

TREATY NEGOTIATION

Building a Brighter Future

v2

(National Party, 2011)

Reaching full and final settlements faster

National believes the Crown has a responsibility to put right real injustices committed in the past. Putting historic grievances behind us through the full and final settlement of historic claims will allow all New Zealanders to move forward together.

Settling historic grievances and moving forward

Treaty settlements provide redress for the wrongs of the past. They also provide an economic stimulus that boosts local investment, creates jobs, and lays the foundations for the future economic success of our regions.

National has set the aspirational goal of completing full and final settlements of historical Treaty grievances by 2014.

We have committed more resources to help complete the process, and we've shown the high-level political leadership needed to ensure we can reach full and final settlements faster.

Guaranteeing public access to the foreshore and seabed

National agreed to review the Foreshore and Seabed Act as part of our Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Maori Party.

The Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 is an enduring solution to the divisive foreshore and seabed issue. We've guaranteed free public access to the common marine and coastal area for all New Zealanders, and restored access to justice through the courts while protecting property rights. These are core National Party values.

"National has committed more resources to help complete the Treaty settlement process, and we're showing the high-level political leadership needed to ensure we can reach full and final settlements faster."

Key facts

National has a track record on achieving Treaty settlements to be proud of.

In one term – just three years – National has reached more Treaty settlement milestones than Labour did in nine years.

We've achieved 103 milestones so far, including:

Progress on resolving Treaty claims	Labour's progress in 9 years	National's progress in 3 years
Deeds of mandate	28	31
Terms of negotiation	25	18
Agreements in principle	25	33
Deeds of settlement signed	16	21
Total	94	103

National has...

- ✓ Provided higher-level political leadership for Treaty settlements and substantially boosted momentum towards our goal of completing full and final settlement of all outstanding historic Treaty claims.
- ✓ Increased funding for the Office of Treaty Settlements each year to support momentum towards completed outstanding claims.
- ✓ Directed considerable resources towards starting settlement negotiations so claimants can hit the ground running.
- ✓ Set up Kokiri Ngatahi – annual Crown-iwi Treaty settlements hui. These have helped more iwi reach lasting resolutions of their historic grievances faster.
- ✓ Made greater use of chief Crown negotiators.
- ✓ Established the Treaty of Waitangi Cabinet Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, providing high-level advice to Cabinet on Treaty settlement negotiations.
- ✓ Resolved the foreshore and seabed issue once and for all.

Case study – Ngai Tahu

Treaty settlements provide an economic stimulus that boosts local investment, creates jobs, and lays the foundations for the future economic success of our regions.

Ngai Tahu has transformed its 1998 settlement of \$170 million into a locally-owned asset portfolio of tourism, property, fisheries, and investments worth well over \$600 million.

Its whale-watch enterprise has revitalised Kaikoura and brought in tourism. It also uses assets to fund initiatives such as the Whai Rawa personal savings scheme and numerous education grants worth hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

What we will do next...

1. Maintain political leadership

- Ensure high-level political leadership for Treaty settlements, and continue to make greater use of chief Crown negotiators with mana and experience.

In order to maintain our momentum towards settling all historic treaty claims it's important that a senior government minister is responsible for settling Treaty claims. We will use chief Crown negotiators to continue providing high-level negotiation leadership.

- Continue the annual Kokiri Ngatahi Treaty settlements hui.

Kokiri Ngatahi – "Moving forward together" – hui provide a unique opportunity for claimants to meet with the Government each year to discuss and improve the process of resolving historic Treaty claims.

2. Provide necessary resources for Treaty settlements

- Appropriately resource the Office of Treaty Settlements to maintain momentum.

The Office of Treaty Settlements does a good job in a challenging field. We need to ensure they have the expertise and resources to represent the Crown, and maintain our solid momentum.

- Improve the passage of settlement legislation so that the benefits from settlements flow to iwi and regional economies.

As we've seen with the Ngai Tahu settlement, the benefits of the Treaty process flow beyond the immediate iwi. We have a unique opportunity to encourage iwi investment in our local communities and regional economies.

Labour would take New Zealand backwards

- ✗ Labour's record between 1999 and 2008 was poor. They stalled settlements, averaging less than 1.8 deeds of settlement each year they were in office.
- ✗ Labour would not have resolved outstanding Treaty settlements until well past 2020 – if at all.
- ✗ Labour's slow progress destroyed momentum and delayed the completion of settlements, prolonging grievances and disadvantaging iwi economically and socially.

We can't afford to lose momentum on Treaty settlements.

