

NGATI KUTA HAPU KI TE RAWHITI

MANDATE INFORMATION HUI REPORT



OUR MANDATE JOURNEY

KO AU TE WHENUA, KO TE WHENUA AU
MARCH – MAY 2024

TE ROOPU O TE MATAKITE

“Those who have Foresight.”

Author: Natasha Clarke-Nathan

184

YEARS HAVE PAST

Our Tupuna REWETI IREKOE began this journey in 1840,
Our Kaumatua & Kuia took our claims to the Waitangi Tribunal,
Now we push on, in pursuit of Negotiations with the Crown
That our Mokopuna will reap the rewards of Justice,
That they can live as they ought, in their
Ngati Kutatanga, their Haputanga
Their Tino Rangatiratanga
Tu Tangata Ngati Kuta!

Tena tatou katoa,

Hutia te rito o te harakeke,
Kei hea te komako e ko e,
He aha te mea nui o te ao?
Maku e ki atu,
HE TANGATA
HE TANGATA
HE TANGATA!

We have reached another important milestone in our journey to pursue the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and maintain the purpose that our tupuna Irekoe intended when they signed Te Tiriti in 1840 at Waitangi.

At the completion of the independent Waitangi Tribunal Inquiry stage, we prepared ourselves for the next stage, which is to meet the Crown's criteria, to get to the negotiation table. The requirements are to;

- collectivise into large natural grouping,
- establish a legal entity to represent us, and
- seek a mandate from our people for the legal entity, Te Whakaaetanga Trust to enter negotiations with the Crown.

Our pursuit for justice has transitioned many generations. In 2018, Ngati Kuta formalized a Large Natural Grouping with neighbouring hapu, Patukeha, Ngati Manu and Ngati Torehina ki Matakāa with the signing of He Kaweneta. In 2020, the Minister of Treaty Settlements formally recognised that we had met the Crown's definition of a 'Large Natural Grouping'. This was the first criteria of the Crown that we have satisfied.

Te Whakaaetanga is the working group for the four hapu, and they work to get each hapu through each stage of the Crown's process.

TE WHAKAAETANGA TRUST

In December 2022, Ngati Kuta, Patukeha, Ngati Manu and Ngati Torehina ki Matakāa, formalised the Te Whakaaetanga Charitable Trust as the legal entity to represent the hapu at the negotiation table.

The Trust Deed was signed at a ceremony in Kerikeri which was attended by whanau from all four hapu. This has resolved the second requirement of the criteria of the Crown.

The new trustees then set out to develop a strategy to obtain a mandate from Ngati Kuta, both nationally and internationally. A large undertaking for the hapu.

In December 2023, The Office for Maori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti, confirmed our Mandate Strategy for implementation.

In January 2024, Ngati Kuta, Patukeha, Ngati Manu and Ngati Torehina ki Matakāa, began delivering the Te Whakaaetanga Mandate Strategy, through several engagements with their respective whanau across the country and the world.

This report sets out the details of each of the Mandate Information Hui delivered by Ngati Kuta. We are grateful to everyone who participated in the hui and those who cast a vote to determine if Te Whakaaetanga Trust has a mandate from you to enter negotiations with the Crown.

Should we achieve a mandate, Ngati Kuta Hapu and Te Whakaaetanga Trust will have met all three criteria of the Crown and will progress to Stage 2 of the Crown's process, the Negotiation Stage.



Glenys Papuni.

On behalf of Ngati Kuta Hapu

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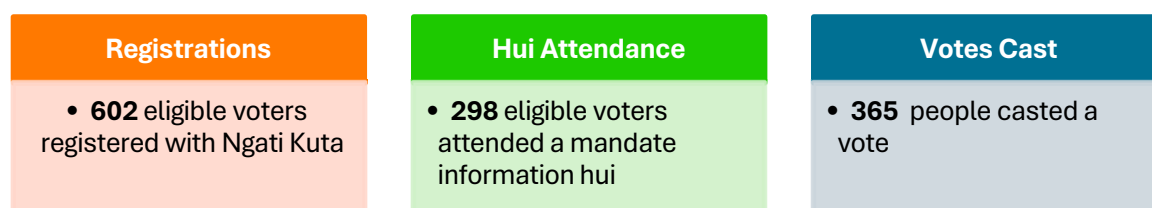
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Executive Summary

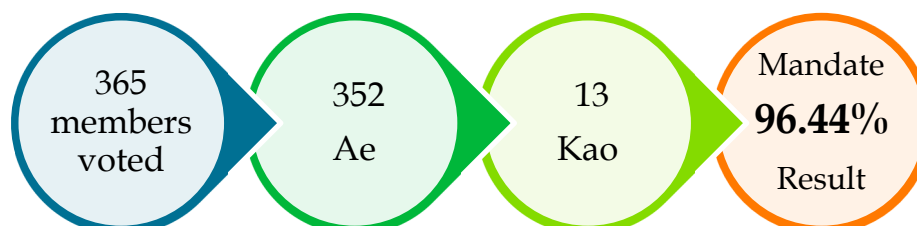
Ngati Kuta has delivered a series of six Mandate Information Hui between 9 March 2024 and 12 May 2024 to engage Ngati Kuta, who reside in many places throughout the world. The purpose of the hui was to provide our members with important information about the role of Te Whakaaetanga Trust and to seek their permission to mandate Te Whakaaetanga Trust, to be the entity who will represent Ngati Kuta in the negotiations with the Crown of our claims. Two of the six hui were hosted online via Zoom and four in-person hui were held in Te Rawhiti, Whangarei, and Auckland.

As part of our process, we commissioned the services of Electionz, who are an independent company, not representative of Ngati Kuta or the Crown, and contracted by the hapu to oversee the delivery of a secure electronic voting system for the registered members of Ngati Kuta to cast a vote on whether they agree or not, to the resolution put to each hui. The data results collected by Electionz from the hui shows the following:



To achieve the results, Ngati Kuta planned and executed a robust process to enable Ngati Kuta to engage hui and to access information and to be able to make an informed decision on whether they agree or disagree to mandate Te Whakaaetanga Trust. We implemented several communication platforms, comprising newspaper advertisements, facebook social media, email, website, hui and the Electionz email communications. We had good engagement turn out and we heard from both sides, those that supported and those that didn't. Overall, there was broad support for Ngati Kuta to progress the hapu through to negotiations, although a small portion of the hapu advocated against Ngati Kuta progressing with Te Whakaaetanga. Nevertheless, the process was valuable and has helped Ngati Kuta better understand the concerns of our people.

Those who did engage the process were eager to understand the journey that had taken place prior and what the next steps would achieve if a mandate was obtained. Some sought additional information to gain better clarity and they were supported by the Ngati Kuta Mandate Team to access additional information as it was requested. The overall result of the vote calculated by Electionz was:



Ngati Kuta has spoken! They agree that Te Whakaaetanga Trust represent us in negotiations. This report sets out the key information about the mandate process deployed by Ngati Kuta hapu.

1. Introduction

Ngati Kuta has Spoken!

96.44% Voted Ae!

Ngati Kuta Hapu is in the final phase of Stage 1 of the Crown's process, which is to achieve a mandate from Ngati Kuta, to endorse Te Whakaaetanga Trust to enter negotiations with the Crown. This is a critical step, No mandate, No negotiations!

The Crown requires Ngati Kuta to deliver a robust and durable process to obtain a mandate from our people, and to maintain that mandate if one is achieved. The purpose of this report is to set out the details of the Mandate Information Hui delivered by Ngati Kuta and our Te Whakaaetanga representatives, between March and May of 2024.

Ngati Kuta has appointed two trustees to represent our interests in Te Whakaaetanga Trust. Their role is to help Ngati Kuta navigate the Crown's processes and synchronise the activities that must be delivered alongside Patukeha, Ngati Manu and Ngati Torehina ki Matakā. The trustees were supported by many Ngati Kuta who have committed and dedicated time to deliver the Mandate Strategy. It has been an incredible effort by all involved, and one that has returned great results.

More importantly, we must acknowledge, that Ngati Kuta has managed to get to this stage because of the work delivered by our claimants for WAI 1307 and WAI 1958, and our kuia, who spent many years researching and presenting evidence to the Waitangi Tribunal inquiry for Te Paparahi o te Raki. While that stage is now complete, we are forever grateful and honour their strength and dedication that has achieved one of most significant findings by the Tribunal (among many others) that "Ngapuhi did not cede sovereignty to the Crown". Their hard work has progressed us to this stage.

Ngati Kuta has spoken, **96.44% of eligible voters said Ae to a mandate for Te Whakaaetanga Trust** to enter negotiations with the Crown. We are deeply humbled and grateful to all Ngati Kuta who engaged this important kaupapa. Tenei te mihi aroha kia koutou.

