

20 December 2024

Committee Secretariat
Justice Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

By email: ju@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

Submission from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā – Treaty Principles Bill

Our Context:

We are a sub komiti of the Rangitikei District Council. We are represented by the Māori tangata whenua, Iwi, Hapū, and Marae within the Rangitikei Rohe. Members of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, named as follows, Ngāti Parewahawaha, , Ngā Ariki, Ngāti Kauae/Tauira, Ngāti Hauti, Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngāti Paki, Ngāti Tamakōpiri, Ngāti Whitikaupeka, Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Rangituhia, and the Rātana Community, as well as two elected members of the Rangitikei District Council.

Our Submission

Te Rōpū Ahi Kā submit our concerns regarding the proposed Bill, which we believe does not meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations. The Bill undermines the rights of Māori, disregards the Treaty partnership, and fails to honour Māori rights as Tangata Whenua of Aotearoa. Our long-standing partnership with the Rangitikei District Council has been built on mutual respect, shared values, and a commitment to upholding the principles of the Treaty. We believe this Bill threatens our partnership.

This submission outlines the key issues we have with the Bill and seeks that the Bill is withdrawn.

Key Issues

- The Government is prioritising its coalition agreement over Its Te Tiriti obligations.
- The Bill erases Māori indigenous rights protected by Te Tiriti.
- The bill is not supported by experts in Te Tiriti.
- The Waitangi Tribunal released a scathing report criticising both the process and the content of the bill.
- The Bill abrogates fundamental rights to Māori guaranteed and protected under Te Tiriti.
- The Bill undermines New Zealand's only expert commission of Inquiry On Te Tiriti The Waitangi Tribunal.
- The Bill ignores the guarantee of Tino Rangatira to Māori under Article 2 of Te Tiriti.
- This Bill does not recognise the collective rights held by Iwi/Hapū or the distinct status of Māori as the indigenous people of Aotearoa.
- The Bill ignores pre existing Māori rights which were affirmed in Te Tiriti.

In conclusion, this Bill poses a direct threat to the rights and protections guaranteed to Māori under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It disregards the principles of partnership, equity, and tino rangatiratanga undermining the fundamental rights of Māori as tangata whenua. The Bill fails to engage with

experts on Te Tiriti and ignores the long-standing work of the Waitangi Tribunal. By prioritising political agendas over Treaty obligations, the Bill undermines the collective rights of iwi and hapū, as well as pre-existing Māori rights. We seek that the Bill is withdrawn because it does not uphold the values of Te Tiriti, respect tino rangatiratanga, or ensure Māori rights are fully recognised and protected.

Naku noa

Chair Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, Piki Te Ora Hiroa