

He mihi ki te minita.

Ko Ngāti Kahungunu tētahi o ngā iwi tuatahi i ngaro ai tōna reo. Kai te rahi ngā take i tere ngaro ai te reo, pēnei i te tāmitanga o te reo e ngā ture o te kāwanatanga, te whakaekehanga o Ngāti Kahungunu e te pākehā, me te huhua tonu atu. I waimarie a Ngāti Kahungunu i te tokomaha o ngā iwi o waho i tau mai ki roto o Ngāti Kahungunu ki te āwhina i ngā kaupapa whakaora reo, ā, he mea takoha e rātau ō rātau nā reo hai reo kōrero ki ngā tamariki mokopuna o Ngāti Kahungunu. Heoi, kua tae te wā kia tahuri ake a Ngāti Kahungunu ki te whakaora anō i tōna anō reo me ōna anō āhuatanga katoa.

Nō tērā wiki, nō te rā o Waitangi, i whakaputaina e mātau te rautaki reo Māori hou a Ngāti Kahungunu e kiia nei: Kahungunu, kia eke! Ngāti Kahungunu Māori Language Strategy 2013-2027. I āta pānuitia rā e au te rautaki nei a te kāwanatanga, ā, e rua pea ngā wāhi e tino hāngai pū ana ki a Ngāti Kahungunu. Tuatahi, ko te whakaaro kia whakatūngia mai te rōpū nei, Te Mātāwai. Ko te māharahara kai roto i a mātau, ko wai e noho ki te poari nei hai kanohi mō ngā iwi o te motu inā kē te huhua o ngā mana me ngā iwi o te motu. Ko wai hei kawē i ō mātau hiahia me ō mātau whakaaro mō te reo? Ki te whakatinanatia tēnei whakaaro o Te Mātāwai, ko Ngāti Kahungunu kai te kī me mātua whai wāhi ngā iwi e kaha ana te whawhai mō te reo. Ka uaua pea tēnei, nā te mea, kia kōrero nei tātau mō te mana ā-iwi, hai reira kua tukituki ngā māhunga i runga anō i te hiahia o ia iwi kia tū a ia i tōna anō mana, tē riro kē ai mā tētahi anō iwi tōna mana e kawē, ōna whakaaro e whakapuaki. E 9 pea ngā iwi o Te Tairāwhiti ka taka ki raro i te karangatanga kotahi o 'Te Tairāwhiti', ā, kia kotahi noa iho te māngai, koinei tētahi ngoikoretanga o te rautaki.

Tuarua, ko te pātai kai runga i te rautaki nei, ka pēhea nā te tautoko a te kāwanatanga i ngā reo ā-iwi me ngā mita? Ko tā mātau whakautu, homai mā

mātau e whakahaere te wāhi ki tō mātau reo. Ko tētahi mate nui kai waenganui i a mātau, kai te marara kē ngā kōrero ā ō mātau kuia, koroua. Ko te mahi mā mātau, he whakakao mai i ērā kōrero katoa, he āta ketuketu me kore e kitea ētahi kupu ake, kīwaha ake, kīnga ake, kīanga ake, whakataukī ake, whakatau-ā-kī ake, aha atu. E taea ai tērā, me whai moni, nā reira, tukuna mai mā mātau tō mātau ake reo e rangahau. Koinei tētahi wāhanga o te rautaki hou e tino hāngai pū ana ki a mātau, ā, homai ki a mātau te mana whakahaere kia pai ai tā mātau rangahau i tō mātau ake reo, ā, mutu rawa ake, kua oti i a mātau tā mātau ake papakupu e kiia ana Te Reo o Ngāti Kahungunu hai whakaako ki ā mātau tamariki mokopuna. Homai te mana whakahaere kia taea ai e mātau ō mātau kaumātua te whakahuihui mai me te hopu i ō rātau reo.

E rua tau mātau e āta whakarite ana i te rautaki hou nei hai ārahi i a Ngāti Kahungunu i roto i ngā mahi whakaora i tōna reo. Ko te hiahia nui o te iwi i ērā hui i pēnei nei nā: *Whāngaitia ahau ki te reo Māori, ahakoa nō hea, ka mātau ana, whāngaitia ahau ki tōku ake reo, ki āku ake kupu me tōku ake Ngāti Kahungunutanga*. Kāre anō a Ngāti Kahungunu kia āta rangahau i tōna anō reo, inā kē te whānui o te rohe, me ngā kupu ake o tēnā takiwā, o tēnā takiwā, me te mōhio iho kāre tonu tō mātau reo i tino rerekē ake i te reo whānui o Te Tairāwhiti, kai reira ōna paku rerekētanga, heoi, ki tā mātau titiro kai te āhua hāngai tou te reo puta noa i Te Tairāwhiti. Ko tā mātau kē e rapu nei ko ngā Ngāti Kahungunutanga o te reo hai whakaako ki ā mātau tamariki.

E te minita, kua whakatakototia i konei ētahi o ngā hiahia o tō iwi, kāre e kore he rahi tonu ngā whakaaro o ētahi atu, heoi koinei ngā take e hāngai ana ki tā mātau rautaki, me tāu e kawē haere nei koe ki ngā iwi o te motu.

Anei tēnei kōrero nei hai whakakorikori i ō tātau whakaaro:

The growing concern regarding the critical state of Te Reo Māori is not a new one and continues to terrify language advocates as we witness rapid losses of native speakers and are now faced with minimal numbers of Māori choosing to learn their native tongue. The language is on the brink of extinction, and without urgent action it will ultimately die.

Many will argue that the language is thriving and it is the strongest it has been in 50 years. I will strongly refute that, and state here today that Te Reo Māori is dying within Ngāti Kahungunu and if we don't take urgent action, it will inevitably become extinct. I want us all to think into the future and imagine New Zealand in 200 years' time.

The last fluent speaker of the Maori language has just died, and it has been officially declared an extinct language by the United Nations. The Maori Language Commission was abolished over 170 years ago when the government de-established the Māori Language Act, hence removing Māori as an official language of the country. The Kōhanga Reo, Kura Kaupapa, Mainstream and Māori Medium movements are studied by University scholars and remembered as institutions that ultimately failed to save the language, government funding cut those off over 150 years ago.

Māori Television is axed as the numbers of viewers plummeted to an all-time low after receiving hundreds of complaints that the language used was undecipherable to the ears of native speakers. The only remnants of the language is a small exhibition at Te Papa in Wellington, which is now known as the National Museum as there was no longer a need for bi-lingualism and all Māori names have been removed since the Treaty is no longer recognized after the Constitution Review.

Tribes have all been assimilated. There are now 5 official languages of New Zealand, English, Chinese, Sign and French. Te reo has joined te moa, a figment of our romanticism...

Ko te pātai i puta ake i Te Karere i te pō rā, āe rānei ka taea e ngā iwi ngā kaupapa whakaora reo te whakahaere? Kai ngā iwi rānei ngā pūkenga ki te whakahaere i ēnei kaupapa? Ko Ngāti Kahungunu kai te kī, āe, ka taea e mātau, kai te kaha kē tā mātau whawhai mō te reo, ā, mā Ngāti Kahungunu, mō Ngāti Kahungunu, me Ngāti Kahungunu.

Ko te māharahara nui, kei kī mai te karauna, anei te moni Māori mā, mahia atu, whakaoratia tō koutou reo. Mā te mahi tahi a te Karauna me ngā iwi te reo e ora ai, mā reira anake, kua mā ngā iwi anake. Heoi, tēnā, whatia mai te wāhi ki ngā mita, mā mātau tonu e whakahaere, e rangahau.