2. Our People

Capacity and capability are critical to the success of any organisation. The Mandate Information process is not an easy road and not a journey to underestimate. It requires dedication, commitment, strategic and critical thinking, not to mention lots of patience, aroha, and a mighty thick skin!

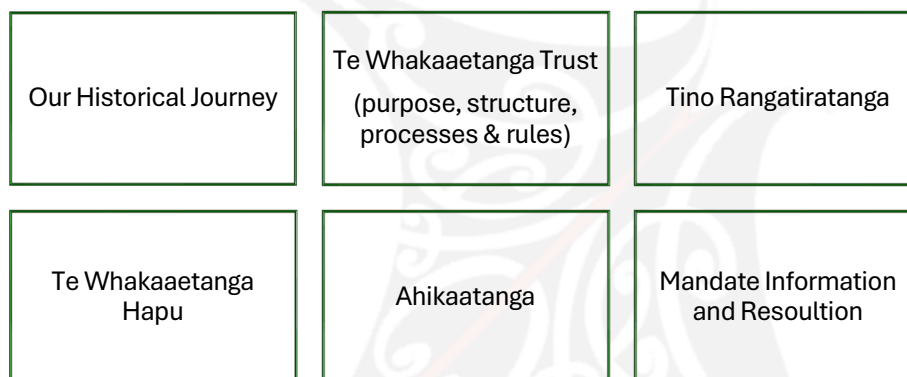
Our people are busy people who volunteer to the Ngati Kuta work programmes, yet those who came out to tautoko our Mandate Information Delivery Team must be acknowledged and applauded because it takes a Hapu to achieve great things.

The team was pushed continually to maintain momentum and we thank everyone who contributed their knowledge, skills, and time to uphold the Mana of Ngati Kuta.

Our People	What they Do	Acknowledgement
Mandate Hui Taumata	Each Mandate Hui was led by a taumata. Our taumata ensured that we delivered our hui in accordance with Ngati Kuta tikanga.	George Riley – Rawhiti Russell Hook – Rawhiti Raniera Whiu – Whangarei Shane Witehira – Whangarei & Online Dougal Stott – Tamaki Matutaera Clendon – Te Rawhiti Russell Hook – Te Rawhiti Haimona Tauariki – Te Rawhiti
Nga Kaumatua Kuia o Ngati Kuta	Our kaumatua and kuia meet regularly prior to every hapu hui. Some have travelled with the team to tautoko our Mandate Information Hui They are on call 24hrs a day to provide guidance and advice to our Mandate Information hui and our working group hui. They kept all of us on the straight and narrow.	Elizabeth Mountain Ellis Maaki Howard Maude Ririnui Touchen Ririnui Polly Hall Harata Clarke Hully Clarke
Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Trust	The trustees are at the core of all our work programmes. They take direction from the whare (the hapu) and work to administer those directions. The trustees lead all the communications out to our whanau including emails, facebook and website content.	Arana Rewha Glenys Papuni Lynette Te Tai Ashlee Peacock Jessie Patch
Ngati Kuta Data Team	Data Management is a highly complex area, requiring expertise and acumen. Singlehandedly managing our member registrations, our website development, lead adviser to all of us on communications, data, and technology, and helping whanau register and vote.	Elizabeth (Liz) Harte
Te Rawhiti Marae	Our marae trustees tiaki our most precious taonga – our Whare Tupuna and supported the delivery of every Mandate Information Hui	Michelle Elboz
Ngati Kuta Hapu Reps to Te Whakaaetanga	They take directions from the hapu and integrate those into the Te Whakaaetanga work programme. They provide information back from Te Whakaaetanga on the Crowns processes and provide guidance on how to navigate and implement the process	Dean Clendon Natasha Clarke
Whanau who came to tautoko every hui	We had many supporters who attended every hui. This is significant and generous aroha because we are all in this together.	Thank you whanau!

3. The Mandate Strategy

Our Mandate Strategy was developed over a 12mth period between January – December 2023. Many hui were held in Te Rawhiti during 2023 to draw out information then piece it all together into a strategy. The following diagram shows the core areas of the Strategy:



3.1 Our Historical Journey

The Strategy outlines the journey that Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga have embarked to formalise our Large Natural Grouping. It describes the work undertaken to engage all the Ngapuhi hapu who participated in the Takutai Moana collective.

More than 50+ hui have been held between 2015 – 2018, where Ngati Kuta had intended to progress a Large Natural Grouping with other Takutai Moana hapu, however due to differences of opinion about Rangatiratanga and Ahikaatanga, Ngati Kuta decided to withdraw from that group, as did Patukeha, Ngati Manu and Ngati Torehina.

As a result of the withdrawal, the four-hapu pursued further discussions among themselves which led to them agreeing to formalise themselves as a Large Natural Grouping. Ngati Kuta, Patukeha and Ngati Manu came together by agreement in 2018 and representatives of each hapu signed He Kaweneta. Ngati Torehina ki Matakāa later joined the group in 2019. Together, the four hapu are Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga.

3.2 Te Whakaateanga Trust

Te Whakaaetanga Trust was formalised by Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga in January 2023. Since then, the Te Whakaaetanga Trustees have worked with the hapu to develop a strategy that supports each Hapu to seek a mandate from their people. The Strategy provides detailed information about Te Whakaaetanga Trust. It sets out the Trusts purpose, strategic objectives, structure, processes, and rules which are all contained in the Trusts Deed. The significant difference between the Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed and the deeds of other similar entities, is the way in which ‘Hapu Tikanga’ has been woven into the deed.

Each participating hapu has sought a guarantee that Hapu Mana and Hapu Tikanga prevails the Trusts status and all its objectives. What this means simply is that the Trustees appointed to Te Whakaaetanga by each hapu must operate in the Trust as directed by their hapu and that Te Whakaaetanga does not exclusively have any ability to deliver its operations unless all four hapu, agree.

This is a first for Ngati Kuta and extremely essential because many generations have worked in this space, and we cannot lose control of our Mana Motuhake, our narrative, nor our desired pathway to any other group or entity. Hapu Tino Rangatiratanga must prevail.

3.3 Tino Rangatiratanga

Hapu tino rangatiratanga (absolute authority) has been well embedded throughout our hapu territory since time immemorial and has never been extinguished. Our authority was reiterated and internationally declared on 28 October 1835 through He Whakaputanga o te Rangatira o Nu Tirene. He Whakaputanga set the platform for Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga are steadfast because the Tribunals finding verifies what we have always claimed “that we did not cede our sovereignty to the Crown when we signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi”. It solidifies our intentions to seek restoration from the Crown. It is equally significant because we can confidently engage negotiations and seek redress without any risk to ceding our Tino Rangatiratanga. Tihei Mauri Ora!

3.4 Joining & Withdrawing from Te Whakaaetanga Trust

The provisions of the Te Whakaaetanga Trust Mandating Strategy set out how hapu representatives will operate and how other hapu can join Te Whakaaetanga Trust and how existing hapu members can withdraw from the Trust. It is a Crown expectation that this provision be available to other hapu who naturally align with us, so that their claims can be negotiated alongside ours.

However, Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga has signaled to Te Arawhiti, that there will be a time when this window of opportunity closes to other Ngapuhi hapu. It has taken Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga six years to develop the agreements, legal structure, and strategies to get us to through the mandating stage. Should another hapu join Te Whakaaetanga Trust, the progression of the current members may slow, or even stall, as we wait for the new member(s) to come up to speed with the Crown’s process and while they work to obtain a mandate from their hapu. This aspect must be carefully weighed up as there are pros and cons to new members joining. That’s not to say that Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga are closed to the requirement, but there is emphasis for new members to be able to bed in quickly, because momentum must be maintained.

3.5 Ahikaatanga

Ahikaatanga is an important tikanga for Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga. It highlights the rohe that we tiaki day by day. Ngapuhi comprises 415 individual WAI Claims, of which 10 other hapu and 1 other Iwi claim that they too have interests to the whenua that Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga are ahikaa.

These WAI claims are competitive in nature and the Crown encourages each hapu to engage discussions on crossclaim areas. Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga has defined Ahikaatanga as a tikanga that may help

bring resolve or to help lead to agreements with cross claimants. There are no hard and fast solutions for this and instead we must treat each conversation with respect and empathy, particularly to see all Ngapuhi hapu achieve sustainable and durable solutions.

