



# Te Awa Kōrero



Pānui-a-marama  
Mahuru

## He Tonu nui I tō tātou haerenga Initialling our Deed of Settlement

On 17 September 2026, Ngāi Tai reached a significant milestone in our settlement journey with the initialling of our Deed of Settlement. For our iwi, this was much more than the signing of a document. It represented many years of mahi, kōrero, wero, perseverance, and commitment from generations of Ngāi Tai who have worked to have our history recognised, our grievances acknowledged, and a stronger foundation created for those who come after us.



## A moment to acknowledge our journey



Our settlement journey did not begin with the current negotiations. It sits within a much longer story of Ngāi Tai; of our tūpuna, our whenua, our moana, the injustices experienced by our people, and the determination of generations to uphold the mana of Ngāi Tai. Many people have carried this kaupapa over the years. Some have been at the negotiation table, some around our Board table, some on our marae and within our whānau. Others began this mahi many years ago and are no longer here to see this milestone reached. For those who were there on the day, that was particularly felt. We acknowledge them all. Their contribution, persistence and belief in the future of Ngāi Tai are woven into this moment.

## What does Initialling mean?

Initialling the Deed of Settlement is an important step, but it does not mean the settlement is complete or that Ngāi Tai uri have approved it. It means negotiations have reached the point where the proposed settlement package has been agreed between our negotiators and the Crown, subject to ratification by our people. **Now it comes back to us.** Ngāi Tai uri will have the opportunity to understand what has been negotiated, what is included in the settlement, and what it could mean for our iwi and our future. The decision about whether to accept the settlement belongs to Ngāi Tai uri through the ratification process.



## What happens next?

The coming months will be about making sure our people have the information and opportunities they need before being asked to vote. **There is a lot to kōrero about.** We will unpack the Deed of Settlement, explain the different parts of the settlement and provide information about the proposed post-settlement governance arrangements. There will be opportunities for uri to come together, hear directly about what has been negotiated, ask questions and have kōrero about what this means for Ngāi Tai.

We know our uri live across Aotearoa and around the world, so providing different ways for our people to participate and access information will be an important part of this next phase. More information about the ratification process, hui, voting and key dates will be shared as we move closer to ratification.



## Our People, Our Future

A Treaty settlement cannot undo what has happened, nor can it restore everything that was lost. But this moment gives us an opportunity to acknowledge where we have come from and to think thoughtfully about what we build from here. For Ngāi Tai, that means looking beyond settlement itself. It is about strengthening our whānau, our culture and identity, caring for our whenua and taiao, growing the capability of our people and creating the foundations that allow future generations of Ngāi Tai to determine their own path.

# There is still important mahi ahead of us!

Initialling our Deed of Settlement is not the end of our journey. It marks the beginning of the next part; when the settlement comes home to our people. This is our opportunity to understand it, kōrero about it, ask the hard questions and consider what it means for Ngāi Tai today and for the generations who will follow us. For now, we take a moment to acknowledge how far we have come. We acknowledge those who began the journey, those who have carried it, those who continue the mahi today, and those who will inherit what we build from here.



**“Whakapūmautia te manamotuhake o Ngai Tai”**



**NGAITAI**  
IWI AUTHORITY

**"Nga moemoea ki tua, nga ara ki naiane, nga tapuwae ki mua. The dreams of yesterday, are today's stepping stones, and tomorrow's pathways."**

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Check out our website to access the treaty settlement tab for updates!

[www.ngaitai.iwi.nz](http://www.ngaitai.iwi.nz)

