



Office of Hon Christopher Finlayson

Attorney-General
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Associate Minister of Māori Affairs

06 JUN 2012

Wanda Brljevič
Administrator
Ngāti Huarere ki Whangapoua
75 Kauri Grove
COROMANDEL 3506

Tēnā koe

Re: Request to the United Nations under Articles 41 and 42 of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by Te Whanau o Haumiora Mangakahia et al

I am writing in response to your email of 1 May 2012 which was referred to me for response by Hon Tariana Turia as these matters fall within my portfolio responsibilities about your application to the United Nations and concerns about the Hauraki Collective mandate.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) and historical Treaty of Waitangi settlements

In keeping with New Zealand's strong commitment to human rights, and indigenous rights in particular, support was expressed for the Declaration both as an affirmation of fundamental rights and as an expression of new and widely supported aspirations.

While the Declaration carries significant moral force it is not legally binding in New Zealand. The Crown's position is clear that Crown policy on historical Treaty settlements are not affected by New Zealand's statement of support for the Declaration.

The Crown is committed to acknowledging and understanding the historic injustices suffered by Māori in relation to their land and resources through the established Treaty settlement process.

Hauraki Collective mandate

The Office of Treaty Settlements will respond separately to your request for further information about: