



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

27 March 2020

### **Wairarapa Moana Inc win \$1 billion resumption order for Ngāti Kahunungu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-ā-Rua Iwi**

For many years Wairarapa Moana Incorporation has faced sustained opposition, from both the Crown and Ngāti Kahunungu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust, in pursuing its Treaty claim for the Maraetai power scheme at Mangakino. The Waitangi Tribunal found that the Crown wrongly took land from the Incorporation's owners in 1947 to build the Maraetai power scheme, and should have better compensated them due to the land's unique value for creating a nationally-significant source of electricity.

The Tribunal has now issued a favourable report on the resumption applications for these assets by the Incorporation (Wai 85), and also for Crown forest land by Ngāi Tūmapūhia-ā-Rangi (Wai 429).

The resumption applications cover the return of the Maraetai power scheme land and improvements, currently owned by Mercury Energy, and forest land at Ngāumu in the Wairarapa, which have a combined value of between \$800 million and \$1.2 billion.

"This will provide the potential opportunity to receive a significantly better Treaty settlement than the \$97 million package negotiated and recommended by our Iwi negotiators in the Settlement Trust", says Kingi Smiler, Chairman of Wairarapa Moana Incorporation.

"It is of critical importance in this next stage, that we do not sell ourselves short, and the Incorporation will continue to advocate for the best outcomes for Wairarapa Moana shareholders and the Ngāti Kahunungu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-ā-Rua Iwi", says Kingi Smiler.

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