3.6 Mandate Information Hui & Resolution

In accordance with Crown process, Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga are required to deliver a series of information hui with their respective members. Whanau are the collective decision makers for Ngati Kuta, who determine whether they support their hapu to proceed. Ngati Kuta has delivered a series of hui locally, nationally (online) and worldwide (online) to seek a mandate from Ngati Kuta to proceed. A resolution was presented to participants of the hui which reads:

In accordance with the guiding principles of Te Whakaaetanga, the Trust will be facilitating a hapū-driven process for seeking your mandate. That means Ngāti Manu, Patukeha, Ngāti Kuta, and Ngāti Torehina ki Matakā have determined their own process, in accordance with their tikanga, for seeking the approval of their hapū members on the following resolution:

The acceding hapū of Te Whakaaetanga Trust established by Deed dated 14 January 2023 (collectively referred to as “Ngā Hapū Te Whakaaetanga”) mandate Te Whakaaetanga Trust to represent them in negotiations with the Crown in respect of the comprehensive settlement of all of Ngā Hapū Te Whakaaetanga historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi claims and further mandate Te Whakaaetanga Trust to present an initialled deed of settlement to Ngā Hapū Te Whakaaetanga for ratification prior to a Deed of Settlement being signed.*

**As at the date of this Mandate Strategy, the acceding hapū are Ngāti Torehina ki Matakā, Ngati Manu, Ngāti Kuta and Te Patukeha.*

This is the resolution that Ngati Kuta members cast a vote on. The details of each hui are presented later in this report.

For further reading, you can access the following documents on our website www.ngatikuta.maori.nz

- Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed
- Mandate Strategy
- The Mandate Information Presentation

4. Electionz – Helping Us to Vote

An important key message continually conveyed to us by Te Arawhiti is that the Crown requires all groups seeking a mandate to run a robust process. Ngati Kuta has considered what a robust process means and how we can deliver that, with the limited resources that we have.

The intention of delivering a series of communications and hui was to ensure that Ngati Kuta whanau had ample opportunity to participate, learn, and obtain answers to their questions. Further, it was essential that Ngati Kuta were supported to register as members of the Hapu and have ability and support to cast a vote on whether they agree that Te Whakaaetanga Trust be mandated to progress Ngati Kuta to the negotiation table, or not. Ngati Kuta prides itself on three core principles:

- Tika** Being upright, fair, and true to appropriately express the mana of Ngati Kuta.
- Pono** Being honest, genuine, and sincere so to show respect everywhere we are.
- Aroha** To have a genuine concern, compassion, and to act with the right empathy toward each other.

Implementing our core principles into our strategy, Ngati Kuta agreed that it was important that our whanau had an ability to:

- a) Cast a vote of their own free will, and
- b) Cast a vote free from coercion, and
- c) Cast a vote free from any pressure, and
- d) Have time to absorb information, ask questions, and talk to whanau before they decide.

Electionz is an independent professional company that provides services to a broad range of groups to enable their members to cast votes. Ngati Kuta opted to commission the services of Electionz because they have robust voting



Isiah Roberts – Electionz

systems, retain a neutral position, and they have capability and systems to guarantee certainty that the voting system is independently operated and accounted for.

Isiah Roberts from Electionz supported Ngati Kuta throughout the entire Mandate Information Hui process. Not only is he a great person who complimented our team, but he came with an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience having supported more than 650 Mandating Information Hui throughout his career.

Ngati Kuta whanau were able to register and vote in person at a hui and online. Electionz were also critical to supporting the roll out of communications to all registered Ngati Kuta.

Electionz Voting Results – **see Appendix One.**
Full report available on our website
www.ngatikuta.maori.nz

Tenei te mihi mahana, te mihi aroha kia koe Isiah mo to tautoko aroha kia Ngati Kuta whanau. Mauri ora e te whanaunga.

5. Reaching Ngati Kuta

The Te Whakaaetanga Mandate Strategy for Ngati Kuta Hapu planned the delivery of six engagement hui, four hui scheduled for locations where Ngati Kuta are most prominently residing, and two online hui to reach Ngati Kuta who reside in other areas of Aotearoa and offshore.

5.1 The Ngati Kuta Registration Database

In 2021 Ngati Kuta started a new contact database, which replaced our previous one, because technology had advanced, enabling better data management, and more secure data systems. Unfortunately, our existing database was not transferable to our new system because we didn't have the legal ability to transfer the data without permission from every member to shift their data. Instead, the hapu decided to start a new membership register.

By August 2022, 290 people had registered with our new system, and during the Mandate Information Hui phase (March – May 2024) the eligible¹ voting membership has grown to 602 members, an increase of 312 members.

Of those who registered, 365 members elected to cast a vote and 250 members elected not to. It is unfortunate that some didn't participate, and although some of them did attend a hui (some attended several hui), they elected not to participate for reasons pertaining to their personal views and the views and experiences they held as a whanau. More importantly, Ngati Kuta delivered a fair, transparent, and secure process for every individual to participate, ask questions and cast a vote. Further it is estimated that approximately 20 individuals on our register are possibly deceased, therefore our membership of eligible voters is more likely around 345.

Considering this is the first time Ngati Kuta has ever led a campaign outside of Te Rawhiti, holding hui in multiple locations, the results are pleasing. We started with 290 members which increased by 60% during our 9-week campaign. This signals that our communications have been affective, even though we do not have the same capacity, systems, and resources to other well-established Iwi.

5.2 Advertising

Ngati Kuta reside in many locations throughout Aotearoa and in many countries throughout the world. Reaching them to inform them of the up-coming Mandate hui was very important and our strategy needed to consider the diverse requirements of our people. For example, our varying age demographics mean that kaumatua use different information platforms to rangatahi and our strategy needed to balance the needs of everyone.

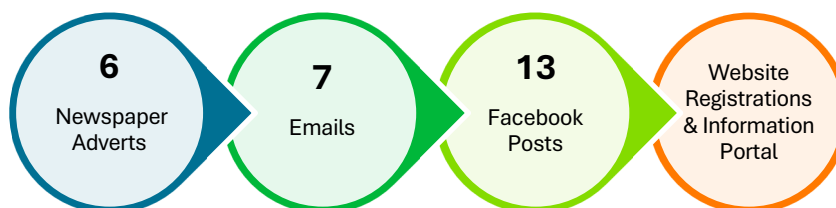
Ngati Kuta utilised the following platforms to advertise our Mandate Information Hui because the range had ability to reach all of our people, regardless of the user's constraints.

- **National & Local News Papers** – still a preferred information platform of our kaumatua

¹ Eligible voting members aged 18yrs and over

- **Facebook** – the platform that most of our whanau are engaged with, particularly rangatahi, whanau living abroad and some of our kaumatua.
- **Website** – an information platform often used by whanau on occasion and a platform where larger information documents are accessible.
- **Email** – an information platform where all registered members could receive information and voting correspondence. Electionz also utilised this platform to reach Ngati Kuta.
- **Hapu Hui** – information was continually communicated through hapu hui, including Mandate Information Hui
- **Zoom** – online engagement to all our Hapu Hui, enabling whanau to join and participate no matter where they reside.

Several advertisements were distributed on various platforms to inform Ngati Kuta of the up-coming Mandate Information hui, including several newspapers – See **Appendix Two – Hui Advertising**.



In addition to our formal advertisements, and as our Mandate Hui were delivered, questions were captured from participants that indicated whanau required additional support to help them better understand where they could access more information (such as the Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed), information about the voting process (Electionz) and simplified information on the Crown processes to help those whanau who may not have been part of the hapu journey to date. There was a clear indication that although whanau may not have attended all the hapu hui since the lodging of our WAI Claims, they still want to be informed, be involved and be able to contribute.

As our hui series progressed, we received requests from whanau who wanted information simplified. The feedback indicated that Crown processes were very complex and confusing for those who do not usually engage Crown kaupapa. The Ngati Kuta Mandate Team developed infographics in response to those requests which were presented on our facebook page and website see **Appendix Three – Communication Infographics**. More of these will be developed going forward as they are instrumental to helping whanau understand complex information and engage our processes, and our whanau respond well to these.

5.3 Facebook Data Insights

The Ngati Kuta Hapu facebook page is a private page, comprising Ngati Kuta members only. It is the central communications platform where most information is shared and where most whanau engage daily. Digital platforms have improved the way we reach people and an efficient platform, although there are some who may not use social media to its full capability, particularly kaumatua and kuia. Regardless, it is still important to capture the reach that digital communications are achieving.

The Ngati Kuta Hapu facebook page has a sizeable reach to Ngati Kuta whanau, worldwide and therefore our primary communication tool. Our data team has captured digital data to show what communications were posted and how many whanau it reached.

