

TE HAROTO MARAE
Proposal



Presented by
Te Kōpere o te iwi o Hineuru Trust
August 2016

Introduction

Te Kōpere o te iwi o Hineuru Trust (**Te Kōpere**), as part of our Hineuru Annual and 5-year Strategic Plans, are committed to the redevelopment of the Te Haroto Marae and wish to invest settlement funds into this project. Our Strategic Plan acknowledges our many aspirations for Te Haroto and the Marae. Our iwi members in the strategic planning process helped develop the dream document. Our dream for the future sets out our aspirations for the marae:

The marae grounds are immaculate, it is off the grid and there are no power bills because the marae has wind and solar power generation. The marae is making money because any extra power is added back to the grid. It is flash too – it has a mezzanine floor in the wharekai where our taonga is proudly displayed. The floors of Rongopai are heated and there are automatic lights that come on when there is movement in the wharekai, wharepaku and the kitchen. Our wharenui is bigger and our resident carvers carved new poupou in Rongopai. We have intricate whāriki completed by our expert weavers of the iwi. Our kitchen has the latest models of gear and our people are all working together for the many hui and functions at the marae.

Our whanau feel Hineuru, and feel connected and our numbers have increased because whanau have realised that they are Hineuru... Did I tell you about the amazing pou we have in our rohe?... The pou are beautifully carved

and have information boards to tell everyone about us... People slow down as there are speed restrictions of 50km in Te Haroto because our people are walking around Te Haroto and we needed to make sure it was safe for our whanau. Te Haroto has become a buzzing little getaway town. Whanau have moved home and have set up businesses thanks to the establishment of a cottage industry incubator about twenty years ago. The café at the top of the hill is owned and run by Hineuru and is a top destination for any traveller in New Zealand... Te Haroto and the Hineuru region is home to wellness-retreats. All manuhiri that arrive to the wellness retreat are welcomed through pohiri onto our marae and into our rohe. We have a dedicated group of healers and specialists who help look after our own people as well as those coming to Te Haroto to regenerate and be one with nature.

Te Kōpere would like to commence feasibility and other studies to see how this dream can become a reality; but without greater certainty about management of the Marae this cannot be possible.

Te Kōpere has some ideas about how this could be achieved but recognises it must be done with the support and approval of the iwi as a whole. This paper is to describe out the proposal and the reason for it.

We seek your input and support.

What would we want to do?

Te Kōpere wish to invest in our Marae as this is our Tūrangawaewae for Hineuru.

Te Kōpere has commissioned a preliminary inspection of the Marae by Opus, a leading international multi-disciplinary infrastructure consultancy practice. They have reported that work is urgently required to weatherproof the Marae including work on waterproofing the inside of the Marae, waterproofing of carvings, considerable work on the overhang that is attached behind the wharekai (which is causing issues with the bathrooms and other areas) the bathrooms leaching and leaking and the water tanks needing fixing due to leaching.

In addition to these problems, the physical facilities at the Marae could generally be upgraded and improved.

We see that there are three phases for investment and development of the Marae:

- Evaluation of marae infrastructure and undertaking a programme of renovation and repair of existing facilities;
- Embarking on a development programme to improve the existing scale and types of physical facilities at the Marae;
- Embarking on a programme of activities at the Marae to involve the iwi and bring them back to the Marae so it once again becomes the centre of Hineuru life.

If Te Kōpere does take over management of the Marae, the first priority will be to draft a Charter for the Marae that reflects the changes agreed by the iwi.

Te Kōpere investment

But before we can invest settlement funds in the Marae, Te Kōpere needs to be satisfied that the governance of the Marae is stable and operating efficiently and that these funds will be properly used.

Te Kōpere is aware that there have been recent difficulties in the governance arrangements and disagreements between parties interested in the Marae and the trustees of the Marae. This presents difficulties for Te Kōpere if it is to invest settlement funds in the Marae development. Te Kōpere trustees have a legal responsibility under the Te Kōpere Trust Deed to ensure that any settlement funds are invested wisely

and that they can ensure that works and outcomes can be achieved. Unless those outcomes can be assured they cannot expend settlement funds on the Marae.

As the Marae is the only marae for Hineuru, Te Kōpere wish to explore whether a way forward would be for a new trustee arrangement for the Marae.

Te Kōpere trustees see a synergy in this approach as it aligns with the Hineuru Strategic Plan and could mean that the settlement funds could be used to enhance this key cultural site. Whatever the option, Te Kōpere recognises it **must** be done with the support and approval of the iwi as a whole.

The Trustee Proposals

The Proposal has come about from our strategic planning for the iwi and the desire of the iwi to see major growth in our culture, redevelopment of our Marae, and develop our ahikā.

Solutions that mean Te Kōpere can meet its obligations to protect the settlement funds but also to enhance our Marae may be for:

- A new legal body to be established by Te Kōpere (a corporate trustee) to be the trustee of the Marae to manage it for and on behalf of the iwi; or
- Te Kōpere trustees could all be the trustees of the Marae.

What this means is that regardless of whether it is option one or two, Te Kōpere trustees will have oversight of the Marae if the iwi approve the Proposal. Either way Te Kōpere will be able to meet its obligations to protect the settlement funds but also to enhance our Marae.

Why is Te Kōpere proposing to take over from the Marae trustees?

