Kei a Kuini Wikitória te mana kawanatanga, kei ngā rangatira te mana rangatiratanga.

Queen Victoria holds authority over the country, the chiefs hold right of possession.

**The content of the Treaty**

**What is the Treaty?**

The Treaty is an agreement between the British Crown, represented by William Hobson, and iwi (tribes) and hapū (sub-tribes) in New Zealand represented by rangatira (chiefs). But who agreed to what?

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### Two languages

There is an English version and a Māori version of the document, with some significant differences between the two. Most rangatira signed the Māori version. Only thirty-two signed the English.

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### What the Treaty offered

1. **For British 'sovereignty' or 'kawanatanga' over New Zealand**
   - In the English version, Māori code to the British Crown what is called 'sovereignty' over New Zealand.
   - In the Māori version, this is expressed as 'kawanatanga' — governance.
   - The 'pre-eminence' to the Treaty speaks out the need for this power — to allow the Queen to establish a government in New Zealand, to maintain peace, and to protect Māori rights, as more and more settlers from Britain and Europe came.

2. **For Māori 'undisturbed possession' of lands and property or 'tino rangatiratanga'**
   - The Māori version guarantees Māori 'tino rangatiratanga' (full citizenship) over their lands and possessions.
   - In the English version, they are guaranteed 'undisturbed possession' for as long as they want it.

   However, should Māori wish to sell any of their land or property, they must offer it to the British Crown. This was to give Māori protection against unscrupulous land purchasers. But it also gave the Crown a great advantage — to buy land at a low price and sell it to settlers at a profit. The income would fund the colony's development.

3. **For Māori: British rights**
   - Māori have the British Crown's protection and all the same rights as British subjects.

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### A matter of choice

On the afternoon of 4 February, Henry Williams recalled, Captain Hobson came to me with the Treaty of Waitangi in English, for me to translate into Māori. The Treaty had to be done overnight, to be ready for the first meeting of chiefs the next day. Williams made the translation with the help of his 21-year-old son Edward who had grown up in New Zealand.

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### A matter of persuasion

No Māori helped Henry Williams when he translated the Treaty into the Māori language. But at the Wairarapa meeting Tamati Waka Here spoke persuasively to the chiefs, he said Māori had no option but to accept Hobson and British authority — change in northern New Zealand had gone too far. Chiefs were being influenced and Pākehā power was expanding.

He pointed to the many items of European clothing worn by the chiefs. A number of children were present too — being evidence of the degree to which the two races were mingled. Hobson should stay to be a father, a judge, a preserver, a friend and a governor.

None was a recent convert to Christianity and signed the Treaty with his name, rather than a mark or sign used by many other chiefs.

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### A last minute addition

During the Treaty signing at Waitangi, the Catholic Bishop Pompallier expressed concern that some Maori might be discriminated against under British administration. He asked Hobson to guarantee religious freedom.

Hobson agreed, and allowed it to be recorded: "E mea ana te Kawana, ko nga wakapou kaha, ko ihangi, o nga Weteana, o Roma, me te ihoanga Mauari iki, o tākaha ngapatahia e ia." (The Governor says the several faiths of England, of the Wesleyans, of Rome, and also Māori custom shall be alike protected by him.)

Although this doesn't appear on the Treaty, it is considered by some to be part of the agreement.

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*Henry Williams (1793–1868). He learned that Māori did not understand what they were signing, courtesy of National Galleries of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland (2018:2)

*The challenge was, as Williams later explained, to find words in Māori that matched the English, at the same time 'preserving entire the spirit and tenor of the Treaty'.