

Nomination for Kaiwhakahaere

Personal Statement – Justin Tipa

E te iwi, tēnā koutou,

The last three years have been a period of significant change for Ngāi Tahu.

We have navigated economic uncertainty, a challenging political environment, growing expectations from our people, and the beginning of an important transition into our next long-term vision under Mō Kā Uri – Kāi Tahu 2050. Throughout that time, my focus has been on providing steady leadership, ensuring Ngāi Tahu is represented and heard in important debates and discussions, and encouraging collaboration and cooperation among Te Rūnanga Group.

I am seeking re-election because I believe I have more to offer. Three years in, I also have more experience to draw on.

Over the last three years we have begun the transition from Ngāi Tahu 2025 to Mō Kā Uri – Kāi Tahu 2050, establishing a new long-term direction for the tribe. Before I was elected, I was clear about my philosophy: thriving pā, thriving marae, and thriving communities are what makes a thriving iwi.

We have continued to support the aspirations of Papatipu Rūnaka, encouraged a 'one house' approach within Te Rūnanga Group, and worked to ensure our tribal resources are being managed effectively and sustainably.

I have also made it a priority to ensure Ngāi Tahu has a strong and respected voice within and beyond our own takiwā.

I have been active in national conversations affecting Te Iwi Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Whether engaging with Government, participating in national forums, attending kaupapa across the motu, or standing alongside others on issues of significance to our people, I have sought to represent an unapologetic and distinctly Ngāi Tahu perspective. I believe Ngāi Tahu has both the credibility and the responsibility to show leadership nationally, while remaining firmly grounded in our own tikanga, values and priorities here in Te Waipounamu.

I believe in strong rūnanga. I believe in a strong Ngāi Tahu centre. I believe in protecting and growing the resources that enable our rangatiratanga to be exercised in practical ways for our people. And I believe that consistency matters, particularly during periods of transformation.

The next few years will help shape the future of Ngāi Tahu for decades to come. I would be honoured to continue serving as Kaiwhakahaere and to help guide our tribe through this next chapter with clarity, stability, and purpose.

Justin Tipa