The data insights analysed from each facebook post shows the following information:

Post	People Reached	Post Engagement	Reactions	Comments	Photo Views
1	267	50	13	5	11
2	349	120	29	19	71
3	465	338	58	8	268
4	242	33	8	0	21
5	315	53	20	3	24
6	152	33	6	0	13
7	219	47	10	0	32
8	269	23	9	1	12
9	397	195	28	5	154
10	275	37	15	1	21
11	246	116	18	0	78
12	167	41	10	0	18
13	82	7	3	1	2
Averages	265	84.07	17.46	3.3	55.76

The results verify that information distributed on social media did reach our people and they were actively engaging the information in each post. The data shows that our mandate information hui posts were reaching an average of 265 members of our entire² facebook membership, which is 691 members. Information regarding the Mandate hui and voting was also distributed by the Ngati Kuta and Electionz via email to our eligible voters.

This brings Ngati Kuta some certainty that our eligible voting members likely did receive and engage the information about the Mandate Information Hui, including dates and information about voting. The data insights captured for our social media posts are available in **Appendix Four – Facebook Data Insights**.

Interestingly, many of our facebook users are clicking on the infographics that the team has generated. Infographics have value and generating more of these in the future will be encouraged.

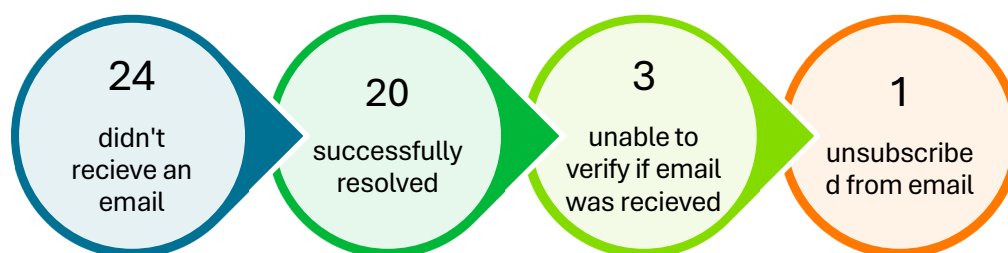
5.4 Email Insights

The use of email to reach our members is a secondary method to social media because it is not without its issues. Whanau have various phone and email plans with their specific providers, and some change providers from time to time. When this occurs, the email we have on record for them becomes obsolete and if they do not update their details with us, we lose the ability to engage them via email.

² The entire Ngati Kuta hapu facebook page includes members of all age groups.

Secondly, email addresses are often entered into the registration form incorrectly, and this creates ‘bounce back’ email messages. Others reported via our facebook page that they hadn’t received an email at all. This was experienced during our mandate campaign, in which our data team spent many hours trying to contact people to obtain correct email addresses.

During the official mandate hui period, we collected the following information:



Electionz report that 24 emails sent by them bounced back. Of those, we managed to correct XX of them. Everyone who had a bad experience using email had already seen the information that had been posted to facebook. This was a time extensive exercise for the team, but the effort has delivered positive results.

5.5 Ngati Kuta Website

Our website is the digital platform where whanau can access larger tracts of information. It is our primary platform for publicly available information, particularly documents and reports. During the mandate campaign, if whanau clicked into our website, the first page visible to them is our mandate information page.

Our website page is continually being updated with new information as it becomes available, and whanau have open access to it – see www.ngatikuta.maori.nz

5.6 Selecting Hui Venues

Traditionally, other Iwi who have completed their Mandate Information hui, established extensive in-person engagements in multiple locations. Many iwi kanohe ki te kanohe engagements have been planned where hui are held in main centres across the country (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch) and centres around the world, particularly Australia (Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth).

Ngati Kuta had an aspiration to follow previous iwi engagement models however budget constraints could not enable this to occur. Since COVID, online platforms have become very popular and useful for enabling participation, regardless of location. Ngati Kuta maximised the use of Zoom to reach our wherever they are. The inclusion of Zoom meant that locations were not necessarily important, although the venues that were used were strategically selected because we had evidence of larger groups of Ngati Kuta residing in those locations. Our kanohe ki te kanohe locations included:

- **Te Rawhiti** – the place where our haukainga/ahikaa reside comprising those who have led the hapu claims since the WAI Claim was lodged.

- **Whangarei** – a location where many Ngati Kuta whanau reside, particularly our rangatahi.
- **Auckland** – the place where most of our whanau reside.

Zoom capability was provided at two in person locations, Te Rawhiti and Auckland, which enabled greater participation for those unable to travel to venues.

5.7 Mandate Hui Schedule

A hui schedule was developed by Ngati Kuta over several months leading up to the mandate hui. The schedule had to align generally to the schedules that were developed by Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga, Patukeha, Ngati Manu and Ngati Torehina ki Matakaa and were part of a the mandate strategy agreed between Te Whakaaetanga Trust and Te Arawhiti.

One observation that hadn't been picked up by the hapu nor the Ngati Kuta Mandate Team during the planning phase pre-hui roll out, was that the hui scheduled for Whangarei, was during Easter Weekend. Because advertising had already occurred, that hui proceeded on 30 March 2024. The consequence was, that many of our whanau living in Whangarei, had travelled out of town to enjoy the long-weekend holiday. This lesson has been helpful for the team who has noted a need to check the finer details, such as public holidays, so that the same mistakes aren't repeated in the future.

The following table is the Hui Schedule delivered by Ngati Kuta.

Date	Time	Venue
Sat 9 March 2024	1pm	Te Rāwhiti Marae, Rawhiti
Sat 30 March 2024	10am	Kensington Stadium, Board Room 1, Whangarei
Sat 6 April 2024	10am (NZ Time)	Online
Sat 13 April 2024	10am	Te Mahurehure Marae, Auckland (online enabled)
Sat 27 April 2024	3pm (NZ Time)	Online
Sat 11 May 2024	10am	Te Rāwhiti Marae, Rawhiti (online enabled)

5.8 Engaging through Zoom

The Ngati Kuta Mandate Team utilised the Zoom platform for our online hui. Zoom was selected because it provides many administration and technical options that help our team better control the platform and the way participants can engage with it.

Generally, the platform worked well although there were some challenges that were experienced during Mandate Information Hui. Some of the challenges experience by participants were:

- Minimal experience using the zoom platform (they are MS Teams users).
- Being exited from the hui and not able to get back in.
- Trouble getting access to the meeting because they hadn't preloaded the app on their device.
- Unable to unmute their mic or their camera.
- Unable to figure out how to present their name on their user profile.

- Verifying the number of participants as some had several members attending with them via a single screen in the same room.

These challenges have identified that other platforms may need to be utilised for future hui, particularly MS Teams which seems to have better ability for any user to enter and interact in meetings without having to formally set up apps on their devices and it has technical capabilities that Zoom does not feature. Further, we had to undertake more facilitation behind the scenes to get clarity of numbers of people attending as a group.

Generally, though, the Zoom app has enabled most whanau to join a hui of their choice, and it proved to be the platform where a majority of Ngati Kuta met, see **Appendix Five – Zoom Hui (27 April).**

6. Ngati Kuta Hapu Mandate Information Hui

The Ngati Kuta hui series and voting process opened on the 9th March 2024 and concluded at midnight on the 12th May 2024.

Tikanga was essential to each of the hui which was supported by a Taumata, including those hui held online. Hui were facilitated by our Te Whakaaetanga reps in accordance with Tikanga and the Ngati Kuta Mandate Team were guided by the taumata of each hui and our kuia who attended both working group meetings and Mandate Information Hui.

The Ngati Kuta Mandate Team organised all the hui communications (panui, information), hui logistics (venues, equipment, refreshments, signage etc.), supported the Ngati Kuta Hapu Te Whakaaetanga Representatives, and captured information from each one (recordings, minutes).

The following shows how many participants attended each hui.



During the mandate campaign period, the Mandate Team responded to ongoing inquiries and questions that were raised between hui. Many of those inquiries were received through our facebook page posts. Of those comments, some participants signaled that they wanted more in-depth conversations because they wanted both context and clarity on what some of the information meant. The Mandate Team responded to these requests by attending additional one to one meetings with four (4) members and their whanau. Three of the meetings were held on separate occasions in person, and one over the phone.

These meetings were incredibly beneficial for both parties because it was an opportunity to drill down on certain matters and all of us came away with new information and improved perspectives.

6.1 Mandate Information Hui Summaries

Hui 1 – Te Rawhiti Marae, 9 March 2024



High level Insights	A rigorous hui, amazing turnout and some were presented
Number of Attendees over 18yrs	66 participants
Taumata o te Ra	George Riley, Russell Hook
Hui Facilitator	Glenys Papuni (Ngati Kuta Hapu Trustee)
Presenter	Dean Clendon (Te Whakaaetanga Trustee)

General Observations

A very good hui where Te Whakaaetanga Trustees were put through their paces on a broad range of topics. Participants were rigorous in their critique of the hui objectives particularly in understanding the Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed in finer detail and seeking clarity on what the provisions mean and whether information contained within the deed were accurate. Overall, it was a great hui and one where participants felt free to speak their mind. We had some whanau attend who are new to our hapu space and others whom we haven't seen for many years. It was a great hui to kick off the mandating series.

