

New Zealand Legislation

Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

- This version was republished on 21 November 2022 to correct a typographical error in section 5(5). That error has also been corrected in all previous versions.

Schedule 61

Statutory acknowledgement for Te Wairere (Lake Dunstan)

ss 205, 206

Statutory area

The statutory area to which this statutory acknowledgement applies is the lake known as Te Wairere (Lake Dunstan), the location of which is shown on Allocation Plan MD 490 (SO 24729).

Preamble

Under [section 206](#), the Crown acknowledges Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's statement of Ngāi Tahu's cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional association to Te Wairere, as set out below.

Ngāi Tahu association with Te Wairere

The name "Te Wairere" refers to the speed with which the river once ran at this point.

The whole of the Mata-au (Clutha River), on which Te Wairere lies, was part of a mahinga kai trail that led inland and was used by Otago hapū including Kāti Kurī, Ngāti Ruahikihiki, Ngāti Huirapa and Ngāi Tuahuriri. The river was used as a highway into the interior, and provided many resources to sustain travellers on that journey. The river was a significant indigenous fishery, providing tuna (eels), kanakana (lamprey) and kōkopu in the area over which Te Wairere now lies. Manu (birds), including moa, were taken from areas adjoining the river, over which the lake now lies.

The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka (landing places), places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the river, the relationship of people with the river and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources. All of these values remain important to Ngāi Tahu today.

The waterway was also very important in the transportation of pounamu from inland areas down to settlements on the coast, from where it was traded north and south. Because of its location at the confluence of Mata-au and Kawarau Rivers, Te Wairere was an important staging post on journeys inland and down-river. A tauranga waka and nohoanga sited at the junction of the two rivers acted as such a staging post. As a result of this history of use and occupation there are a number of wāhi taonga (including rock shelters and archaeological sites) in the area, some of which are now under the waters of the lake. Wāhi tapu are important as places holding the memories and traditions of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna.

The tūpuna had an intimate knowledge of navigation, river routes, safe harbours and landing places, and the locations of food and other resources on the river. The waterway was an integral part of a network of trails which were used in order to ensure the safest journey and incorporated locations along the way that were identified for activities including camping overnight and gathering kai. Knowledge of these trails continues to be held by whānau and hapū and is regarded as a taonga. The traditional mobile lifestyle of the people led to their dependence on the resources of the waterway.

The mauri of Te Wairere represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force, and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngāi Tahu Whānui with the lake.

Purposes of statutory acknowledgement

Pursuant to [section 215](#), and without limiting the rest of this schedule, the only purposes of this statutory acknowledgement are—

- (a) to require that consent authorities forward summaries of resource consent applications to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as required by regulations made pursuant to [section 207](#) (clause 12.2.3 of the deed of settlement); and
- (b) to require that consent authorities, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, or the Environment Court, as the case may be, have regard to this statutory acknowledgement in relation to Te Wairere, as provided in [sections 208 to 210](#) (clause 12.2.4 of the deed of settlement); and
- (c) to empower the Minister responsible for management of Te Wairere or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be, to enter into a Deed of Recognition as provided in [section 212](#) (clause 12.2.6 of the deed of settlement); and
- (d) to enable Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and any member of Ngāi Tahu Whānui to cite this statutory acknowledgement as evidence of the association of Ngāi Tahu to Te Wairere as provided in [section 211](#) (clause 12.2.5 of the deed of settlement).

Limitations on effect of statutory acknowledgement

Except as expressly provided in [sections 208 to 211](#), [213](#), and [215](#),—

- (a) this statutory acknowledgement does not affect, and is not to be taken into account in, the exercise of any power, duty, or function by any person or entity under any statute, regulation, or bylaw; and
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), no person or entity, in considering any matter or making any decision or recommendation under any statute, regulation, or bylaw, may give any greater or lesser weight to Ngāi Tahu's association to Te Wairere (as described in this statutory acknowledgement) than that person or entity would give under the relevant statute, regulation, or bylaw, if this statutory acknowledgement did not exist in respect of Te Wairere.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not affect the lawful rights or interests of any person who is not a party to the deed of settlement.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not, of itself, have the effect of granting, creating, or providing evidence of any estate or interest in, or any rights of any kind whatsoever relating to, Te Wairere.

Schedule 61: amended, on 20 May 2014, by [section 107](#) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (2014 No 26).