

**IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL**

**WAI 949  
WAI 686**

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Treaty of Waitangi Act  
1975

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of the Hauraki Inquiry Claims  
District

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

a claim by Taka o Te Rangi Taka  
for himself and on behalf the Wi  
Taka whanau of Ngati Koheriki  
and such others of Ngati Koheriki  
who may elect to join in this  
application

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**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF IRA TAKA**

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Counsel: JAR Johnston/P T Johnston

I, IRA TAKA of Manurewa, retired Mother, swear:

1. I was born at Waikarakia on 28 July 1935 and am the mother of nine children.
2. I am the sister of Taka O Te Rangi Taka who has brought this Treaty claim for and on behalf of my tupuna Wi Taka and any other Ngati Koheriki who may wish to join his claim. I fully tautoko his claim.
3. MY knowledge relating to Ngati Koheriki comes from information I received about 1994 from my Aunty Mere Taka, who has since passed away, and what I have since learned from Dr Rigby.
4. About 1993 I began having dreams in which my father told me to round up all his mokopuna and for them to tidy up all the otaota, weeds and rubbish.
5. SOON after my children and I became involved with this matter and I became more aware of my Ngati Koheriki side. I believe that through my dreams my wairua or spirit was crying out for my whanau and I to find out the truth about Ngati Koheriki.
6. ALTHOUGH much of the knowledge relating to our East Wairoa whenua and Ngati Koheriki has been lost, we have always understood the importance of whenua.
7. MY tupuna were granted land at Waikarakia and we as a whanau have maintained that land as guardians ever since.

8. IN 1955 my tupuna tried to establish a marae for our whanau to be called Ngati Tamatira. I believe that Ngati Tamatira is a hapu of Ngati Koheriki.
9. AS the land was subject to a Government loan (Maori Affairs I believe), a marae reservation could not be declared until 40 years later when the loan was repaid.
10. I am hopeful that justice is done and that Ngati Koheriki will receive from the Crown an appropriate apology for the loss of our whenua that was confiscated at East Wairoa.
11. THE Crown should also return our whenua and provide Ngati Koheriki with adequate compensation for the loss of our whenua and the hardship suffered by our tupuna and their descendents.

Kia ora

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Ira Taka

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Date