Waitangi Tribunal Media Statement



9 April 2009

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.00 NOON THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2009

WAITANGI TRIBUNAL RELEASE PART ONE OF TE UREWERA REPORT

The Waitangi Tribunal has today released part one of its report into the Treaty claims of the iwi and hapu of Te Urewera district. The report is being released in parts at the request of the Crown and claimants, to assist them in settlement negotiations.

Part one examines the tribal landscape of the Urewera region. It describes the tribes, their origins and settlement, their values, beliefs and the ways that they exercised authority over their lands. Te Urewera tribes did not sign the Treaty of Waitangi. They were not offered the opportunity to do so. The first part of the Te Urewera report examines the situation up to 1865. It finds that, in that period, the peoples of Te Urewera were not in any real sense governed by the Crown and it considers the implications of this.

The report also examines the confiscation of Tuhoe land in the 1860s by the Crown. The confiscation was designed to punish other iwi but it also included much of Tuhoe's best land. No land was ever returned to Tuhoe, even though the Crown had not intended to punish them. Largely in response to this, some Te Urewera iwi supported Te Kooti in attacks on Mohaka and other places in 1869, with about 80 Maori and Pakeha being killed. The Crown responded by sending an armed force into Te Urewera, killing non-combatants and destroying homes, food supplies and taonga. Many people died, either as casualties or from hunger and disease, and this created a lasting legacy of pain and grievance. The report examines the impact of these actions on the relationship between the Crown and Te Urewera Maori.

The Waitangi Tribunal heard evidence from claimants and the Crown between 2003 and 2005 on 40 separate claims. The inquiry panel comprised Judge Patrick Savage (presiding officer), Dr Ann Parsonson, Ms Joanne Morris and Mr Tuahine Northover. Part one of the Urewera Report is available at www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz. The Waitangi Tribunal will release the remainder of the pre-publication report in further parts.

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FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

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9 o Paenga-whāwhā 2009

KI NGĀ: KAIRIPOATA TAKE MĀORI ME NOHO TAPU KI MUA I TE 12 HĀORA I TE AHIAHI, I TE 9 O PAENGA-WHĀWHĀ 2009

KA WHAKAPUTA TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA I TE WĀHANGA TUATAHI O TE PŪRONGO MŌ TE UREWERA

Nō te rā nei, ka whakaputa a Te Rōpū Whakamana i Te Tiriti o Waitangi i te wāhanga tuatahi o tāna pūrongo mō ngā kerēme Tiriti a ngā iwi me ngā hapū o Te Urewera. Ka taki whakaputahia tēnei pūrongo ki ōna wāhanga i runga i te tono a te Karauna me ngā kaikerēme, arā hei āwhina i a rātau ki te whiriwhiri he whakataunga.

Ka titiro te wāhanga tuatahi nei ki ngā iwi o Te Urewera, arā, ko te takenga mai, ko te noho ki Te Urewera, ko ō rātau uara me ō rātau whakapono, me te āhua anō hoki o ō rātau mana ki runga i ō rātau whenua. Kāore ngā iwi o Te Urewera i haina i te Tiriti o Waitangi. Kāore rātau i pātaihia ki te haina. Ka aro te wāhanga tuatahi o te pūrongo nei ki tēnei āhuatanga, tae mai ki te tau 1865. Ko te kitenga matua, i ngā tau i mua i te 1865, kāore ngā iwi o Te Urewera i taka ki raro i te mana o te Karauna. Ka arohia i te pūrongo nei ngā take e puta mai ana i tēnei āhuatanga.

Ka titiro hoki te pūrongo ki te raupatu a te Karauna i ngā whenua o Tūhoe i ngā tau 1860. Ko te tikanga a te raupatu nei, he whakawhiu i a iwi kē, engari i riro tonu atu ko ngā whenua papai o Tūhoe. Kāore i whakahokia atu he whenua ki a Tūhoe i muri mai, ahakoa te kore mahara o te Karauna ki te whakawhiu i a Tūhoe. I runga i tēnei āhuatanga, ka tahuri ētahi o ngā iwi o Te Urewera ki te tautoko i a Te Kooti, ā, ka taki huaki i a Mōhaka me ētahi atu kāinga i te tau 1869. He āhua 80 ngā tāngata i mate, Māori mai, Pākehā mai. Ko te whakautu a te Karauna, he tuku i tētahi ope hoia ki Te Urewera, ā, patua ana te hunga kore whawhai, tahuna ana ko ngā whare, ngā kai me ngā taonga a ngā iwi. He tokomaha i mate, i te whawhai, i te korekai, i te māuiui. Ka noho ēnei āhuatanga hei take mamae i roto i ngā whakatipuranga. Ka aro tēnei pūrongo ki te pānga o ēnei āhuatanga ki te hono ki waenga i te Karauna me ngā iwi o Te Urewera.

I whakarongo a Te Rōpū Whakamana ki ngā kōrero a ngā kaikerēme me te Karauna i waenga i ngā tau 2003 ki te 2005, mō ngā kerēme e 40 te maha. Ko ngā mema a Te Rōpū Whakamana nā rātau i tirotiro ēnei take, ko Kaiwhakawā Patrick Savage (kaiwhakahaere), ko Dr Ann Parsonson, ko Joanne Morris rātau ko Mr Tuahine Northover.

Kei te www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz te wāhanga tuatahi o tēnei pūrongo. Hei tōna wā, ka whakaputa a Te Rōpū Whakamana i ngā wāhanga o muri mai.

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