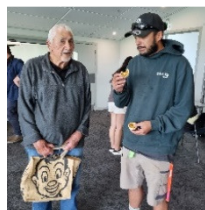
Questions Asked

- Are there Crown representatives present at this hui today?
- Can I have a copy of the Te Whakaaetanga Trust deed so that our whanau can make an informed decision?
- Is our privacy protected with the data being collected throughout the voting process?
- Who is the Ngati Kuta contact person and how do you contact them?
- The Trust Deed is referred to but there is no signed and dated copy of the Trust Deed available to people to read – that is a fundamental resource, could I please have a copy?
-
- Does the word 'Whakaaetanga' mean consent or mandate? I've never heard of that word before.
- Do we have agreement from other hapu that we are mana whenua of our area?
- In terms of TWA, meeting the criteria of a LNG, how can we proceed when the Claimants have withdrawn their claims, where the claimants don't agree?

	○ Does it meet the criteria the hapu want with their aspirations moving forward? ○ Is the crown going to pause, what are our time frames if we wanted to change how we speak with each other? ○ What are our time frames to amend these things, to amend issues? ○ The maps of the Ngati Kuta rohe contained within the Deed are not accurate. Concerns that our rohe of claim may be affected. How can this be rectified? ○ Why can't we just use one the one claim? ○ The lawyer told us that the government will only deal with the claimants. Are we making it a problem by not doing this thing properly? ○ Why are we rushing through this process?
Expectations/Statements	○ The links on the panui didn't work. I understand from ENZ that this is in hand, if one registers to vote, one has to sign/tick two declaration boxes (on the register to vote form) ○ The trust deed does not protect our rangatiratanga because it outlines a majority vote process 3/1. This does not protect our tino rangatiratanga ○ There are other hapu claiming our area of right, we need to act with caution. ○ Our claimants aren't moving away from our hapu, they don't agree with TWA. Claimants are expressing concern about TWA, not the hapu. ○ I have no issue with TWA, however, my claim is a whanau claim. We need more evidence moving forward, we need more stories, i.e Titore, Tenana. I don't want to use just one claim, I want all other whanau to support the claims, we need a whole package. I want to make sure that when we get to the point where we have to put negotiations in place, then we're ready to go. ○ The claimants aren't registered with TWA ○ Working together, with the all the korero, mahi ngatahi. We have to haere ki mua me nga mahi.
Challenges	Hui logistics – The Ngati Kuta hui began directly after the Patukeha mandate information hui on the same day. There was a lot of people moving around the marae and it took a little while to settle in. Objections – There are specific members who do not want Ngati Kuta to proceed with Te Whakaaetanga. They utilized the opportunity to express their views, some differing from others. The fear of losing our sovereignty was articulated by some and promoted processes for prosecuting the Crown in Court rather than negotiating with them. Disagreement from some on how the process is being applied and the loss of their visibility in this process, concern that the Crown is dictating the terms and that the Ngati Kuta Te Whakaaetanga Reps are naïve of that. Tension between whanau – as the day progressed, tensions rose between

	those who were seeking to learn and understand and those who were objecting.
Learnings	○ Now that the Tribunal Hearings phase is complete, the role of individual claimants is unclear to them in the Crown processes. ○ There is a lot of information to absorb, and the Crown process instills uncertainty and fear because the process is unknown to many ○ The finer details are very important to whanau and accuracy must apply to all information. There are consequences if information isn't right and if gaps haven't been closed. ○ People want access to a broad range of information and communication processes are a critical enabler for them to be able to better understand things that are important to them. ○ Our systems and processes need to be robust and reliable.
Follow up Actions	○ Provide confirmation to the requestor that the Ngati Kuta maps can be amended and work to amend them. (completed) ○ Provide a copy of the Trust Deed confirmation to the requestor ○ Generate some diagrams that help simplify processes (both NK and Crown processes) (completed) ○ Share the Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed on our website (completed)
Closing Comments	The hui was well attended, and we heard from a range of diverse perspectives. There is further work to do to help people understand the Crown's process toward settlement and work to identify whether some of the alternative options presented on the day have any merit. Generally, there is good support for Ngati Kuta to proceed although a small faction doesn't want to. Additionally, there was a strong challenge to the trustees to do things well and provide accurate information.

Hui 2 – Whangarei, Kensington (Mckay) Stadium, 30 March 2024



High level Insights	A calm, intimate and considered hui. A lot of Rangatahi attended the hui and wanted to learn and better understand each stage and their processes.
Number of Attendees over 18yrs	28 participants
Taumata o te Ra	Raniera Whiu, Shane Witehira
Hui Facilitator	Lynette Te Tai (Ngati Kuta Hapu Trustee)
Presenter	Dean Clendon (Te Whakaaetanga Trustee)
General Observations	Rangimarie is the best description for this hui. There was a special wairua in the room and although it was easter weekend, people stayed on long after the hui to reconnect over kai.
Questions Asked	○ Are we able to enable our rangatahi to vote, as we are a sovereign nation, so that they are comfortable with the voting process? ○ Do you share your data with those who have voted already. Is it possible for the hapu to provide data of who has voted already? ○ Is there a threshold that voting registrations need to meet? ○ Where does Takutai sit regarding claims around fisheries? Is that a breach to our hapu rangatiratanga? ○ How many more mandating hui are there? ○ Do we have to rush through this process? ○ Can we take a slower process in the next stage?
Expectations/Statements	○ I feel sorry for the hapu. Initially we had all agreed to do this together. But there is so much division now. I can only change what I do and hopefully other people will look at things the same way. I remember what it was like before there was raru. We would all work together.
Challenges	Hui logistics – It was Easter Weekend and quite a few whanau from Whangarei had gone away for the weekend. Objections – There were no objections tabled on the day.
Learnings	○ Our rangatahi do want to understand the work being done and they do want to be involved. ○ The prospect of treaty claims comes across as a highly political realm

	which can be off-putting for some of our rangatahi. ○ Rangatahi want to engage in hapu affairs now and want to be empowered through tikanga to achieve that. ○ Kaumatua want everyone to move together, and they want to lead our hapu without constant opposition.
Follow up Actions	○ There were no specific actions to follow up but there is a need to consider how to enable rangatahi to engage in the conversation and actively participate. Rangatahi don't always feel they can speak up during hapu hui. ○ Include ability for whanau to join all hui by including zoom at every kanohi hui going forward (completed)
Closing Comments	Whanau came to the hui who we don't often see or hear from, this was amazing. It was a peaceful atmosphere from start to finish and everyone stayed on well after the presentation, sharing kai and catching up.

Hui 3 – Online, 6 April 2024

High level Insights	Attentive participation, quiet, calm and encouraging
Number of Attendees over 18yrs	25
Taumata o te Ra	Shane Witehira, Raymond McPherson
Hui Facilitator	Glenys Papuni
Presenter	Dean Clendon
General Observations	A relaxed hui where participants felt comfortable to share their thoughts and to convey their support for the kaupapa. The presentation was delivered providing good context to the information. It was good to see some of our whanau who we haven't seen for a while.
Questions Asked	• What is the percentage required for a mandate? • Who holds information on who whakapapa's to Ngati Kuta? • If the term for trustees (TWT) is three years, is there opportunity for them to be re-elected? • Is there succession plan if current trustees come off? • Is there an alternative pathway if we don't get a mandate? • Because we are grouped together with the other hapu, does that mean they get to say what we do? • Can you confirm if the process we are about to embark on is the same as the process that Hauai Trust took? • What can we learn from the Hauai negotiation process? • I can't see our mana whenua in the presentation, only our mana moana. Can we add whenua to this kaupapa?
Expectations/Statements	• There were no expectations expressed from participants, but some did express their gratitude and their support for the kaupapa to proceed. • Thank you to all the whanau for all the mahi you're doing. • Kaua e whakawehewehe e koutou ma
Challenges	• No issues, concerns or challenges were raised in the hui
Learnings	• There is an opportunity to increase the number of online hui because they are simple and cost effective to run. They are also quite popular with whanau therefore we will consider increasing the number of online hui we have in the future.
Follow up Actions	No follow-up actions requested
Closing Comments	Online meetings can be very effective when facilitated well. Whanau are comfortable engaging through this forum and at ease with sharing their views. The support of participants was evident with messages of encouragement to carry on conveyed.

