

## **Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua – Te Pou Tupua nominations**

At the recent Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua hui held 30 October 2016 at Pūtiki Marae – an agreed action was for hapū to return home to their marae and discuss, possible candidates that may fit and/or exceed the criteria shared.

When considering potential nominations for Te Pou Tupua, the following information is provided to help support hapū in their deliberations. This information outlines the role, the required characteristics and attributes, and the process towards the appointment of Te Pou Tupua. Given the settlement bill is progressing steadily, timeframes are also provided for your information.

### **1. Introduction – The role of Te Pou Tupua**

#### **Te Pou Tupua – The Sacred and Revered Station**

*Te pou o te whakaturua  
Te pou o te whakatawhito  
Te pou o te Ranginui e tū nei!*

*The celestial post  
The ancient post  
The pillar of the universal order*

As Te Awa Tupua will be a legal person it will require a human agent that can take steps to act on behalf and in the name of Te Awa Tupua in order to uphold Tupua Te Kawa and the Te Awa Tupua status.

Te Pou Tupua is a single role, but held by two persons, who will be appointed from nominations made collectively by iwi with interests in the Whanganui River and by the Crown. This appointment will be jointly made by iwi with interests in the Whanganui River (including Whanganui Iwi) and by the Crown, symbolising not only the Treaty partnership between Iwi and the Crown, but also the Crown's ongoing responsibility to uphold Te Awa Tupua.

The functions of Te Pou Tupua include:

- (a) acting and speaking on behalf of Te Awa Tupua;
- (b) upholding the status of Te Awa Tupua and Tupua te Kawa;
- (c) promoting and protecting the health and well-being of Te Awa Tupua;
- (d) exercising the landowner functions in relation to any land vested in Te Awa Tupua; and
- (e) administering Te Korotete o Te Awa Tupua.

The persons appointed as Te Pou Tupua will be required to act in the interests of Te Awa Tupua, consistently with Tupua te Kawa and for no other purpose.

The role of Te Pou Tupua is to represent and advocate for the interests of the River, not represent its appointors. However, Te Pou Tupua, when exercising its functions, will also be required to recognise the inalienable interconnection between the iwi and hapū of the Whanganui River and Te Awa

Tupua. This will require Te Pou Tupua to develop appropriate mechanisms for engaging with and reporting to iwi and hapū of the River on matters relating to Te Awa Tupua.

Te Pou Tupua will also be supported by Te Karewao, an advisory committee comprising three members - one appointed by Whanganui Iwi, one appointed by other iwi with interests in the Whanganui River and one appointed by local authorities. An additional person will also be appointed to Te Karewao by iwi and hapū with interests in a particular part of the Whanganui River when Te Pou Tupua requires advice in relation to a matter affecting a discrete part of the Whanganui River.

*The following are those characteristics, skills and knowledge Te Pou Tupua must possess identified through an open floor discussion on 8 August 2016 at Pūtiki Marae, Whanganui:*

#### **Tupua te Kawa – Ruruku Whakatupua**

- The ability to give life to Tupua te Kawa, Te Awa Tupua.
- A sound understanding of the framework and the settlement in its entirety.
- Must be able to talk *to* the River not just for the River.
- To be knowledgeable about their/our history.
- Must be mindful that they are not only representing us but also those who went before us.
- Uphold the status for the Awa, and for its people.

#### **Leadership**

- An ability to bind us together as iwi of Te Awa Tupua, and bring all of our people together.
- Hold a strong appreciation for and be able to present the Awa, and its values so everyone of the community understands.
- Have an ability to interact with Te Awa Tupua, and the knowledge to influence others towards better decision making, when needed.

#### **Strategic relationships**

- There are contemporary and customary elements that need to be addressed by Te Pou Tupua, and we need someone who can serve both. Many of us have the heart for the River, however, the requirement is for Te Pou Tupua to be able to strengthen and forge strategic relationships with various stakeholders, and to clearly articulate at all levels.
- The ability to interact with the Crown while representing Te Awa Tupua is another necessary attribute.

#### **Communication skills**

- Must have the ability to hear our people and the ability to direct our people so we know which direction or angle to take.
- To take advice and make good judgements for the betterment of Te Awa Tupua.

## 2. Next steps

1. Hapū to consider the characteristic/skills and other attributes required of Te Pou Tupua. Other skills may also be identified by hapū.
2. Hapū to hui, discuss and confirm that their nominees accept the nominations.
3. Hapū forward nominations to Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua before 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
4. Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua to hui in Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Venue to be confirmed.

## Key Dates

- Hapū nominations into Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua before 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017. (Venue TBC)

Nominations to be sent to [runanga@teawatupua.co.nz](mailto:runanga@teawatupua.co.nz)

Or post Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua

### **Te Pou Tupua nominations**

PO Box 544

Whanganui

## Contact

John Maihi

Chair, Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua

027 269 5689