



MORIORI IMI

SETTLEMENT TRUST

RĒKOHU 44s 176w

FAQ About HMT and MIST and Why Are There Two Trusts

There have been questions asked by members why there are two trusts for Moriori and what are the roles of both trusts. Unfortunately, some misinformation has been shared among our Imi that the two trusts are dividing Moriori. The truth is that the only division being felt comes from a lack of clear understanding about the important role that Moriori Imi Settlement Trust (MIST) plays as the Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE). MIST is not optional – it is a legal requirement of every settlement, established to hold and manage Treaty settlement assets on behalf of all Moriori.

We also acknowledge that differences in perspectives and communication between the two trusts can sometimes add to the confusion. Our focus, however, remains on ensuring that the purpose of MIST is clearly understood. That is, to safeguard Moriori settlement redress to serve all Moriori now and into the future.

1. Why do we have two trusts?

MIST was set up as a requirement of our Treaty settlement with the Crown, which was ratified and approved by 97% of Moriori members. Every settled Imi/Iwi has a PSGE. It is also common for Imi/iwi to have multiple entities to manage cultural, commercial and settlement interests. This reflects growth and complexity.

2. Is the settlement process completed?

No. There are still overlapping claims and shared redress with Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri (NMOW) to negotiate with the Crown and NMOW. It will also take several more years for the settlement to be fully implemented. By way of example, Ngāi Tahu settled their claim in 1996 but are still implementing aspects of the claim with the Crown today (the ancillary claims).

3. How many trusts does Moriori Imi have?

- **Hokotehi Moriori Trust (HMT)** set up in 2001 to represent Moriori cultural and commercial interests.
- **Mori Imi Settlement Trust** set up in 2021 to manage the settlement assets for the Imi.
- **Te Keke Tura Moriori Identity Trust (TKT)**, a cultural identity trust established in 2008, that has its own trustees to administer cultural grants and projects.
- **Rangihau Land Trust (RLT)** set up under MIST as part of the Treaty settlement to manage land on Rangihau/Pitt Island. This trust has trustees from MIST and also Rangihau.
- **Kopi Holdings Limited**, a quota holding company and commercial arm of HMT that has its own directors.

Having multiple trusts and companies is normal in post settlement Imi/Iwi, ensuring different aspects of tribal life are managed appropriately.

4. **What does HMT do?**

HMT was formed in 2001 and represents all Moriori. It manages cultural, commercial interests and oversees marae, fishing quota, farm, lodge, commercial properties, and a nursery. HMT liaises with local organisations (Council, schools, Predator-Free Chathams etc) and Crown entities. It has numerous staff, a group of eight trustees, a cultural advisory group and hokopapa unit.

5. **What does MIST do?**

MIST is responsible for the \$18 million settlement redress, which is important to keep separate from day-to-day management of tribal assets. It ensures benefits reach our people wherever in the world they may live. MIST currently has two staff – an Operations Manager and a Board Secretary – and works mainly with Department of Conservation (DOC) and Ministry for the Environment (MFE) but also various other Crown entities. Importantly, MIST is committed to consulting with members to help shape investment strategies and decisions about how settlement assets are safeguarded and grown. This ensures members have a voice in how their settlement is managed for current and future generations.

6. **Why don't HMT and MIST merge?**

The two trusts have very different roles. MIST was established through the Treaty settlement process and is called a Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE). It is a requirement for settling tribes to have a PSGE separate to their tribal governance body – HMT. HMT is set up to manage commercial and cultural interests. Keeping them separate protects settlement funds from daily operational matters, avoid conflicts of interest and ensures they are wisely invested for your future.

7. **Should HMT and MIST merge in the future?**

Possibly, but it is not realistic at this stage. Unwinding or merging MIST now would potentially jeopardise the gains made under our settlement and would require a 75% vote of members – which is a deliberately high threshold. In addition, the legal, political and financial hurdles would be significant. For so many people to have fought for so long to have our claim settled, it would be a travesty if those hard-won gains were to be lost or put at risk. For now, keeping MIST and HMT as separate entities is the best way to protect and safeguard our settlement redress.

