



22 November 2021

Tēnā koe e te Minita

On 18 November 2021, Te Kahu o Taonui - the Iwi Chairs of Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Wai, Te Roroa, Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi, Whaingaroa, Kahukuraariki, Ngāti Kahu, Ngai Takoto, Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri and Ngāti Kurī - put out a Press Release on their joint concerns in regards to the announcement on reopening regional borders and the significant risk, likely harm and potential death toll with this approach.

Te Kahu o Taonui has consistently taken a precautionary approach to managing cases of COVID19 while supporting our communities. This has allowed us time to lift our vaccination rates. We continue to hold a similar position as Northland moves towards 90% vaccination.

We believe that the Government has a reciprocal duty of care to those communities that have yet to reach those levels as was afforded those who have achieved 90%. We seek assurance that we are provided an equitable opportunity to meet those targets and we need to be actively involved in those responses that addresses the duty of care for our communities.

In its current form as a Confederation of Chairs we do not agree to the Borders being reopened unless our requirements are met. This is a serious issue and as Chairs we seek an urgent meeting and response from all Ministers to discuss an improved approach to move forward.

We look forward to your urgent response to these matters.

Ngāti Kuri - Harry Burkhardt (Te Kahu o Taonui Lead Chair)
Ngāti Whātua - Dame Naida Glavish
Ngātiwai - Aperahama Edwards
Ngāti Hine - Pita Tipene
Ngāpuhi - Wane Wharerau
Te Roroa - Thomas Hohaia
Te Rūnanga O Whaingaroa - Mariameno Kapa-Kingi
Kahukuraariki Trust - Teresa Tepania-Ashton
Ngāti Kahu - Prof. Margaret Mutu
Te Rarawa - Haami Piripi
Ngai Takoto - Wallace Rivers & Kaio Karipa
Te Aupōuri - Rhonda Kite