

Nga Kohinga

o Ngati Porou

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WAI262 Flora and Fauna Treaty Claim

Ngati Porou has engaged an impressive line up of witnesses for the final hearings on WAI 262- "Flora and Fauna" Treaty claim, set for the 28th -31st of August at Pakirikiri Marae. The WAI 262 Claim was originally filed in 1991 by Dell Wihongi of Te Rarawa, Haana Murray of Ngati Kuri, Witi McMath of Ngati Wai, John Hippolyte of Ngati Koata, Kataraina Rimene of Ngati Kahungunu and Ngati Porou Film Maker, Tama Poata. The claim, is essentially about protecting the rights of Tangata Whenua over their cultural objects, indigenous flora and fauna and the traditional knowledge associated with them.

The claim arose as a consequence of increasing concerns about the presumption by the Crown and some private sector entities, in acquiring ownership and use rights over the

'intellectual property' associated with the flora and fauna which we as Tangata Whenua are Kaitiaki for. Various Iwi had first hand experiences of people using their cultural objects and traditional knowledge, without seeking prior permission. Furthermore, some people and organisations have gone on, to negotiate lucrative commercial deals, from the exploitation of taonga and the associated IP, with no acknowledgement and or benefit returned to the Iwi Kainga.

In the current environment of knowledge acquisition, creation and transmission, IP is a significant asset which is a key component of the re-emerging Maori economy. Matauranga Ngati Porou is not only a means to an end, in terms of the realisation of our potential, it is also a product in its own

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Venue for WAI262 Hearing Pakirikiri Marae, Tokomaru Bay.

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