

From: [Rt Hon Sir Douglas Graham](#)
To: [Rt Hon Sir Douglas Graham](#)
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Subject: Kaipara, Tamaki Makaurau and the Coromandel

Kia ora

In March 2009 the Hon Chris Finlayson, Minister of Treaty Negotiations, asked if I would assist in developing a process so that the iwi/hapu with interests in Tamaki Makaurau could progress to a settlement of their grievances against the Crown. I was happy to help. As I worked on a possible plan, it soon became apparent that some of the iwi/hapu involved had claims in the Kaipara and/or in the Coromandel as well. Little progress could be made without attempting to address those claims contemporaneously. Accordingly in due course in late June I presented a proposal for all the iwi/hapu to consider. It required iwi/hapu to work together where they shared common interests. It also took the unusual approach of disclosing not only my suggested utunga but how it had been calculated. This was done so that any negotiation which followed would be totally transparent and each iwi/hapu could see what was likely to be on the table for each. It was of course simply a proposal.

I was very pleased at the response by so many of the iwi/hapu to whom the presentation was made. It was clear that, even where there was some disappointment or mandate issues still to resolve, everyone wanted to make progress and move from grievance to development. I was also delighted at the way the iwi/hapu accepted the challenge to work together on the maunga and RFR in Tamaki Makaurau. The result was that Michael Dreaver and the interim negotiators for a number of the iwi/hapu were able to move swiftly into negotiation and indeed for some to reach an Agreement in Principle in December. Others are likely to follow in the ensuing months. For those with mandate issues considerable progress has also been made with only one exception. It is possible that at long last justice for iwi/hapu is near. I certainly hope so.

My role as Facilitator has now really come to an end and I intend to move to the background and observe from a distance.

I have enjoyed working with you accepting that there have been difficult moments with some. If I were at fault I very much regret that and express my apology. Perhaps I am not as patient as I once was. I commend all of those who have tried so hard to seize the opportunity the Crown has presented and the willingness to make concessions to enable progress to be made. There is still much to be done but I know Michael Dreaver and his team are as anxious as you are to complete the task.

May I therefore now acknowledge the mana of all the iwi/hapu, pay my respects to nga tupuna and wish each and every iwi/hapu success as it faces the challenges of the future.

Kindest regards

Sir Douglas Graham

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