



Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust  
c/- Business One  
P.O. Box 28  
Thames 3540

3 May 2022

Hon David Parker  
Minister of Fisheries  
c/o Ministry for Primary Industries  
P.O.Box 2526  
WELLINGTON 6140

Ko ngā puke ki Hauraki ka tārehu  
E mihi an ki te whenua, e tangi ana ki te tangata  
Ko Moehau ā-waho, ko Te Aroha ā-uta  
Tū ko te rae o Hauraki, ko Marutūāhu kōwhao rau  
Tihei mauriora.  
Kei ngā rangatira o Te Manatu Tini a Tangaroa tēnā koutou katoa

## **REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE FOR TE MĀTĀ AND WAIPATUKAHU MAHINGA MĀTAITAI**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Please regard this correspondence as a request by the Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust for an extended 24 month closure, under section 186A of the Fisheries Act , for the Te Mātā and Waipatukahu (commonly known as Tapu) Mahinga Mātaimai on the Thames coast of the Coromandel Peninsula. We request the extended temporary closure of tio, kūtai, pipi, and tuangi shellfisheries.
- 1.2 Ngāti Tamterā will be continuing the rāhui that was placed at Te Mātā and Waipatukahu in 2020, and we seek an extended section 186A Temporary closure to recognise this customary practice. The rāhui is being placed as we are extremely concerned that our shellfisheries may not recover from further harvesting.

### **2 NGĀTI TAMATERĀ**

- 2.1 Tamaterā is the eponymous ancestor of Ngāti Tamaterā, who was the second son of Marutūāhu and Paremoehau, and brother to Tamatepō, Whanaunga, Taurukapakapa, and Te Ngako. Ngāti Tamaterā are mana whenua and kaitiaki of Te Mātā and Waipatukahu.



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- 2.2 The Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust is the Post Settlement Governance Entity of Ngāti Tamaterā. The Trust was ratified in 2012 and established in 2013.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Te Mātā and Waipatukahu shellfisheries has been subject to a temporary closure before as part of a wider Thames coast closure. In 1998, the Hauraki Māori Trust Board requested and were granted a section 186A Temporary Closure for the coastline extending from Ngārimu Bay to Wilsons Bay on the Thames coast, which encompassed Te Mātā and Waipatukahu. The purpose of the closure was to improve the availability and size of cockles and pipi and to recognise a customary fishing practice (rāhui) in that area.
- 3.2 The temporary closure was extended for a further two years in 2000, 2002 and 2004 due to the fact that surveys conducted by the Hauraki Māori Trust Board found that there was recruitment, they were small and not growing to harvestable sizes. The conclusions made at that time was that depletion may have been caused by a mix of over harvesting and significant flood events (the “Weather Bomb” event in June 2002 and the Easter flood event in April 2003 for example) resulting in increased sedimentation into the estuarine environment along the western coastline.
- 3.3 While the Hauraki Māori Trust Board wanted to seek another temporary closure after 2004, they were unable to do so on the basis that section 186A was not a permanent tool for the management of customary fisheries.
- 3.4 Therefore in 2020 the Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust applied for and were granted a section 186A Temporary Closure for Te Mātā and Waipatukahu, and are now requesting a further two year extension to 2024.
- 3.5 The [first temporary closure](#) started 10 January 2020 and expired 9 July 2020. This one was for pipi, cockles and mussels.
- 3.6 The [second temporary closure](#) started 10 July 2020 and expires 9 July 2022. This one was for pipi, cockles, mussels and oysters.

### **4 INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **4.1 Tangata whenua non-commercial customary fishing use and management practices;**

The customary fishing use and practice is that tio (oysters), pipi, tuangi (cockles) and kūtai are gathered by hand for the purpose of feeding whānau (recreational take) and for hui, tangihanga and other marae related celebrations, when a customary permit is required.

#### **4.2 Provide reason(s) for requesting the temporary closure, i.e the fishing activity of concern;**

The purpose of this extended closure, as in the past, is to improve the availability and size of tio, kūtai, tuangi and pipi at Te Mātā and Waipatukahu and to recognise a customary fishing practice (rāhui) that is to be placed in the area for an extended 2 year period.



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Ngāti Tamaterā are taking further steps to ensure the purpose is realised. Shellfisheries are being depleted at an alarming rate and we need to collectively manage, protect and help regenerate these taonga species. Whānau who have regularly harvested these species for kai and or marae related activities have identified a marked reduction in availability and also in size of these species.

Local Ngāti Tamaterā kaitiaki and residents are continuously noting large groupings of people from other regions gathering and harvesting huge quantities of shellfish on a regular basis especially on low tides.

The lack of available, accessible and up to date information is another huge concern. We are unclear whether any organisation or agency has monitored Te Mātā and Waipatukahu after the monitoring undertaken by the Hauraki Māori Trust Board had ended in 2006. We would welcome your feedback and information in this regard.

Our own monitoring since the Temporary Closure was granted 2020 – 2022 has found that the stock of all species as indicated below are at the point of total demise. This is of huge concern to Ngāti Tamaterā and the local communities.

#### **4.3 Explain how the customary use and management practices are being impacted upon;**

At Waipatukahu (commonly known as Tapu) and Te Mātā on the coastal flats were extensive cultivations and gardens of Ngāti Tamaterā and a rich estuarine environment teeming with marine life.

