committed to recommencing settlement discussions over the River in 2009. Since then the Government has implemented a new natural resources policy in relation to Treaty Settlements. As our Iwi aspirations for settlement of the River claim lie outside that policy it has been necessary for the Office of Treaty Settlements to get Cabinet approval of the parameters for negotiation.

On 22 August Cabinet gave approval for negotiations to proceed beyond the scope of the natural resources policy and a Record of Understanding between the Iwi and the Crown will be formally signed on 13 October. This Record of Understanding sets out the framework and core issues for ongoing negotiation.

What does this mean? This means that a work programme will now be entered into with the Crown that will drive negotiations over the next 12 months. The objective of the negotiations is to develop a draft Deed of Settlement for consultation by the end of 2012.

This timeframe will be achievable if all of the milestones are met along the way, which includes us as an Iwi achieving certain things:

- Strengthening the Runanga and ensuring that Iwi and hapu participation is both consistent and active, noting of course that anyone is entitled to attend relevant Hui A Iwi about the River.
- Confirming the nature and extent of a post-settlement governance entity for Whanganui Iwi in relation to the River.
- Providing input into other matters that may be required to inform and guide the negotiations, which will be discussed at special Hui A Iwi called specifically to discuss the River.

So how do I participate or keep up to date with progress? Come along to the Hui A Iwi that will be called in relation to the River – going forward these will be advertised on Awa FM and in the Whanganui Chronicle. Use the www.wrmtb.co.nz website - we will work hard to keep it current and up to date with progress.

Talk to your Runanga representative - there is a wider negotiation team that comes together to help inform the negotiation process and these representatives are available to both give you up to date information and answer questions you may have and receive your views.

Please note that Iwi members will be given the opportunity to approve any Deed of Settlement before it is entered into. We therefore encourage you to keep up to date so that you can make an informed decision when the time comes.