PĀNUI – Te Takutai Moana o Te Whakatōhea – 29 October 2026

Tēnā koutou e te iwi,

We understand there has been some confusion regarding the upcoming hui-ā-iwi on Te Takutai Moana o Te Whakatōhea, being held at Waiaua Marae on Saturday 31 October, particularly around the involvement of Te Tāwharau.

The meeting is an independent hui organised by the Taumata Kaumātua.

Taumata Kaumātua

The Taumata Kaumātua hold an important and longstanding place within Te Whakatōhea. Our Trust Deed and tikanga recognise their role and the responsibility of Te Tāwharau to support the Taumata Kaumātua, while respecting their mana and autonomy. This includes the ability for the Taumata Kaumātua to come together independently, consider matters important to Te Whakatōhea and bring kōrero before uri.

Te Takutai Moana

There is also an important distinction between the upcoming hui and the role of Te Tāwharau in the takutai moana proceedings.

The courts have found that customary marine title in Te Whakatōhea should be held by hapū. The Treaty settlement did not change this. The main title area, from Maraetōtara to Tarakeha, will be reheard in the High Court from February 2027, with each hapū speaking for themselves through their own processes and legal representation.

Te Tāwharau inherited an application originally lodged by the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board in 2017 to protect the interests of hapū that did not have their own applications. Ngāti Patumoana, Ngāti Ngāhere and Ngāti Ruatākenga rely on that application, which Te Tāwharau continues to maintain. Ngāti Ruatākenga has its own legal team, while direction for Ngāti Patumoana and Ngāti Ngāhere comes through their respective hapū committees.

Te Tāwharau is not seeking customary marine title for itself or on behalf of Whakatōhea collectively. The legal costs associated with the proceedings are met through Crown funding rather than iwi funds.

Hui-ā-iwi – Saturday 31 October

The hui at Waiaua Marae provides an opportunity for the Taumata Kaumātua to share their kōrero and proposals directly with uri. Te Tāwharau takes no position on the proposals the Taumata Kaumatua will put to the hui. Trustees who attend do so as uri, not for Te Tāwharau. Matters relating to individual hapū interests and claims remain with each hapū to consider through their own processes.

Whānau are welcome to attend and hear the kōrero. Uri with questions relating specifically to their hapū claim are encouraged to kōrero directly with their hapū.

Nāku noa, nā



Arihia Tuoro
Toheihonui / Chairperson
Te Tāwharau o Te Whakatōhea