The descendants of Tamaterā were numerous and intensively settled in this area with networks of large pā settlements of Te Rauwhitiora, Te Aorangi, and Onepoto (see figure 1) including tauranga waka, pataka and extensive cultivations along the fertile soils of the coast flats and rich estuarine environment. From the Waipatukahu spit to the Te Mātā spit is a significant mahinga mātaihai of the Ngāti Tamaterā iwi.

Today, this mahinga mātaihai is severely depleted and over harvesting by the gathering by hand of tio, pipi, tuangi and kūtai is a significant contributor to this extremely poor state of the environment. The huge challenges and issues in the catchment affecting the shellfisheries will be addressed through co-governance arrangements of the Pare Hauraki settlement.



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Figure 1 Three pā settlements Te Mātā/Tapu

#### 4.4 Describe the proposed area/s and boundaries

The area that the request covers is located between Ōtaki creek to the north of the Te Mātā stream as the northern boundary and extending south as far as the Onepoto stream (Diehard stream) to the south of Tapu settlement, displayed in figure 2.



Figure 2 Requested closure area

The seaward boundary is the line identified in the previous section 186A Temporary Closure for the Thames coast that was requested by the Hauraki Māori Trust Board and granted by the Minister of Fisheries at the time and is displayed in figure 3.



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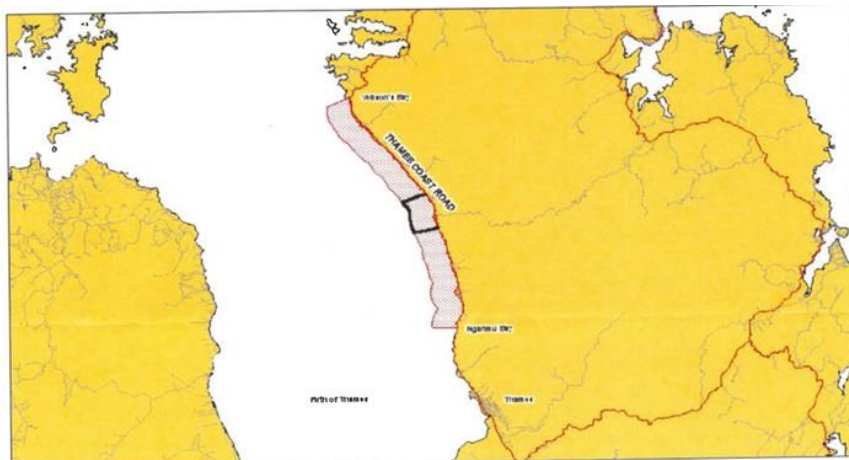


Figure 3 The seaward boundary of Requested Closure Area

**4.5 The species at issue is**

Tio (oysters), Kūtai (green lipped mussel), tuangi (cockles) and pipi.

**4.6 Describe the fishing method and how this is having an adverse effect (if appropriate)**

Refer to 4.2 and last paragraph 4.3.

**4.7 The proposed length of time for temporary closure**

Ngāti Tamaterā are requesting a further 24-month closure. This will enable us to further survey, monitor and assess its baseline current state and further refine a sustainable monitoring regime over the duration of the proposed closure to identify any indicators of taonga species recovery. We would also like to collaborate with the Ministry to scope associated Fisheries related protocols in line with our imminent treaty settlement. Importantly the closure the Te Mātā and Waipatukahu shellfisheries time to recover and regenerate. It will also allow ongoing survey and monitoring to be conducted highlighting if the temporary closure is improving the state of the tio, pipi, tuangi and kūtai populations.

**4.8 Consultation undertaken**

**Pou rāhui, pou tikanga, pou oranga: reigniting the mauri of Tikapa Moana and Te Moananui-ā-Toi**

This first-of-its-kind project brings together an all-Māori research team of revered traditional mātauranga Māori environmental experts with contemporary kaupapa Māori scientists, academics, iwi practitioners, environmentalists and rangatahi.



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The collaborative project will work with five iwi (Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Hei and Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai) that have implemented rāhui or temporary legislative closures for identified species and spaces, in the degraded waters of Tīkapa and Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

This intergenerational project will be a co-production across iwi experiencing similar catastrophic impacts in the moana to embark on innovative, replicable, pragmatic, in-water, mātauranga Māori solutions and actions to assist in the regeneration and restoration of rohe moana.

Many areas around the world that contain high levels of biodiversity are also the areas in which Indigenous peoples are found. Indigenous cultural beliefs and practices are often found to be a key factor in apparent long-term sustainable use of resources by many groups globally. This is especially pertinent to maintaining the health and resilience of marine environments and the relevance of integrated human-nature concepts.

Identifying ways in which mātauranga Māori scholarship and place-based participatory practice can be captured and incorporated through co-developed transdisciplinary methods is a high priority.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, there is an increasing demand to investigate alternative ways of accessing, engaging and implementing mātauranga Māori to better understand degradation (e.g., declining populations, sedimentation, climate change, predation) and assist restoration initiatives (e.g., marine cultural monitoring, restorative aquaculture, bio-waste alternatives to plastic, innovation and technological tools) for culturally and ecologically important marine taonga species and spaces into the future.

Ngāti Tamaterā will deliver new solutions for restoring and managing rohe moana and kaimoana for present and future generations through ongoing webinars and zoom hui to ensure we are interconnected with our Iwi across Hauraki and Tāmaki and the wider community.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antony Royal'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Antony Royal

Chairman

Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Settlement Trust