

HE PANUI - RUAWAIPU CLUSTER

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Introduction

Who is Ruawaipu? – Ruawaipu are tangata whenua pre migration that still occupy the northern East Coast territory commonly known as the area from Potaka to Tikapa. In 2004, Ruawaipu, and other traditional tribes of the East Coast, were granted the right to pursue their claims independent of Ngati Porou and to seek funding from the Crown Forestry Rental Trust (CFRT) to prepare research to support their claims. At present there are approximately 50 Ruawaipu claims in the East Coast Inquiry.

The Ruawaipu Cluster website

To view information and much more, simply go to; www.ruawaipu.com

Claimant evidence

Dr Grant Young, a historian, was commissioned by the CFRT in August 2007 to complete a Ruawaipu oral & traditional history scoping report. In December 2007 the CFRT approved funding for the main research project. The main project by Dr Young began in February 2008 and in February 2009 the first draft was completed. This main report will be critical to the Ruawaipu claims evidence base, and has to date produced some strong Ruawaipu evidence. The project is intended to conclude June 2009.

Current issues

On 29 September 2008, a Bill to give legal effect to the Ngati Porou foreshore and seabed settlement (initiated by Api Mahuika Chairman for Te Runanga o Ngati Porou (TRONP)) was introduced to the House of Representatives (by the previous Attorney General Dr Michael Cullen). If the Bill becomes law, the Tribunal will be blocked from inquiring into all East Coast claims against the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 (FSA). Despite Judge Milroy declining Ruawaipu urgent hearings against the Ngati

Porou FSSB settlement, the Tribunal no longer has the power to inquire into this Bill. The Ngati Porou settlement cannot challenge the FSA. The FSA is currently under review. On 28 April 2009 Ruawaipu claimants before the review panel (Dury, Boast, and O'Regan) called for the repeal of the FSA.

In 2008, the Wai 272 Claimant (a treaty claim by Api Mahuika for and on behalf of TRONP) also engaged with Dr Cullen (previous Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations) to settle "all historical treaty claims" including Ruawaipu without the consent of Ruawaipu claimants. Lawyers representing Ruawaipu claimants are taking steps in the High Court to halt the TRONP/Crown direct negotiations.

Judicial Conference

In December 2008 Judge Milroy stood down as Presiding Officer due to Ruawaipu claimant allegations of bias. On 6 January 2009 Judge Stephen Clark was appointed as the new Presiding Officer for the East Coast Inquiry. At a judicial conference held on 30 April 2009, in Wellington, Judge Clark has extended the casebook research programme until 18 December 2009. He has also called for the filing of the East Coast Wars Report. The Wai 272 Claimants (TRONP) have opposed the commissioning of this report for some time now as this report may support Ruawaipu claims. Judge Clark has also granted leave to bring fresh urgent applications (also previously declined by Judge Milroy) in regards to the TRONP/Crown treaty settlement negotiations.

How to register

You can register on line via the website or we can send you a registration form.

How to contact us

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