

Win for Te Urewera partnership

TE Urewera-DoC Tuhoe Partnership won the Prime Minister's Award at the Deloitte IPANZ Public Sector Excellence Awards 2017, held in Wellington on Wednesday night.

The judges said the programme was "An excellence initiative, demonstrating a transformation in the relationship. Most notably there were no direct examples to draw on anywhere in

the world – that is true innovation."

Working collaboratively, the Department of Conservation (DoC) and Tuhoe implemented ground-breaking new Treaty settlement legislation, which granted Te Urewera legal personhood.

The former national park, comprising more than 2000 square kilometres of native forest, has the same rights and

powers as a citizen – a first for New Zealand.

This has led to more Tuhoe employed in Te Urewera, more visitors to Te Urewera, and innovative DoC practices, including secondments with Te Uru Taumatua.

The programme also won the Crown-Maori Excellence Award, by demonstrating how Crown and Maori can work together in the spirit of true partnership.