Hui 4 – Tamaki Makaurau, 13 April 2024



High level Insights	Invigorating, Inspirational and a good reminder that Ngati Kuta whanau matter, regardless of their location		
Number of Attendees over 18yrs	36	Participants Online	5
Taumata o te Ra	Dougal Stott		
Hui Facilitator	Glenys Papuni		
Presenter	Dean Clendon		
General Observations	The hui was represented by many of Ngati Kuta whanau. There was a lot of genuine interest in the journey of the claims and the importance of the mandating process. The representatives were particularly keen to get as many whanau involved as possible. There were some great suggestions about how we can share information to help people to participate. There was a lot of engagement after the presentation, and everyone stayed on well after the kai as they enjoyed connecting with each other. This hui has revitalized the work that we are doing and invigorated everyone to hoe the waka.		
Questions Asked	• How can we simplify things so that whanau can bulk register? • How can I make sure my whanau are registered? • Is there a date that this [registration & voting] needs to be done by? • Has anyone put their hands up to be a negotiator? • You need to whakapapa first, is participation at a hui important? • The Crown set's our structure, are we negotiating with Te Arawhiti? • Will we be disadvantaged if our whanau don't have hui. The important part is voting. How can we check if our whanau is registered? • Can I vote on behalf of my whanau?		

	• Who is verifying our whakapapa? • There is a lot of information that has been shared online, can we access this information somewhere?
Expectations/Statements	• We need information simplified so that whanau can stay up to date, understand what they have to do to register and vote, and strengthen our communications channels. • The WAI claim has been withdrawn by the claimants (zoom comment)
Challenges	• One online participant was unable to unmute their mic or turn their camera on and suggested that she was being blocked by the zoom operator.
Learnings	• We can strengthen communications and simplify complex information to share with the whanau. • Zoom has been a challenge for some of our users. Ngati Kuta usually uses MS Teams, and some may not have Zoom downloaded on their devices. • There continues to be a view that claimants can withdraw a claim. It would be helpful if Te Arawhiti provided some clarity on their view about this in this stage of the process.
Follow up Actions	• Develop simple information maps about the Crown's process for whanau to follow and will share them to our facebook page and website so that everyone can on-share them to their whanau pages (completed) • Add the presentation our website so that whanau can work through the content and make informed decisions (completed)
Closing Comments	Hapu hui are always held on our Marae in Rawhiti. This hui gave us important insights as to the importance of the hapu meeting with whanau, where they are, in locations away from the whare tupuna. Whanau do want to be involved and do have important contributions to make and more can be done to engage them outside of traditional settings.

Hui 5 – Online, 27 April 2024

High level Insights	Our highest attendance hui so far with whanau from London, France, several states across Australia, Christchurch, and other regions across NZ. Lots of people continued to communicate to the Mandate Team after the hui finished. A vibrant and inspiring hui!
Number of Attendees over 18yrs	72 participants
Taumata o te Ra	Glenys Papuni opened and closed the hui and led our mihimihi.
Hui Facilitator	Natasha Nathan
Presenter	Dean Clendon
General Observations	Participants were very observant during the hui, feedback suggested many felt the hui was delivered well and they were able to understand the content
Questions Asked	• What percentage of votes do we need to achieve a mandate? • How does this work if Ngati Kuta is going for a mandate and Patukeha aren't? Won't that cause conflict?
Expectations/Statements	• There were no expectations nor statements made on the day
Challenges	The hui went well and without any issues
Learnings	• Whanau are interested in what happens back home even though they live offshore. Relationships are important and our whakapapa connections and whanau want these to be protected and respected no matter what the kaupapa is.
Follow up Actions	As this was the second to last hui of our mandating journey, many had registered but not yet voted. It was agreed that the Mandate Team increase their outreach to whanau to remind them to vote. (completed)
Closing Comments	We were grateful to meet whanau who hadn't ever attended a Ngati Kuta hui before and to see those who we haven't seen for some time. Additionally, it was great to see many of our rangatahi online, some who grew up in Rawhiti but are now living abroad.

Hui 6 – Te Rawhiti, 11 May 2024



High level Insights	A hui where whanau were able to express themselves, their views and their concerns and a day where 36 members cast their vote during the hui.
Number of Attendees	71
Taumata o te Ra	Matutaera Clendon, Russell Hook, Haimona Tauariki
Presenter	Dean Clendon

General Observations

While most whanau support the kaupapa, some whanau still have concerns and need more time to consider information. There is a lot to absorb, and the short timeframes didn't work for some. Others didn't trust what was being presented and felt the pace was too fast. Many though were well engaged, supportive of the kaupapa and pleased that the hui was the last in the series (a few people were looking forward to a good rest).

Questions Asked

- How do hui decisions get made? Is it majority rules?
- Who verifies the whakapapa?
- Can we still register after the voting period ends?
- If I have already voted, can I change it?
- What if I am both NK and PK. Do I only get to vote once or can I vote two times (one for each hapu)?
- Can the voting be extended beyond the current timeframe?
- If a trust was registered, would each member of the trust counted or is the trust only one vote?
- Can we have a wananga (with Uncle Matu)?

Expectations/Statements

- The Crown/Te Whakaaetanga process conflicts with our tikanga.
- We don't trust the process because we struggle to comprehend it.
- We don't trust the process because we've had bad experiences with similar processes (i.e., other iwi mandating processes) in the past.
- We are a whanau trust, and we vote as one.

Challenges

- There are many misunderstandings about what TWT is and isn't, the role that the NK trust holds and the claimants. There remains mistrust, fear, and confusion among some.
- Some whanau have previously had bad experiences with similar Crown processes and didn't have enough clarity on this process to have the confidence to cast a vote.

Learnings	Past negative experiences is still a barrier for some whanau. They are wise to those experiences and will tread carefully without being pressured to vote, until they are satisfied that they have clarity on what they are voting for. We must have sympathy for them and maintain our aroha toward them because they are taonga to all Ngati Kuta whanau
Follow up Actions	- Meet with the claimants to work through matters and determine a way forward that will work for everyone. (in progress) - Meet with those whanau who need more clarity on the process and to better understand how data is managed. (in progress)
Closing Comments	This being the last Mandate Information Hui for Ngati Kuta, was well attended with whanau being able to stand to voice their truths and share the moemoea of their whanau. It was acknowledged that we are a hapu of high performance and trail blazers. We are passionate and defensive because we are smart and because we have always had great ideas and innovative opportunities to bring to realisation. Sometimes we lose ourselves and bear weight against each other because we are so passionate and will put ourselves on the line to protect and defend the good works we do. By the end of the hui though, our whakapapa is what matters most, and our respect for that helps us to whakapiri, even when the korero of the whare has been robust. We are a proud people and as we brought our Mandate series to a close, we gathered in our wharekai, united in aroha for our whakapapa. No matter what the outcomes, we can stand tall and proud, because we are Ngati Kuta! Tihei Mauri Ora!

7. Recording Attendance to Mandating Information Hui

Attendance was recorded at every hui by both Ngati Kuta and Electionz. One concern that was consistently queried with the Mandate Team was the matter of 'privacy of personal information'. The queries were always the same and could be grouped into the following key themes:

- A. Registering attendance at a hui also meant that a participant was endorsing the kaupapa.**
Some whanau did not want to sign the attendance register because they felt it meant that they were agreeing with the resolution that was to be presented and discussed. Other whanau did not want to sign the attendance register because they felt it meant that they supported the Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Trust or the Te Whakaaetanga Trust.
- B. Mistrust of how personal information was going to be used.**
Some were concerned that their personal details would be shared with other whanau and/or shared on other social platforms such as facebook. Further, most had concerns that their details would be shared with the Crown.
- C. Registering attendance at a hui also meant that a participant was registering with wider groups.**

Some were concerned that their information may be used to register them on other roopu (i.e, the Ngapuhi Runanga or other hapu registers)

There were some general themes that the mistrust factors were associated to which is an ongoing mistrust of a ‘top down’ approach. These can be themed into two key areas:

- **Mistrust of Legal Trust Structures & Legal Systems** – the notion that trustees are deemed the ultimate decision makers and any information you share with them can be used by them at their discretion. Further that by registering they are empowering trustees to act, which goes against tikanga and haputanga.
- **Mistrust of Appropriate Use of Personal Information** – that registering for a hui could provide a license for information to be used in ways that mis-represent the person and their personal views. Further that by registering, if information was released, it may be perceived that the registered person supports the kaupapa that their information might be perceived to be in support of.

