

Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Provisional Crown Apology

The Crown makes this apology to Uenuku, Tamakana, and Tamahaki, to your tūpuna and mokopuna, to your iwi, your hapū and your whānau:

The Crown regrets its failure to uphold its responsibilities under te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi to respect your tino rangatiratanga and actively protect the taonga that you wished to retain for your mokopuna. It recognises that you have continuously asked the Crown to address its breaches of the Treaty and sincerely regrets how long this has taken.

In the 1850s, you joined the Kīngitanga in order to maintain control over your land and your future. However, in the 1860s, Crown actions were responsible for the outbreak of warfare in your rohe. For the deaths you have suffered, for the stigma of being labelled rebels, and for the painful divisions among your people and the iwi of Whanganui, the Crown unreservedly apologises.

Following the New Zealand Wars, Uenuku, Tamakana, and Tamahaki maintained their allegiance to the Kīngitanga and kept much of their land within Te Rohe Pōtae, but the Crown undermined your rangatira in its single-minded pursuit of European settlement and economic development. After the Native Land Court began investigating land in your rohe it was nearly impossible for your tūpuna to avoid the Court, lest others gained ownership of your land. The Crown is sincerely sorry for the prejudice caused by the native land laws, and for its extensive and relentless land purchasing practices that breached te Tiriti/the Treaty.

The Crown also deeply regrets how it created of a national park around Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro without considering or consulting Uenuku, Tamakana and Tamahaki. You have never had a role in the management of these sacred taonga, and for these acts and omissions, and the severe prejudice you have suffered as a consequence, the Crown is deeply sorry.

Uenuku, Tamakana, and Tamahaki made significant efforts to retain their remaining land in the early twentieth century but the Crown actively continued purchasing your land and compulsorily acquired further land for large-scale public works projects such as the North Island Main Trunk Railway, two national parks, scenic reserves, defence, and for electricity generation. The Crown is deeply remorseful that its breaches of te Tiriti/the Treaty undermined the wellbeing of Uenuku, Tamakana, and Tamahaki and has left your people virtually landless.

The Crown sincerely apologises for the dire socio-economic consequences of its breaches of te Tiriti/the Treaty. Many of your people have left their rohe and your ability to retain your language, tikanga, and iwi identity has been severely weakened. The Crown is profoundly sorry for this and the Crown humbly acknowledges the strength and perseverance of your iwi.

The Crown hopes to restore its own honour through this settlement and seeks to build a new relationship based on respect, trust, and the principles of the Treaty with yourselves and your future generations.