



OFFICE OF THE

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

WELLINGTON 1

29 March 1993

Mr P W Wilson
Stace Hammond Grace and Partners
Barristers Solicitors & Notary Public
P O Box 19-101
HAMILTON

Dear Mr Wilson

Thank you for your letter of 17 March 1993.

With respect to the negotiation of the Whakatohea raupatu claim (Wai 87) and further to my letter of 10 March 1993, following discussions with the Wai 87 principal claimant, Mr Claude Edwards, it was agreed that until the question of representation is settled the Crown will not proceed with the negotiation of this claim.

I do not consider it is the Crown's role to determine the appropriate claimant with whom to treat. This should be clarified by the iwi themselves with the assistance of the Maori Land Court if necessary.

The Whakatohea Maori Trust Board proposes to make an application to the Maori Land Court confirming it as the appropriate recipient of the former Opotiki Police Station. Cabinet has agreed to return the police station to Whakatohea as an advance on settlement of the raupatu claim. If the Maori Land Court identifies the Trust Board as the appropriate recipient of the police station, I would be satisfied that the Trust Board is an appropriate representative of Whakatohea. This should effectively settle the question of Whakatohea's representation and enable the Crown to proceed towards a negotiated settlement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Graham', written over a vertical line.

Douglas Graham
Minister of Justice