



**Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi**  
INCORPORATED

## **NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU POLITICAL STRATEGY AND KEY STATEMENTS 2023-2026**

*In response to the new coalition government of National, Act and NZ First and their announcements of targeted actions and repeals that intentionally threaten and directly breach the pre-existing and enduring rights of Kahungunu hapū and iwi.*

### **OUR RIGHTS AS KAHUNGUNU ARE INHERENT**

The absolute mana and rangatiratanga of Ngāti Kahungunu over our lands, waters, taonga and ourselves precedes the arrival of Pākehā to Aotearoa. Ngāti Kahungunu has NEVER CEDED SOVEREIGNTY - not by six<sup>1</sup> of our Ngāti Kahungunu rangatira signing Te Tiriti o Waitangi between 5<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> June 1840, or at any time before or after.

Our history and traditions tell us that our tīpuna were politically astute and quick to assert their position and rangatiratanga when required. Since 1840, Kahungunu has met and led resistance in ongoing ways both locally and nationally whenever our pre-existing rights and authority have been threatened, denied or disregarded – this time will be no different.<sup>2</sup>

### **DECLARATION OF NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU RIGHTS**

Between 1997-1999 the Ngāti Kahungunu Constitutional Review Committee, Dr Moana Jackson, Mereana Pitman, Mere Ruru, and Taanga Lawrence, met and spoke with 17,000 Ngāti Kahungunu descendants. Through the review process, the committee drew together a Bill of Rights that gives expression to our Ngāti Kahungunu mana and rangatiratanga. This set of fundamental rights for the descendants of Ngāti Kahungunu is titled the Declaration of Ngāti Kahungunu Rights. In 2001 this declaration was adopted at an Annual General Meeting of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated.

### **THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The new coalition government of National, Act and NZ First has announced an opening round of targeted actions and repeals that intentionally threaten and directly breach the pre-existing and enduring rights of Kahungunu hapū and iwi. The proposed changes announced by government are a concentrated attack on Māori rights, and a number of Government Acts, services, and commitments to address the many losses and ongoing inequities suffered as a result of colonisation.

In joint announcements Government seek to redefine Māori rights under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and remove ratification of the United Nations Declaration Rights Indigenous Peoples. They have also indicated the removal of:

- The Māori Health Authority

---

<sup>1</sup> Te Ika-nui-o-te-moana Te Hāpuku, Harawira Mahikai Te Tātere and Hoani Waikato of Ngāi Te Whatuiāpiti and Ngāti Kahungunu at Waipūreku. Mātenga Tūkareaho of Ngāti Rākaipaaka at Tūranganui. Wiremu Te Ota and Rāwiri Paturoa of Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu at Manawatū.

<sup>2</sup> The Declaration of Ngāti Kahungunu Rights, Te Whakapuakitanga i ngā Mana Tika a Ngāti Kahungunu.

- Te Mana o te Wai from the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020
- Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 – a Tiriti o Waitangi based provision that ensures Kahungunu tamariki-mokopuna remain in the care of their own whanau, hapū, iwi.
- The use of te reo Māori in government departments
- Power and authority of the Waitangi Tribunal
- Māori Wards from local councils

The proposals themselves are racist in nature and will further intensify systemic oppression, and institutional and interpersonal racism. As our history and traditions teach us, Ngāti Kahungunu will continue to rise, and resist attempts to reduce or disregard our rights.

### **NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU IWI INC HELD FIRST OF ONGOING HUI-A-IWI**

On the 16th of December 2023, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated held a hui-a-iwi at Waimarama Marae to listen to the concerns of hapū and NGĀ URI O NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU, affirm our rights and position, and discuss our response to governments proposals. The themes and priorities echoed by speakers and across the livestream and online forums included:

- 1. Reaffirming that Kahungunu did not cede sovereignty.**
- 2. Repeated declarations and statement of no confidence in this Government**
- 3. That Ngāti Kahungunu:**
  - Will determine its own strategy;
  - Will support the actions of other iwi/rōpū that align with our own Declaration of Kahungunu Rights;
  - Will work with other groups to protest the repeal of 7AA and the repeal of Smokefree Aotearoa;
  - Insist that councils and government continue to acknowledge and give effect to te mana o te wai, te oranga o te taiao;
  - Insist upon the continuation of Māori Wards; and
  - Will ensure our people remain informed - continue to support hapū and whānau through hui, education and regular communications.

### **OUR INTENT:**

- 1. WHAT WE SHARE PUBLICLY**
- 2. WHAT WE STRATEGICALLY WORK ON TO DISMANTLE AND DISEMPOWER.**

### **NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU STRATEGY:**

**Communications:** We need good communications to keep our people informed and updated on the changing political landscape so that they are able to coordinate and respond as quickly as possible.

- Provide a system and platform for new information and communication of updates.
- Comms and logistics for education wānanga and education resources for hapū to learn and understand the history, contexts and implications of Govt changes.
- Closed Zoom link and invitation to future hui: for registered uri o Ngāti Kahungunu only.
- Provide submission templates to accompany material or updates sent out by Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc.

**Education:** Under the authority of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated a rōpū of experts, ie. educators and facilitators have been established to work directly with hapū and whānau over the next 12-18 months to:

- Educate, conscientize, wānanga with our people about the impacts of any changes upon their own mana and rangatiratanga as hapū and whānau
- Share resources, approaches and strategies for action - how they can respond to these attacks and to urge them to take protest action within and on behalf of their own.
- Reflect: critical reflection and discussion to inform future action