Te Kōpere wants to help look after the Marae because:

- Te Haroto is the only marae of Hineuru;
- Through Te Kōpere more Hineuru uri will be able to have a say in Marae development through voting for Te Kōpere trustees and through Te Kōpere panui and events;
- The trustees will be accountable through a three yearly election of trustees;
- The synergies of Marae development and the Hineuru Strategic Plan;
- The desire for Te Kōpere to invest in Te Haroto Marae;
- Te Kōpere now having the resources to organise the day to day management of the Marae (which alleviates the stresses on current trustees who are doing day to day work on a voluntary basis); and
- The wish for Te Kōpere to look into supporting Hineuru land owners with the development of their lands as part of a wider iwi development strategy.

In practice this will mean that there will be higher transparency over marae affairs as all adult registered members of Hineuru will have the opportunity to elect the trustees for Te Kōpere who will have oversight of the Marae or will become the trustees of the Marae. This election process is set out in the settlement trust deed and requires a postal ballot of all registered members of the iwi. It will enable a much greater involvement of the iwi in who is chosen to manage the Marae than the current rules.

This will mean that every three years, new trustees will be elected under the Te Kōpere Trust Deed to look after not just the Te Kōpere settlement assets but the Marae as well.

The Marae must be managed under its trust order for 'the common use and benefit for the members of the subtribe of Ngati Hineuru'. This would not change. All members of the iwi, whether registered with Te Kōpere or not, will remain beneficiaries of the marae reservation.

We seek your input and support

A vote by the people

Every Hineuru member over the age of 18 years, and who is registered with Te Kōpere o te iwi o Hineuru Trust, will receive a voting pack. This voting pack will contain the following resolution:

I, as a member of Hineuru iwi, have read and support the Proposal that the trustees of Te Kōpere o te iwi o Hineuru Trust (Te Kōpere) become the trustees of Te Haroto Marae either in their own capacity, or through a corporate trustee established by Te Kōpere.

As an iwi member, you are a beneficiary of the Marae and have a right to make a decision on the future management of the Marae. It is important that your voice is heard about this proposal. As we only have one marae for the iwi, we encourage all of our whanau to vote on this kaupapa.

Timing

The vote on this kaupapa is happening with the elections for Te Kōpere. It is envisaged that should the iwi agree to the proposal, then it will be those trustees elected at this election for Te Kōpere that will be the trustees for Te Haroto Marae or have oversight through a corporate trustee of Te Haroto Marae.

Conclusion

We see great potential for the development of Te Haroto Marae but cannot move forward without knowing where our people sit on this proposal. We have heard the desire

to rebuild the Marae and regenerate Te Haroto as a thriving community and this is the first step towards the wider vision.

FAQ

What is a corporate trustee?

A corporate trustee is a company that acts as the trustee of a trust. In this context, a company could be used to act as the single trustee for Te Haroto Marae with decisions being made by the Board of Directors with oversight by Te Kōpere trustees. The Te Kōpere trustees would appoint the directors who would be trustees of Te Kōpere. The trustee would be accountable to Te Kōpere and the iwi as they will be entrusted with settlement funds to improve the Marae as well as to the Māori Land Court under Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

What will happen to the current Marae trustees?

What this proposal would mean is that Te Kōpere would make an application to the Māori Land Court for the current trustees to be replaced by either a new trust body or by the Te Kōpere trustees themselves.

Most of the existing trustees will retire as trustees of the marae unless they are elected to Te Kōpere.

If the proposal is agreed to by Hineuru iwi with a sufficient majority, then the current trustees will retire from office as trustees of the Marae.

Have you spoken with the current marae trustees?

We have held three hui with the Marae trustees to discuss this matter. The first hui was on 9 July 2016 at Te Haroto Marae at which the trustees did not attend, the second hui was on 16 July 2016 at Te Haroto Marae where the proposal was put to the Marae trustees, and the third hui was called for 30 July or 6 August 2016 but the Marae trustees advised just prior to the meeting that they could not attend.

We have advised them of the proposal, and what this will mean if the iwi are supportive.

Do the Marae trustees support this proposal?

There are nine trustees for Te Haroto Marae on the Maori Land Court records:

Tirohia Bridger, Tangimatua Bush, Tracey Anne Bush, Mere Clark, Liz Hunt, Mana Meads, Lydia Puriri, Ivy Kahukiwa-Smith and Papara Wano

Of the nine trustees, four trustees support this proposal while five have not provided comment. Three of those who have not provided comment have instead made an application to the Maori Land Court seeking a judgement on the matter. We do not know what the other two trustees' position is.

If we agree to this proposal, who are to be the likely trustees?

The trustees will be those who are elected at this year's Te Kōpere election.

Who are the beneficiaries of the marae?

All members of Hineuru are beneficiaries of Te Haroto Marae. This is why you are being asked to vote on this proposal

What if there is no majority (i.e. the iwi do not support this)?

Then Te Kōpere will not continue down this path and will need to wait for Marae trustees to prove their capacity and capability before any investment happens in the Marae.

If the iwi agrees, what will happen then?

If the iwi does agree, an application to the Maori land Court under section 338 will be made asking the Maori Land Court to appoint the new Te Kōpere trustees or a Te Kōpere corporate trustee as the trustee of the Marae in accordance with the wishes of the iwi.

Those that are in support have indicated that they will retire from office if the iwi are supportive of the proposal. Those that are not supportive will retire from their position.

If this proposal goes through, how will I be able to become a Marae trustee?

If this proposal goes through, the way to become a Marae trustee is to be elected as a trustee for Te Kōpere.