Historically, Maori (generally) have had negative experiences with legal trusts and their systems because legal trust’s work from a Trust Deed that often sets out processes and procedures that align to Pakeha processes and procedures, not Tikanga and Kawa Maori. Additionally, Trust Deeds provide the elected trustees with ‘powers’, and those trustees often lose sight of the individuals and whanau they represent.

There are many occasions where the decisions of legal trusts were contrary to those they represented and where funding or income were received by Trusts but no trickle down of benefits have occurred. There are concerns that the Te Whakaaetanga Trust will behave the same way.

Tikanga and kawa are more fluid practices that incorporate a collective hapu decision-making process, which enables processes that reach agreed decisions and where decisions incorporate benefits that are delivered direct to the people who need them. Te Whakaaetanga Trust must ensure it does not lose sight of these concerns nor operate against the outcomes that hapu are seeking.

Additionally, mistrust between individuals can be generated because of past incidences. Personalities and previous experiences do have an impact on a person’s decision-making and the presence of historical personal opinions were obvious during our mandate hui.

There is ongoing work for Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Trust and Te Whakaaetanga Trust to prove that they are not ‘top-down’ entities and that tikanga and kawa are at the centre of their operations. Likewise, there is work for individuals within the hapu to resolve their personal grievances with each other. This is a process but one that we are now aware of and can encourage everyone to work on.

7.1 The Privacy Act

The Privacy Act 2020 sets out the legal parameters regarding the protection of personal information. Te Whakaaetanga Trust and the Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Trust have compliance obligations with the collection, management, and use of private information. Some attendees wanted assurance that both the Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Trust and the Te Whakaaetanga Trust were clear in their obligations but wouldn’t sign the attendance registration prior to a hui because they wanted to test the organisations on their privacy protection mechanisms. These concerns are warranted and both Trusts have actively worked to ensure personal information was protected.

Because some had hesitations about whether the Trusts were genuinely able to keep data secure and not abuse their powers when using it, they deregistered from the Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Trust. While they represent a small portion of the trusts database, the mistrust drove them to explore other alternative pathways (i.e prosecuting the Crown in Court) or partnering with other collectives, which a majority of the hapu didn't support.

For all intent and purposes though, Ngati Kuta has upheld the requirements of the Privacy Act and is managing the personal information held by us in absolute privacy. Only one person, who is trained in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act 2020, has access to the Ngati Kuta database. No lists were generated from the registration dataset nor circulated to any individual or group, except Electionz.

7.2 Data Collected by Electionz

Prior to the opening of the Ngati Kuta Mandate Information Hui series on the 9th of March, Ngati Kuta Hapu handed its database of members over to Electionz. From the 9th of March through to the 12th of May, Electionz began collecting and managing all of the Ngati Kuta registrations, including new registrations.

Any new person who registered while the database was being managed by Electionz, had to confirm whether they were happy for Electionz to share their data back with Ngati Kuta hapu, when Electionz hand back the member database back to Ngati Kuta when the official voting period closes. This purpose of the tick box requirement is to ensure that Electionz are also upholding the legal requirements of the Privacy Act. For those people who did not tick the box on the Electionz registration portal, their personal information will not be transferred back to Ngati Kuta. Further, Electionz will hold all of the Ngati Kuta personal data for a period of 90 days, then all of the data will be appropriately disposed of by Electionz. Ngati Kuta is satisfied that the data management systems and processes we have deployed throughout the Mandate Information period are robust and have met the legal requirements of the Privacy Act.

The Electionz data system is a highly trusted and secure system with capabilities that enable the system to execute sophisticated and intelligent analysis which can pick up on things such as identify duplicate registrations. The accuracy of the data collected on Ngati Kuta is highly integral and the results are deemed to be a true and correct record. 602 eligible voters registered for voting, yet 250 members elected to abstain from voting. Of them, as mentioned earlier, we estimate at least 20 to records belonging to members who are deceased. The remaining 230 members include a portion of those whanau that we knew of who had confirmed they would not participate (potentially 80 people). This leaves an estimated 150 members who have abstained for reasons we are unable to verify. There could be numerous reasons for this and the Mandate Team will continue to investigate how we can better engage them going forward.

7.3 Satisfying the requirements of Te Arawhiti

The Mandate Information Team has considered their legal obligations to protect personal information. Although Te Arawhiti has identified that Nga Hapu Te Whakaaetanga need to submit 'Hui Attendance Registers' that include the signature of each attendee, the Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Trust and the Ngati Kuta Te Whakaaetanga trustees agree that if signed attendance registers are shared, it will cause further reputational consequences for both entities and a breach of the Privacy Act 2020.

While both organisations want to provide the best possible evidence to Te Arawhiti, they have agreed that only the number of attendees can be shared. Additionally, the names of rangatahi and pepe who attended each hui won't be shared as they are taonga tuku iho there is a responsibility to protect their mana and their identity. Only the numbers of attendees attending each hui, who qualify for voting (18ys+), will be shared with the Government. Electionz may also be able to verify the numbers if Te Arawhiti require more information.

8. Responding to Requests for Information

As discussed earlier, the Ngati Kuta Mandate Team collated feedback given by participants during each of the Mandate Information Hui. Some of the feedback was particularly focused on certain aspects and did require action to ensure that Ngati Kuta can adapt and evolve as they transition through Crown processes, and that the information we are working too is correct.

Of all the feedback gathered throughout the six hui, the following feedback is highlighted as being very important and requiring further action by the Ngati Kuta Mandate Team and Ngati Kuta representatives to the Te Whakaaetanga Trust:

1. Ngati Kuta Rohe Map – the current map showing the boundaries of our rohe isn't correct.

- The map presented in the Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed doesn't align to our rohe boundaries because the line on the map seems to have shifted northward of our actual boundary. Kororareka is our rohe, yet the boundary line has cut that out.
- The map that Te Whakaaetanga is working to only show's our area of right, not our areas of interest.

See **Appendix Six – Updated ahikaatanga Map**

2. The Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed – the deed is not publicly accessible.

- Whanau were unclear as to where they could access a copy of the Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed

3. Crown Processes – are complex and whanau don't understand where we are currently at nor what's been done in the process prior to the hui.

- Now that we have concluded the Waitangi Tribunal process, working with Te Arawhiti to deliver to their process is a new area for the hapu. Information on the Crown process via other websites (Waitangi Tribunal, Te Arawhiti) is heavily expressed using 'Government Speak' which is too complex for whanau. Participants requested pictorial explanations of Treaty Settlement processes as opposed to screeds of reports and documents. The pathway to negotiation is too complex and Crown developed information is 'an elephant' for the whanau to digest.

4. Unpacking Complex Information – phase 1 has produced a lot of information, most of it contained within lengthy documents. In addition to those is Crown and Crown Rental Forestry

Trust documentation that provides incredible amounts of complex information about their stages, their processes, and their requirements. A mammoth undertaking for any reader.

5. **Registration Process** – some whanau, particularly kaumatua and rangatahi, are struggling to understand how to register for voting and who to contact for help.
6. **Slowing Down our Pace** – some whanau felt that the Crown process is rigid, information is complex, and the delivery processes are moving at a pace that is too quick for whanau to get up to speed and stay at speed.

Pace is difficult to monitor, too fast, too slow. Complex information takes time to decipher but if the process is slowed to a pace that enables everyone time to get clear understanding of all the information that gets produced, it would stall the process and compromise the journey. Ngati Kuta will need to find some middle ground going forward to help them maintain a suitable pace, while digesting new information.

8.1 Follow Up Actions of the Ngati Kuta Mandate Team

The Mandate Information Team has worked with Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Trust and the Ngati Kuta trustees to Te Whakaaetanga to formally respond to the feedback presented above. A summary of the completed actions is as follows:

Ngati Kuta Rohe Map – Ngati Kuta has provided an updated map of their ahikaatanga to Te Arawhiti. The map is more accurate to the one that they currently have on file.

Te Whakaaetanga Trust Deed – Ngati Kuta has made the Trust Deed and the Mandate Information Presentation available to all members on our website www.ngatikuta.maori.org

Infographics – simple resources have been developed and made available to all members on our website www.ngatikuta.maori.org and on the Ngati Kuta Facebook page.

Unpacking Complex Information – Members of the Ngati Kuta Mandate Team applied old school ‘cup of tea’ techniques, by making weekends available to go sit with whanau, one on one, to help them better understand complex information. One on one engagements were attended in person as were several lengthy phone calls with individuals throughout the country. The engagements were extremely valuable to both parties and the ‘cup of tea’ tikanga is one that will never lose merit. Ngati Kuta will continue to apply this technique going forward providing they have capacity to do so.

