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Media Statement

Ngāti Rangi takes key settlement step with AIP signing

Members of Ngāti Rangi today gathered at Parliament to sign an Agreement in Principle (AIP) with the Crown to settle the iwi's historic Treaty of Waitangi claims.

The AIP which has been negotiated over the past two years proposes a settlement which includes the Crown's acknowledgement of numerous breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi, an agreed historical account and an apology from the Crown for those breaches.

It includes a settlement package which includes cultural redress covering lands significant to Ngāti Rangi, including the return of Rotokura.

Ngāti Rangi Lead Negotiator, Che Wilson, said after the signing ceremony:

"Today we have taken an important step in our journey to have the Crown both recognise and right the Treaty breaches Ngāti Rangi suffered.

"However, it is just one step and there are a few more to take before the process is completed and we can celebrate fully," Mr Wilson said.

"We are on the right path, but there is still much work to be done."

Mr Wilson said that today is even more poignant with the passing of the Te Awa Tupua Bill in to law.

"We are delighted to be at Parliament today to celebrate this achievement alongside our relations from the Whanganui River. We look forward to seeing the new legal status of the river develop and flourish."