

WORKSHOP NOTES

HOSTED BY
WHANGAROA PAPA HAPŪ

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Preface / Background

Through hui held across marae, taiwhenua, and Tāmaki Makaurau from 2018 onward, support emerged for Whangaroa Papa Hapū (WPH) to investigate possible pathways for progressing historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi claims considered through the Wai 1040 inquiry. Since that time, WPH has continued to facilitate hui and engagement opportunities to gather whakaaro on future options.

WPH also described its role as facilitative in nature — helping to build and compile historical evidence, develop documents such as the Draft Mandate Strategy for Whangaroa to consider, rather than acting as the final decision-making authority.

Overview

This hui was open to whānau, hapū, and claimant representatives to discuss solutions to the five key themes identified through submissions received on the Whangaroa Draft Mandate Strategy. Appreciation was extended to facilitator Reuben Taipari for guiding the hui and helping create a respectful space for discussion and participation.

The purpose of the hui was to gather further feedback on the draft, identify areas to improve, amend, omit, or strengthen, and hear participant views on representation, mandate design, and future considerations relevant to ngā hapū o Whangaroa.

While some discussion touched on mandate-related matters, much of the kōrero focused on broader pathway concerns and future outcomes.

To support discussion, the workshop was structured around five key themes identified through submissions, with guiding prompts used to encourage whakaaro and participation across each area:

1. Representation and Governance

- What does representation look like?
- Who should represent who?
- How should hapū voices be included?
- What structure would people have confidence in?
- How do we ensure accountability?

WORKSHOP

Sunday 19 April, 2026
Memorial Hall, Kaeo
3:00PM - 6:00PM

Attendees:
24+ in person
27 online at peak

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2. Communication and Understanding

(How do we keep whānau informed in a way that works?)

- What would clear communication look like?
- How should whānau receive updates and information?
- What helps people understand what's happening?
- What builds trust and transparency?
- How do we reach whānau outside the rohe?

3. Timing and Calls for Pause

- What does the right pace look like?
- What concerns sit behind calls to pause?
- If there were a pause, what would happen during that time?
- How do we balance movement with readiness?

4. Voting and Participation

(What participation model feels fair and credible?)

- What would a fair process look like?
- Who should participate?
- How do we make participation accessible?
- What would help people trust the result?

5. Areas of Interest

(How do we move through complexity while protecting relationships?)

- How do we work through overlapping interests respectfully?
- What does direct hapū engagement look like?
- How should boundaries or shared interests be discussed?
- What principles should guide these conversations?

ACROSS THE HUI

1 Process Stage and Clarity

A recurring theme during the Workshop was uncertainty about the current stage of the process, including whether the present focus was mandate design or movement toward a particular future pathway.

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While the Draft Mandate Strategy is intended to consider mandate matters such as representation, authority, and accountability, much of the discussion focused on future pathways and outcomes, including settlement, resumption, and alternative options.

This highlighted the need for clearer communication that the current stage being navigating is the determination of mandate design — namely, who is included, who will represent the uri of Whangaroa, how authority is conferred, and how accountability will be maintained.

Participants' comments also highlighted the value of clearer communication around the different stages of the process, including:

- Mandate stage – representation, authority, accountability
- Future pathway stage – negotiation options and possible outcomes
- Outcome stage – any form of redress, settlement, or other remedies

2. Pathways: Settlement, Resumption, and Alternatives

Although the current stage is focused on mandate, participants expressed strong views regarding possible future pathways.

- Settlement pathway: Described by some attendees as a Crown-led, full and final process involving the resolution of claims in exchange for agreed remedies. Concerns raised included loss of rangatiratanga, extinguishment of rights, and division within iwi or hapū. Examples were shared of other groups experiencing ongoing dissatisfaction following settlement processes.
- Resumption / Tribunal pathways: Raised as an alternative through the Waitangi Tribunal or related legal processes, with participants noting the potential for binding recommendations, return of whenua, or other remedies without entering full and final settlement arrangements.
- Alternative approaches: Some participants supported keeping all available options open until mandate matters are resolved and wider hapū views are fully considered.

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3. Representation and Governance

It was noted that representation should be whānau-led and hapū driven, with clear mechanisms to ensure all voices are heard, particularly claimants and smaller hapū.

Questions were also raised regarding who holds authority to represent hapū, claimants, and whānau, and how any future model could ensure legitimacy, accountability, and fair opportunities for whānau and hapū voices to be heard.

Participants also noted the presence of overlapping interests and whakapapa connections across hapū and neighbouring areas, highlighting the need for any future model to recognise complexity, avoid exclusion, and ensure fair representation.

Some questioned executive or negotiator models, expressing concern that such structures may not fully reflect hapū representation and could be influenced by external process requirements.

Closing

While the hui did not drill down into all of these pātai, it highlighted the range of views and issues that continue to sit across the kaupapa, including uncertainty about where Whangaroa currently sits in the process and the distinction between mandate design and downstream discussions about redress or resumption pathways and possible future outcomes.

It was recommended that kōrero be taken back to whānau, marae, and hapū for further discussion, recognising that everyone has a role to play in shaping what “a better Whangaroa” might look like. This hui was one part of a wider engagement process, with further kōrero and engagement planned across claimant, whānau, and hapū settings.

Participants stressed the importance of collective input and genuine engagement at hapū level before progressing any proposed pathway.