

This is the final English draft of the Treaty of Waitangi

The Preamble

Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of England in Her gracious consideration for the chiefs and people of New Zealand, and her desire to preserve to them their land and to maintain peace and order amongst them, has been pleased to appoint an officer to treat with them for the cession of the Sovereignty (sic) of their country and of the Islands adjacent to the Queen. Seeing that many of Her Majesty's subjects have already settled in the country and are constantly arriving: And that it is desirable for their protection as well as the protection of the natives to establish a government amongst them.

Her Majesty has accordingly been pleased to appoint me William Hobson a captain in the Royal Navy to be Governor of such parts of New Zealand as may now or hereafter be ceded (sic) to her Majesty and proposes to the chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand and the other chiefs to agree to the following articles.-

Article First

The chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes and the other chiefs who have not joined the confederation, cede to the Queen of England for ever the entire Sovereignty (sic) of their country.

Article Second

The Queen of England confirms and guarantees to the chiefs & tribes and to all the people of New Zealand the possession of their lands, dwellings and all their property. But the chiefs of the Confederation and the other chiefs grant to the ~~chiefs~~ Queen the exclusive right of purchasing such land as the proprietors thereof may be disposed to sell at such prices as shall be agreed upon between them and the persons appointed by the Queen to purchase from them.

Article Third

In return for the cession of the Sovereignty (sic) to the Queen, the people of New Zealand shall be protected by the Queen of England and the rights and privileges of British subjects will be granted to them.- Signed,

William Hobson Consul & Lieut. Governor.

Affirmation

Now we the chiefs of the Confederation of the United tribes of New Zealand being assembled at Waitangi, and we the other chiefs of New Zealand having understood the meaning of the articles, accept of them and agree to them all.

In witness whereof our names or marks are affixed. Done at Waitangi on the 4th Feb. 1840.

Notes

This final draft was written by James Busby from notes made by him, Captain Hobson and James Freeman in the weeks before

You will see that is dated the 4th of February - two days before the signing - this is because it was a draft!

Note also the four spelling mistakes (sic) and the crossed out word "chiefs" in article two.

The actual original of this document is hidden away in the Treaty Room of our National Museum in Wellington

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