8. **Can you be a Trustee on both MIST and HMT at the same time?**

In theory yes, but in practice it is not advisable. Both trusts carry a significant workload and, while trustees get paid fees, these do not cover the substantial amount of time and effort required. Most trustees also hold down full-time jobs. Trying to serve both trusts at once, or merging them, would inevitably stretch capacity too thin and risk undermining the effectiveness of one or both trusts.

More importantly, having the same people on both trusts can create conflicts of interest, blur lines of accountability, and reduce the checks and balances that come from having separate governance bodies. It can also give the impression of power being concentrated in too few hands, which risks undermining confidence among our members. For these reasons, it is better for MIST and HMT to have distinct trustees, each focused fully on their respective responsibilities.

9. **The settlement was signed in 2020 – why do we still need a PSGE?**

Although the Deed of Settlement was signed in 2020, implementing it is an ongoing process that will take many years.

MIST's work includes:

- **Crown relationship protocols and agreements** – maintaining formal agreements with key Crown agencies such as DOC, MFE, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and Land Information New Zealand. These protocols set out how agencies must engage with Moriori on matters of mutual interest.

- **Co-management responsibilities** – developing and implementing wāhi tchap' plans, statutory reserve management plans, and co-management arrangements for significant conservation areas such as Hāpūpū Historic Reserve and other wāhi tchap'.
- **Administration of vested lands** – managing lands returned through the settlement, including Rangihau (Pitt Island) lands, Ōwenga School, and the Te Awanui Block.
- **Annual planning with DOC** – preparing and agreeing the Annual DOC/Moriōri Management Plan, which guides conservation work across Moriōri settlement lands.
- **Future shared redress** – once NMOW complete their settlement, MIST will also be responsible for managing shared redress arrangements, including co-ownership of the bed of Te Whanga Lagoon, the Tikitiki Hill properties, and potential commercial properties in Waitangi.
- **Investment and financial** – growing and safeguarding the \$18 million settlement pūtea through prudent, tikane-based investment strategies to provide enduring benefits for Moriōri.
- **Cultural redress and recognition** – upholding redress commitments such as place name changes, statutory acknowledgements, and protections for wāhi tchap'.
- **Dispute resolution and legal** – acting on behalf of Moriōri to defend the integrity of the settlement, lands, and miheke when required.
- **Membership engagement and accountability** – consulting with members on key decisions, reporting transparently, and ensuring Moriōri voices shape how the settlement is implemented.
- **Partnerships and representation** – representing Moriōri in shared redress negotiations, Treaty-related forums, and collaborations with other Iwi/Imi and Crown agencies.

In short, the PSGE is not just a legal requirement, it is the vehicle through which Moriōri continue to implement the settlement, uphold our protocols with the Crown, protect wāhi tchap' and redress lands, and give effect to our rights and responsibilities for generations to come.

10. **Is there any overlap between HMT and MIST?**

Both Trusts are committed to work for Moriōri and to manage assets for future generations to enjoy. There is some overlap in terms of upholding tikane Moriōri and promoting Moriōri history and culture, and the MIST Board has worked hard over the past few years to work collaboratively with HMT trustees. For example in order to protect the integrity of the Moriōri settlement, MIST issued legal proceedings opposing the Crown recognising that NMOW has "tino rangatiratanga" over Rēkohu and transferring conservation lands already guaranteed exclusively to Moriōri as part of our settlement. MIST consulted extensively with HMT over this issue and sought their support, which was provided and we continue to work closely on this matter. The same collaborative approach applies to the ancestral waka recently found on Rēkohu. The waka was found near a 2Ha block, once a Moriōri kainga, that MIST secured through the settlement. MIST prepared the detailed application for ownership in the Māori Land Court with the full backing of HMT.

11. **Is it a waste of imi money for us to have two trusts?**

No, it is a prudent management of our growing tribal asset base which is quite normal among all settled Iwi. MIST also brings in significant funds from external and Crown sources to support all the mahi that it undertakes. Far from being wasteful, this separation gives greater protection, accountability and opportunities for our people and enables us to tap into government resources and consultations targeted towards PSGEs.

12. **How the two trusts will work together in future**

MIST remains committed to working constructively with HMT. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed to set out respective roles and cooperative processes (though this has not yet been finalised). MIST remains open to finalising this work so that both trusts can strengthen collaboration, reduce duplication, and deliver better outcomes for all Moriōri.