



Issue

17

January 2012

Te Haonga Mai

QUICK UPDATE

2012 will be a busy year for the River Claim negotiations. *Te Haonga Mai Quick Updates* will be used to inform our people on a regular basis of the progress being made. This is a 2nd update of its kind and is not intended to replace *kanohi ki kanohi hui*. We encourage you where possible to come and attend *Hui A Iwi* so that you can hear the information firsthand and ask any questions. Stay connected via our website www.wrmtb.co.nz.

Issue 16 promoted that the Crown is committed to recommencing settlement discussions over the River in 2009 and it formalized this by signing off a Record of Understanding that set out the framework and core issue going forward.

“The Record of Understanding (ROU) provides all parties with direction about the matters to be discussed in the negotiations. It means that we will start formal negotiations with a clear sense of the issues which need to be resolved. There is still a lot of work to do, but agreement on the framework contained in the ROU is a very positive step in the right direction.

So what are the key points for the framework?

The negotiations agenda will include:

- *How the status and the mana of the Awa as a whole will be recognized*
- *How the Awa will be managed as an integrated whole, from the mountains to the sea.*
- *How the mana of Whanganui iwi in relation to the Awa will be recognised in any agreement*
- *How Whanganui iwi will be involved in the management of the Awa alongside the Crown, local government and the wider catchment community.*
- *How a Awa settlement will be integrated into existing management structures for the river*
- *Discussion about the appointment of River Trustees to promote and protect the health and well-being of the river*

What do you mean a River Trustee? There is much to be discussed. We can say that Whanganui Iwi are not looking for a complex arrangement. As the framework is based on a whole of river strategy are we not going to see a big new bureaucracy as a result of the settlement? We have agreed to talk about how we can use existing frameworks but with increase involvement of iwi.

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. The next one will be held Sunday February 12 at Kaiwhaiki Marae commencing at 10.00am.

Talk to your tupuna rohe representative – tupuna rohe have representation on the 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.

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.