

THE DECLARATION OF NGATI KAHUNGUNU RIGHTS

History and tradition teaches us that the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu have always possessed the mana to exercise the authority of sovereign peoples,

History and tradition also teaches us that the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu always accepted that mana imposed both rights and responsibilities as kaitiaki in relation to the care and protection of ourselves as unique peoples,

History and tradition also teaches us that the rights and responsibilities of kaitiakitanga have always included the care and protection of Papatuanuku who nurtures all life,

History and tradition further teaches us that in the discharge of the rights and responsibilities of kaitiakitanga the Hapu always acknowledged and respected the whakapapa they shared one with another by acting together in congress as the Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu,

History and tradition confirms that the rights and responsibilities of kaitiakitanga are discharged as part of the constitutional right of tino rangatiratanga,

History and tradition also confirms that tino rangatiratanga was the right and solemn duty which the Hapu and Iwi had to exercise governance according to the tikanga which joined together all those who were descendants of Ngati Kahungunu,

History and tradition further confirms that the mana and the right to be sovereign peoples and to exercise the constitutional authority of tino rangatiratanga could never be abdicated nor given away because they were held in trust by the tipuna for the care and protection of the mokopuna,

History and tradition emphasises that in the changing times of human affairs the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu reserved the right to develop and devise new ways or institutions within which tino rangatiratanga could be exercised as a constitutional authority while preserving the values and tikanga upon which it was based.

Accepting the wisdom of our history and tradition, and accepting their prevailing truths today, the following Declaration of Ngati Kahungunu Rights solemnly proclaims -

1. That all peoples of the collective Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely preserve their economic, social and cultural development.
2. That the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu have the right to exercise their individual or collective tino rangatiratanga in order to ensure the welfare, protection, and mana of all peoples who are descendants of the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu.
3. That the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu have the right to exercise their individual or collective tino rangatiratanga according to the values of our tipuna which ensured that power and authority should always be exercised in balance with the obligations all peoples have to the atua, the tipuna, and each other.
4. That the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu have the right to exercise their individual or collective tino rangatiratanga in order to determine the nature, extent, and obligations inherent in their political, social, cultural, and economic relations with institutions or peoples who are not descendants of the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu.
5. That the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu have the right to exercise their individual or collective tino rangatiratanga in order to protect, nurture, and sustain all their values, waters, lands and other taonga (tangible and intangible).
6. That the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu have the right to exercise their individual or collective tino rangatiratanga in relation to the use, application, and benefits of existing and future commercial or technological advances as they may effect their lives, waters and lands.
7. That the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu have the right to exercise their individual or collective tino rangatiratanga in relation to the protection, enhancement, and control of all knowledge which has been, and will be, part of the intellectual and cultural property of the Hapu and Iwi of Ngati Kahungunu.