Slowing the Pace – Ngati Kuta acknowledges just how much information gets provided to whanau and how complex the Crown’s processes are. To be genuinely successful, it is extremely important that our people come along with us at every stage. Ngati Kuta is working to resolve this internally and to find ways to help our whanau stay informed, be we also require Te Whakaaetanga Trust to recognise the challenges of the hapu and consider establishing timeframes that accommodate our members needs. There is an expectation that more attention to this detail occur in Stage 2 – Negotiations Phase, as Ngati Kuta cannot sustain ‘hard and fast delivery’ nor do we have the capacity to met a hard and fast programme.

Expectations have been referred to the Ngati Kuta trustees to Te Whakaaetanga who will incorporate this into Stage 2 – Negotiations Phase, of the Te Whakaaetanga Plan.

9. Next Steps

Te Arawhiti will lead the remainder of the Mandating Phase process. They will publicly notify the Te Whakaaetanga Deed of Mandate to seek public feedback on the overall processes that Te Whakaaetanga have delivered to enable their hapu members to engage their respective hapu. The indicated timeframes for a decision to be made by Te Arawhiti and the Minister, as to whether Te Whakaaetanga Trust will have a mandate or not, is by the end of December 2024, although this timeframe may be extended to early 2025 if more time is needed to complete their processes.

While we wait for those results, Ngati Kuta intend to progress their work programme to prepare Ngati Kuta to engage the Negotiations Phase of the process. This work will be shaped up by the Ngati Kuta Te Whakaaetanga Trustees in collaboration with Ngati Kuta. Ngati Kuta intend to host several workshops with our members to gather their input on what our next steps work programme will be, should a mandate be achieved to proceed.

We aim to incorporate feedback obtained on our journey so far so that Ngati Kuta are continually growing and evolving alongside Te Whakaaetanga Trust as we all move forward.

10. Conclusion

The Ngati Kuta Mandate Team are satisfied that Ngati Kuta has delivered a robust process to enable Ngati Kuta whanau to access information, seek clarity, make informed decisions and to be able to vote of their own accord, free from pressure and coercion. The delivery of the Mandate Information Hui required many hours of commitment, energy, and brain power, and we acknowledge the incredible aroha given by all our whanau who supported the team and the kaupapa. Your aroha brings honour to our tupuna.

This is a momentous time that should be celebrated regardless of whether Te Whakaaetanga Trusts achieve a mandate or not. It is another part of our long journey and we must keep pressing onward to seek justice for the hardships caused to Ngati Kuta historically, for the benefit of our future generations.

Our moemoea is that Ngati Kuta mokopuna, will live as they ought, standing with heads held high in our cultural identity. The hoops that Ngati Kuta



and Te Whakaaetanga must jump through to achieve justice spans generations and requires this generation (and possibly the next generation) to move in unity through Crown process, because together we are better, and

together we can achieve anything we put our
hearts and minds too.

Mauri Ora! Tu Tangata Ngati Kuta!

APPENDIX ONE
Electionz Voting Results

Ngati Kuta Hapu

Te Whakaaetanga 2024 Mandate Endorsement Vote

DECLARATION OF RESULT

As at 6pm Saturday, 18 May 2024

Resolution: "The acceding hapū of Te Whakaaetanga Trust established by Deed dated 14 January 2023 (collectively referred to as "Ngā Hapū Te Whakaaetanga") mandate Te Whakaaetanga Trust to represent them in negotiations with the Crown in respect of the comprehensive settlement of all of Ngā Hapū Te Whakaaetanga historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi claims and further mandate Te Whakaaetanga Trust to present an Initialled deed of settlement to Ngā Hapū Te Whakaaetanga for ratification prior to a Deed of Settlement being signed."

I declare the result of the ratification vote held by online and in-person and postal voting that closed at 11:59pm on Sunday 12 May 2024:

Overall Result	Votes Received
ĀE / AGREE	352
KĀO / DISAGREE	13
INFORMAL	0
BLANK	0

The majority (96.44%) of valid votes cast on the resolution voted ĀE / AGREE

The voting return was 60.63% from 602 eligible electors.



Isiah Roberts
Taranaki Maunga Ratification Returning Officer
18 May 2024

electionz.com
0800 666 028
iro@electionz.com

electionz.com 
voting made easy

APPENDIX TWO

Hui Advertising

[illegible]

Adult Entertainment Escorts

MDW Korea 21 yrs old, 5'6",
good all soft and hard
Massage Service,
Petite/Lower Hwt Tel: 021
027020

Test results:

¹ ngā wāhi Te Whānaukura kōwhiri Te Whānaukura Trust in 2002 after extensive consultation with their hāhi.

The acceding Hapū of Te Whākaanganui Trust established by Deed dated 14 January 2022 (collectively referred to as "te Hapū o Te Whākaanganui") mandate Te Whākaanganui Trust to represent them in negotiations with the Crown in respect of the comprehensive settlement of all of te Hapū o Te Whākaanganui historical Te Tahi a Whātingi claims and further mandate Te Whākaanganui Trust to prevent an initialised deed of settlement to te Hapū o Te Whākaanganui from being notified prior to a deed of settlement being signed.

All members of Ngā iwi Te Whākaatanga will be invited to participate in their nominated haka services for deciding the above resolution in accordance with their haka tikanga.

- Miti Whakatau
- Mandate Presentation by Te Whakasettings Trust
- Question and Answer time
- Mandate resolution to be proposed and fast voting process
- Kōwhiri Whakomutunga

For further information including a copy of the following documents:

- Mandate Presentation
- Mandate Strategy
- To Whom/Where/What/How/When/Why/How Often

Please email Herbert Rishi (Chairperson) and Shirley Hakonia (Secretary) on acquirers@telpost.com

Find your favourite magazines on sale at

mags4gifts.co.nz

Sample of a Ngati Kuta Facebook Post








Mandate Information Hui
Your Voice is Important

We are embarking on our Journey toward addressing our grievances with the Crown.

Please attend a hui so that you can be informed about the journey and what's ahead!

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini

We are calling for Ngā Uri o Ngati Kuta to attend!

Saturday, 27 April 2024 on Zoom
3PM NZT | 1PM AEST
11AM AWST | 8PM PT

Find out more and register here
ngatikuta.maori.nz

 Ngati Kuta Hapu
 ngatikutahapu@gmail.com



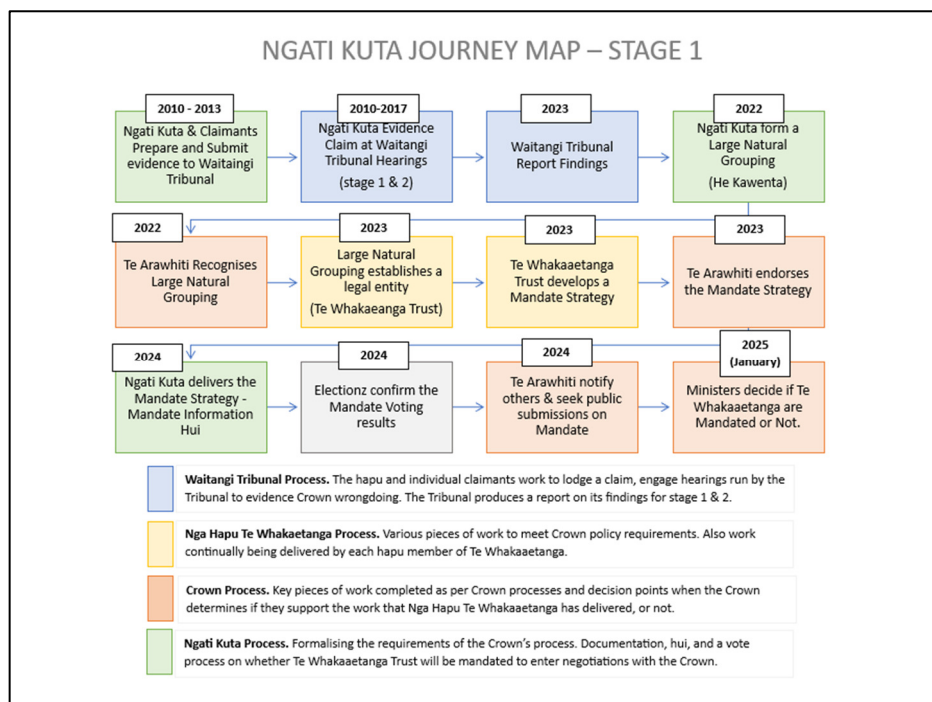
APPENDIX THREE

Communication Infographics

Pathway Map – How to Register for Voting



Journey Map – Stage One



APPENDIX FOUR

Facebook Data Insights

APPENDIX FIVE

Zoom Hui (27 April)

APPENDIX SIX

Ahikaatanga Map (updated)

ORIGINAL MAP



UPDATED MAP

