

**Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River)
Settlement Act 2010
Public Act 2010 No 24
Date of assent 7 May 2010**

Preamble

The Relationship of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River

“Noo taatou te awa. Noo te awa taatou. E kore e taea te wehe te iwi o Waikato me te awa. He taonga tuku iho naa ngaa tuupuna. E whakapono ana maatou ko taa maatou, he tiaki i taua taonga moo ngaa uri whakatupu.”

Robert Te Kotahi Mahuta 1975

Te Mana o te Awa

(1) To Waikato-Tainui, the Waikato River is a tupuna (ancestor) which has mana (prestige) and in turn represents the mana and mauri (life force) of the tribe. Respect for te mana o te awa (the spiritual authority, protective power and prestige of the Waikato River) is at the heart of the relationship between the tribe and their ancestral river:

(...)

Part 1

Preliminary provisions

3. Overarching purpose of settlement

The overarching purpose of the settlement is to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations.

4. Purpose of Act

The purpose of this Act is to—

- (a) give effect to the settlement of raupatu claims under the 2009 deed:
- (b) recognise the significance of the Waikato River to Waikato-Tainui:
- (c) recognise the vision and strategy for the Waikato River:
- (d) establish and grant functions and powers to the Waikato River Authority:
- (e) establish the Waikato River Clean-up Trust:
- (f) recognise certain customary activities of Waikato-Tainui:
- (g) provide co-management arrangements for the Waikato River:
- (h) provide redress to Waikato-Tainui relating to certain assets:
- (i) recognise redress to Waikato-Tainui of the Kiingitanga Accord and other accords provided for in the schedule of the Kiingitanga Accord.

Part 2

Settlement redress through legislation

Statement of significance of Waikato River to Waikato-Tainui

8. Statement

(1) The Crown recognises the statement of significance of the Waikato River to Waikato-Tainui as stated in this section.

The Waikato River is our tupuna (ancestor) which has mana (spiritual authority and power) and in turn represents the mana and mauri (life force) of Waikato-Tainui. The Waikato River is a single indivisible being that flows from Te Taheke Hukahuka to Te Puuaha o Waikato (the

mouth) and includes its waters, banks and beds (and all minerals under them) and its streams, waterways, tributaries, lakes, aquatic fisheries, vegetation, flood plains, wetlands, islands, springs, water column, airspace, and substratum as well as its metaphysical being. Our relationship with the Waikato River, and our respect for it, gives rise to our responsibilities to protect te mana o te Awa and to exercise our mana whakahaere in accordance with long established tikanga to ensure the wellbeing of the river. Our relationship with the river and our respect for it lies at the heart of our spiritual and physical wellbeing, and our tribal identity and culture.