



Recommended amendments to the Constitution

The amended constitution showing changes can be viewed on www.ngatiapa.iwi.nz or you may request a hard copy by emailing info@ngatiapa.iwi.nz or phone 0800 227 2494

1) Changing the name of the Rūnanga – refer to the Title Page

From before Treaty Settlement, the identity of Ngā Wairiki has been emphasised and the question has been asked as to how Ngā Wairiki can be given adequate recognition as a traditional name that our people used. Following Treaty Settlements, this discussion has continued, and whilst it is generally acknowledged that all Ngā Wairiki hapū are captured within the Iwi definition as Ngāti Apa, this has only given cold comfort to many whānau, because the old name, Ngā Wairiki, has not received the recognition that many believe it deserves. In labouring this point, three out of four of the hapū collectives that currently make up the Iwi also form the hapū of Ngā Wairiki, or in other words, six out of eight of the current Trustees on the Rūnanga represent Ngā Wairiki hapū. Why then can this not be extended to changing the name of the Rūnanga to Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki – Ngāti Apa?

The Rūnanga has heard, and is accepting, the opinion that Ngā Wairiki is an old name that includes all the hapū and whānau from the middle and coastal sections of the Mangawhero, Whangaehu and Turakina Rivers. The weight of historical evidence, including primary sources such as the Native Land Court records, describe the origin of the name Ngā Wairiki meaning “Ngā” = plural, more than one, and “Wai” = rivers, and “riki” = small. Therefore, Ngā Wairiki literally means “the people of the small rivers”. Historical evidence shows that these people generally had shared origins with Ngāti Rangī, Whanganui and South Taranaki Iwi. Our rivers were considered “small” amongst these people, compared to the Whanganui River.

By contrast, evidence shows that Ngāti Apa origins started in the Bay of Plenty, and descendants of Apa made their way down the middle of the North Island, eventually arriving in Rangitīkei. Upon arrival, there was extensive intermarriage with the Ngā Wairiki people.

Ngāti Apa became a strong identity in Rangitīkei, and during a prolonged period of inter-iwi conflict during the 1820s and 1830s, the Ngā Wairiki people entered into an alliance with the Rangitīkei people, and this alliance was generally referred to as Ngāti Apa. This same alliance entered into the Rangitīkei Turakina Transaction of 1849, and this transaction served to “lock in” a definition of Ngāti Apa that included all of Ngā Wairiki. Despite this, several important hapū, particularly those located at Matatera, Kauangaroa and further inland, were very determined to retain their identity as Ngā Wairiki, and a number of whānau hold the view that they are Ngā Wairiki, and not Ngāti Apa, to this day.

It is on this basis that the Rūnanga is recommending to the people that we now change the name of the Rūnanga to “Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki – Ngāti Apa” in the interest of respecting this old name, and respecting those hapū and whānau who uphold this identity first and foremost. The name Ngā Wairiki is placed before Ngāti Apa in recognition that this name existed over our people and whenua well before the Ngāti Apa name was introduced. We hope that our whānau will support this recommendation, and will vote for this change.

2) Amendments to Schedule Two – Elections

Two things have occurred that have led to changes being made to this section of the Constitution. Firstly, a recent decision of the High Court has meant that, in order for the Rūnanga to retain its status as a mandated iwi organisation under the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 (and accordingly be able to retain its fisheries settlement assets), it would need to amend its constitution to allow voting on a number of matters to occur by way of both postal ballot and vote at a general meeting of the Rūnanga. Accordingly the proposed changes make allowance for both methods (whereas in the past the only valid method of voting in these matters was by way of postal ballot).

Secondly, the Rūnanga wishes to ensure that current and future Trustees come into the role with a clearer understanding of what is expected of them as a Trustee, and what is expected of them by the Hapū group that the Trustee has been elected by. This will hopefully lead to Trustees being even more engaged with the people, and more involved in the activities of the Rūnanga, to help move the Rūnanga along towards our objectives. These are all viewed as sensible changes with nothing that the Rūnanga would consider to be controversial.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Apa

Ballot to Amend the Constitution of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Apa

Voting Form

Please read the associated paper entitled “Recommended Amendments to the Constitution” before voting.

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Name of member _____

please print your name

**Recommendation to change the name of the Rūnanga to Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki
- Ngāti Apa**

Tautoko / Support

Whakahe / Oppose

Please circle your choice.

**Recommendation to amend the election procedures contained in Schedule 2 of the
constitution.**

Tautoko / Support

Whakahe / Oppose

Please circle your choice.

Signature of member _____

please sign

Your voting papers may be posted or delivered to:

***The Returning Officer
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Apa
161 Bridge Street
PO Box 103
BULLS 4863***

Voting will close at the Special Meeting of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Apa on Sunday 6 December 2015. Members will be able to vote at the meeting.