

21 January 2025

David Seymour
Party Leader
Act New Zealand

Kei te uri o Te Tai Tokerau, Minita David Seymour, tēnā koe.

Ngā mihi o te wā me ngā mihi o te tau hou pākehā ki a koe me tō whānau whānui.

As the celebrations for Waitangi are fast approaching, it falls upon me to write to you once again on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia and the hapū o Ngāti Rēhia so that I may offer some advice in the hope that you may take our position into consideration when deciding whether to attend Waitangi this year, or not.

As I'm sure you are aware, the week prior to Waitangi is an extremely special week for the iwi o Te Tai Tokerau. It is a week where we welcome many visitors to our home, to the rohe where He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi were born.

It is a time that we celebrate, cherish and consider extremely important. It is a time where we can reflect on the years and to provide education and understanding around these two documents and, importantly, the constitutional importance they hold within Aotearoa, NZ.

We are at a time in our history, where we believe, the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the rights of te iwi Māori are being threatened. A huge part of that threat is the Treaty Principles Bill that you are championing to become legislation.

We have written to you previously with our concerns and to ensure you are aware that your hapū do not support your actions. Unfortunately, our concerns have not changed your views and position on this *take*.

During Waitangi week this year, the Bill will be at the select committee stage. This bill has been highly contentious, divisive and is seen by many as a breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi itself.

Your hapū have supported your attendance at Waitangi in the past but, with respect, our advice this year is that while this bill is still being progressed and you are still actively supporting it, we do not believe it would be an appropriate decision to attend Waitangi.

While it will ultimately be the decision of the taumata on the day as to how best to uphold the operations of our tikanga, it is our responsibility to tender our advice and suggest you might consider celebrating the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi at a different venue this year.

Minister, our hapū have had to deal with a lot of negative kōrero in the media since your decision to progress this Bill and we would like you to consider putting the concerns of your hapū at the forefront while making your decision around attendance this year.

Again, we offer this advice with respect and the desire to ensure our celebrations are not shrouded or taken over by the negative impacts the Treaty Principles Bill is currently creating.

If you would like to talk further on the matter, I would be more than happy to discuss my concerns with you directly.

Nāku noa, nā



William Skipper (Kipa) Munro
Chair, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia

CC: Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Christopher Luxon, Leader NZ First Party, Rt. Hon Winston Peters

