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28 JAN 2020

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Tēnā koe

Treaty settlement negotiations

Thank you for meeting with me on 27 January and sharing your views on where we have got to in addressing the issues around mana raised by Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri. Thank you also for sharing your views about what would be required from here to complete a settlement with Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri.

Based on our discussion, your views appear to fall into three categories:

- recognition of mana and the appropriate telling of the Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri story;
- balancing the property redress offered to Moriori through my Waitangi (Hospital Block) properties allocation decisions; and
- financial parity with the Moriori settlement.

Recognition of mana

I was pleased to hear the engagement with Glenn Webber has been helpful, that you are comfortable with the historical account text and draft acknowledgement, and that you think we can get to a basis for agreement. These are positive steps forward.

Allocation of the Waitangi (Hospital Block) properties

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2019 providing the views of Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri in relation to the allocation of Waitangi properties. I appreciated also the additional context you provided me at our meeting.

When I turn my mind to making preliminary allocation decisions in the coming days, I will do so informed by your views, the additional context from our meeting and the views of Moriori.

I am also willing to consider whether any of the Hospital Block properties offered to Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri can be transferred as cultural redress in the course of future negotiations.

Parity

You have made it clear parity with the Moriori Settlement is important to Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri. I can understand why parity is important, however, I seek to maintain fairness across all settlements, while also acknowledging those aspects that are special to each negotiation.

I have tried to balance your view with that of the Crown in the second offer made to you in December 2018. I have done this by increasing the quantum number (\$13m) and cultural redress funding (\$3m) to the highest levels I am able.

I remain open to exploring ways to negotiate a settlement package that is acceptable to Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri without increasing quantum. I remain open to supporting initiatives of value to Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri alongside the settlement.

While I am confident this might achieve parity, I am not optimistic that initiatives alongside settlement would result in benefit to Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri of the scale you seek by including the \$6m provided to Moriori in 2008 to aid the revival of Moriori culture and identity – separate from any Treaty settlement – as part of the parity equation.

As I said at our meeting, I can't see a way to achieve within settlement and alongside settlement, total value of \$24m.

What Next?

I left our meeting feeling encouraged by the historical redress progress, and aware of your views about the Waitangi properties, but disappointed about where the parity bar currently sits as I do not feel I can deliver that level of parity through a settlement with Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri nor would that be fair and consistent with other Treaty settlements.

We need to agree on how to proceed. Based on the progress to date with the historical text and draft acknowledgement, the quantum offer and the potential for some initiatives for Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri outside of settlement, can Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri settle within the parameters I outlined at our meeting? If so, we should meet again soon.

If not, I do not see the value in continuing negotiations at this time, unless you consider there is another way through this impasse.

Heoi anō



Hon Andrew Little
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations