

Summary of previous Crown apologies relating to Parihaka

- In 1981, the 100th anniversary of the invasion, the head of the New Zealand Police apologized for the Armed Constabulary's role in the plunder. (From Rachael Buchanan's 'Beating Shame: Parihaka and the Long Apology.)
- At the first Waitangi Tribunal hearing at Parihaka in 1991, Solicitor Tom Winitana, a Tuhoe man, provided the following apology on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Pakeha Doug Graham: 'It is my duty, as one of Her Majesty's Ministers, to apologise to the ancestors of Parihaka and I now do so. In doing so I look now to the future. It beckons us all. Let us stand together as we face what is to come.' (From Rachael Buchanan's 'Beating Shame: Parihaka and the Long Apology.)
- In relation to this 1991 apology, Rachael Buchanan wrote:

Parihaka leaders rejected the apology. It had come without warning, they explained, almost as an afterthought. It was addressed to the dead rather than the living, the descendants of those who had 'lived through the sacking and looting and destruction of Parihaka'. If an apology was to be offered to the living, it would have to be an event of national significance because Parihaka itself had been a gathering place for iwi from beyond Taranaki. It would have to be offered to a large audience that included Maori from around New Zealand rather than the smaller group of Taranaki people assembled for a tribunal hearing. The Parihaka Pa Trustees wrote: 'The hurt of Parihaka is therefore felt far beyond Taranaki. What happened there was something of an affront to nations. To the nations which embraced each other as Treaty partners in 1840.'ⁱ The timing and form of the apology, therefore, would need to be negotiated between the Crown and the people of Parihaka.

The bearer of the apology should have a status that matched the status accorded to the invasion of the village, an invasion that 'took place at the direction of the highest authorities'. As events unfolded information was even being telegraphed directly to both Houses of the General Assembly', Trustees wrote.ⁱⁱ Ideally, an apology should be offered by the Minister of Justice in the presence of the Minister of Maori Affairs and the Prime Minister. Te Miringa Hohaia and others offered to help the Crown 'along the path' to an apology. In response, Minister Graham wrote that he was 'deeply disturbed' his apology had been rejected. He had been acting in good faith and believed that his 'personal apology to your ancestors' would demonstrate to Parihaka people that 'as Her Majesty's Minister responsible for Treaty claims I was listening to their grievances with sympathy and understanding'.ⁱⁱⁱ

Settlement (date of signing)	Acknowledgement	Apology
Ngāti Ruanui (May 2001)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Crown acknowledges that its treatment of Ngaati Ruanui and Taranaki Maori involved in the passive resistance campaign of 1879 – 1880: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. deprived them of basic human rights and inflicted unwarranted hardships on them through imprisonment and exile; and b. was in breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. 2. The Crown acknowledges: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the serious damage it inflicted on the prosperous Maori village of Parihaka and the people of Ngaati Ruanui residing there, its forcible dispersal of many of the inhabitants and its assault on the human rights of the people; b. that these actions caused great distress and were a complete denial of the Maori right to develop and sustain autonomous communities in a peaceful manner; and c. that its treatment of the people of Ngaati Ruanui residing at Parihaka was d. unconscionable and unjust and that these actions constituted a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi 	No specific apology relating to Parihaka, but a general statement that ‘The Crown apologises to Ngāti Ruanui for all the breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles acknowledged by the Crown in this part 7.’
Ngāti Tama (December 2001)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Crown acknowledges: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the serious damage it inflicted on the prosperous Māori 	The Crown profoundly regrets, and unreservedly apologises for:

	<p>village of Parihaka and the people residing there, its forcible dispersal of many of the inhabitants, and its assault on the human rights of the people;</p> <p>b. that these actions caused great distress and were a complete denial of the Māori right to develop and sustain autonomous communities in a peaceful manner; and</p> <p>c. that its treatment of the Ngāti Tama people at Parihaka was unconscionable and unjust and that these actions constituted a breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the destructive and demoralising effects of its unconscionable actions on Ngāti Tama which have undermined the basis of their society and autonomy • its actions at Parihaka; and • its failure acknowledge the mana and rangatiratanga of Ngāti Tama
Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi (November 2003)	<p>1. The Crown acknowledges that:</p> <p>a. its treatment of Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi taken prisoner during the wars of the 1860s, such as those who were at Weraroa in 1865, resulted in hardships for those imprisoned and their whanau and hapuu and that these hardships were suffered again in 1879-1880; and</p> <p>b. the wars constituted an injustice and were in breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.</p>	<p>No specific apology relating to Parihaka, but a general statement that ‘The Crown profoundly regrets and apologises to Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi for the breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles as acknowledged above.’</p>
Ngāti Mutunga (July 2005)	<p>1. The Crown acknowledges that the treatment of those Ngāti Mutunga and other Māori of Taranaki imprisoned and exiled as a result of the passive resistance campaign from 1879 to 1880 deprived these British subjects of their basic human rights, inflicted unwarranted hardships on them and their whānau and hapū, and was a breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.</p>	<p>The Crown profoundly regrets, and unreservedly apologises for, its unconscionable actions at Parihaka.</p>

	<p>2. The Crown acknowledges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the serious damage it inflicted on the prosperous Māori village of Parihaka and the people residing there, its forcible dispersal of many of the inhabitants, and its assault on the human rights of the people; b. that these actions caused great distress and were a complete denial of the Māori right to develop and sustain autonomous communities in a peaceful manner; and c. that its treatment of the Ngāti Mutunga people at Parihaka was unconscionable and unjust and that these actions constituted a breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. 	
<p>Ngaruahine (August 2014)</p>	<p>1. The Crown acknowledges that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. it detained members of Ngaruahine and other Maori of Taranaki for their participation in the peaceful resistance campaign initiated at Parihaka in 1879 and 1880; b. legislation was enacted which "suspended the ordinary course of law", and as a result most prisoners, including many Ngaruahine people, were detained without trial; c. the detention of those prisoners without trial for an unreasonably lengthy period assumed the character of indefinite detention; d. the imprisonment of Ngaruahine and other Maori of Taranaki in South Island gaols for political reasons inflicted unwarranted hardships on them and their whanau and hapu; and 	<p>The Crown deeply regrets its unjust treatment of those Ngaruahine people it imprisoned for taking part in campaigns of peaceful resistance. The Crown sincerely apologises to those tupuna it exiled hundreds of kilometres from their homes, to the whanau who grieved in their absence, to their descendents and to Ngaruahine.</p> <p>The Crown deeply regrets and unreservedly apologises for its unconscionable actions at Parihaka, and for the harm those actions caused to the community and those Ngaruahine people who resided there.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. the treatment of these political prisoners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) was wrongful, a breach of natural justice, and deprived them of basic human rights; and (b) was a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. 2. The Crown acknowledges that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ngaruahine provided material support to the Parihaka community, and that large numbers of Ngaruahine people were residing at Parihaka when Crown forces invaded the settlement in 1881; b. it inflicted serious damage on the prosperous Maori village of Parihaka and the people residing there, forcibly dispersed many of the inhabitants, and assaulted the human rights of the people; c. these actions caused great distress and were a complete denial of the Maori right to develop and sustain autonomous communities in a peaceful manner; and d. its treatment of Ngaruahine people at Parihaka was unconscionable and unjust and that these actions constituted a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. 	
Te Atiawa (August 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Crown acknowledges that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. it imprisoned members of Te Atiawa and other Maori of Taranaki for their participation in the peaceful resistance campaign initiated at Parihaka in 1879 and 1880; b. it promoted legislation that "suspended the ordinary course 	The Crown profoundly regrets its unjust treatment of those Te Atiawa people it imprisoned for taking part in campaigns of peaceful resistance. The Crown sincerely apologises to those tupuna it exiled hundreds of kilometres from their homes, to the whanau

	<p>of law", and as a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) most prisoners, including many Te Atiawa people, were detained without trial; and b) some of those Te Atiawa prisoners who did receive trials were detained beyond the expiration of their court-imposed sentences; c. the ongoing detention of these Te Atiawa prisoners assumed the character of an indefinite detention; d. the imprisonment of Taranaki Maori in South Island gaols for political reasons inflicted unwarranted hardships on them and their whanau and hapu; and e. the treatment of these political prisoners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) was wrongful, a breach of natural justice, and deprived them of basic human rights; and b) was a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. <p>2. The Crown acknowledges that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. large numbers of Te Atiawa people were residing at Parihaka when it invaded the settlement in 1881; b. it inflicted serious damage on the prosperous Maori village of Parihaka and the people residing there, forcibly dispersed many of the inhabitants, and assaulted the human rights of the people; c. these actions caused great distress and were a complete denial of the Maori right to develop and sustain autonomous communities in a peaceful manner; and d. its treatment of Te Atiawa people at Parihaka was 	<p>who grieved in their absence, to their descendants, and to Te Atiawa.</p> <p>The Crown deeply regrets and unreservedly apologises for its unconscionable actions at Parihaka, and for the damage those actions caused to the community and to those Te Atiawa people who resided there.</p>
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	<p>unconscionable and unjust and that these actions constituted a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.</p>	
<p>Taranaki Iwi (Sept 2015)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Crown acknowledges that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the residents and leaders of Parihaka sought to establish and maintain an autonomous community on their own land, while promoting peaceful engagement between Taranaki Maori and Pakeha; and b. it came to view the influence of Parihaka and its leaders as a challenge to the authority of the Crown, and its ability to extend European settlement in Taranaki. 2. The Crown acknowledges that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. it imprisoned members of Taranaki Iwi and other Maori of Taranaki for their participation in the peaceful resistance campaign initiated at Parihaka in 1879 and 1880; b. legislation was enacted which “suspended the ordinary course of law”, and as a result most prisoners, including many Taranaki Iwi people, were detained without trial; c. the detention of those prisoners without trial for an unreasonably lengthy period assumed the character of indefinite detention; d. the imprisonment of 405 men of Taranaki Iwi and other iwi in South Island gaols for political reasons inflicted unwarranted hardships on them and on members of their whanau and hapu, including the women who sustained Parihaka in their absence; and 	<p>The Crown unreservedly apologises to Taranaki Iwi, and to the Taranaki Iwi people of Parihaka past and present, for its unconscionable actions at Parihaka; for invading their settlement, for systematically dismantling their community, for destroying their ability to sustain themselves, and for assaulting their human rights. The Crown deeply regrets the immense and enduring harm that these actions caused to Parihaka and its people. Over several generations, the Crown's breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi have undermined your leadership and your communities, your ability to exercise long-held rights and responsibilities, and your ability to maintain your cultural and spiritual heritage, your language, and your Taranakitanga.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">e. the treatment of these political prisoners:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) was wrongful, a breach of natural justice, and deprived them of basic human rights; andb) was a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. <p>3. The Crown acknowledges that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. it inflicted serious damage on Parihaka and assaulted the human rights of the people residing there during its invasion and subsequent occupation of the settlement;b. it forcibly removed many inhabitants, destroyed and desecrated their homes and sacred buildings, stole heirlooms, systematically destroyed large cultivations and livestock;c. it arrested and detained Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi without trial for sixteen months in the South Island;d. it imposed a system of passes to regulate entry into Parihaka;e. its actions were a complete denial of the Maori right to develop and sustain autonomous communities in a peaceful manner, and had a devastating and enduring effect on the mana, social structure and well-being of Taranaki iwi; andf. its treatment of Taranaki Iwi people at Parihaka was unconscionable and unjust, and that these actions constituted a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.	
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- ⁱ Te Miringa Hohaia (Milton Hohaia), letter to the Minister of Justice, re: Apology for Parihaka, 27 February 1992, Taranaki report, Record of Inquiry, F17 (b), WTA.
- ⁱⁱ Hohaia to Minister of Justice, F17 (b), p. 2, WTA.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Graham to Hohaia, 9 April 1992, F17c, WTA.