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Legislative Statement: Ngāti Rangitihi Claims Settlement Bill

Overview

This Bill gives effect to the elements of the Ngāti Rangitihi Deed of Settlement (the Deed) that rely on legislation in order to be enacted and implemented.

The Ngāti Rangitihi settlement package will finally and comprehensively settle all Ngāti Rangitihi historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. It includes Crown apology redress, cultural redress, and financial and commercial redress of \$11,334,820 million.

A brief overview of the Bill's provisions are detailed below.

Apology redress

This Bill contains a summary of the historical account of the relationship between the Crown and Ngāti Rangitihi. It also contains the Crown's acknowledgements of, and apology for, its breaches of Te Tiriti/the Treaty of Waitangi regarding Ngāti Rangitihi.

Cultural redress

Cultural redress is intended to recognise the cultural, historical and traditional associations of Ngāti Rangitihi within their area of interest. The Bill provides for the implementation of a number of cultural redress instruments:

Vesting of properties

The Bill vests 19 sites, specified in Schedule 3, in Ngāti Rangitihi as cultural redress properties. Of these, two will be vested in fee simple, and 17 sites as reserves.

Protocols

The Bill requires the issuance, by the responsible Minister, of the following protocols:

- Crown Minerals Protocol
- Whakaaetanga Tiaki Taonga (Taonga Tūturu)

These protocols set out how the responsible agencies will interact with and consult Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust (the Ngāti Rangitihi Post-Settlement Governance Entity) when carrying out statutory duties and functions.

Statutory acknowledgements

Statutory acknowledgements acknowledge Ngāti Rangitihi statements of their cultural, historical, spiritual and traditional association with areas specified in Part 1, Schedule 1 of the Bill.

Under the Bill, statutory acknowledgements will require:

- specified authorities to have regard to the statutory acknowledgement;
- relevant consent authorities to record the statutory acknowledgement on statutory plans that relate to the Schedule 1 areas, and provide summaries of relevant resource consent applications to the trustees of Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitahi Trust; and
- enable Ngāti Rangitahi to cite the statutory acknowledgement as evidence of their association with a statutory area listed in Schedule 1, Part 1.

Deeds of recognition

The Bill requires the Minister of Conservation and the Director-General to issue deeds of recognition for the areas listed in Schedule 1, Part 2.

Deeds of recognition compel the Crown to consult with Ngāti Rangitahi on specified matters and have regard to their views on their special associations with certain areas.

Whenua rāhui

The Bill provides for a whenua rāhui over the Lake Tarawera Historic Reserve and part Lake Tarawera Scenic Reserve listed in Schedule 2 of the Bill. The whenua rāhui recognises a statement of Ngāti Rangitahi's association with this land, describes the underlying values and principles associated with this land, and identifies actions to protect the land.

Official geographic place names

The Bill provides for three geographic place names changes. These changes are set out at clause 68.

Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

The Bill established the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group with the purpose of supporting, co-ordinating, and promoting the integrated restoration of the mauri of the Tarawera River catchment.

Commercial redress

The Bill sets out the conditions for the transfer of one deferred selection property that Ngāti Rangitahi may purchase within two years of settlement. The Bill also provides for a right of first refusal over this property.