



Te Puni Kōkiri  
MINISTRY OF MĀORI DEVELOPMENT

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

# National Environment Standard - Papakāinga

## Proposals for consultation

29 May 2025



Photo: Quinn Phelan

# National Environment Standard – Papakāinga

## Objectives:

- Remove barriers to papakāinga development to facilitate development of housing on Māori communally owned land
- Support the use of Māori land for improved cultural, economic and social outcomes
- Give owners greater decision-making authority over their whenua

**The intent is to enable papakāinga housing in ways that are often restricted at the moment**



Photo: Josie McClutchie



# National Environment Standard – Papakāinga

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- The proposal is for new National Environmental Standards for Papakāinga (NES-P)
- NES-P would minimise and standardise rules, enabling up to 10 homes as a permitted activity without consent. There is currently variability across the country
- Those rules would be carried over into the new resource management and spatial planning legislation, which are intended to provide more certainty and consistency across councils
- NES-P would apply in all districts once it comes into force (expected end of 2025)
- Existing planning rules that are more enabling of papakāinga than the NES-P would remain in place - but not rules that are less enabling
- Public consultation planned for June/July 2025, led by the Ministry for the Environment and TPK



# Proposals we plan to consult on

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- Small scale papakāinga development (up to 10 homes) would be 'permitted' (that is, no resource consent required) on certain types of land owned by Māori:
  - Māori freehold land
  - Māori customary land
  - Māori reservations and reserves
  - Former land that was compulsorily converted under the Māori Affairs Amendment Act 1967
  - Returned land taken for public works
- These land types have been chosen to ensure the NES-P is not used to develop large commercial activities (such as subdivisions) and to provide clarity to councils and whenua owners about where it will apply
- Other small-scale activities to support the papakāinga would be permitted (e.g commercial activities of up to 100m<sup>2</sup>)





# Proposals we plan to consult on

A small number of standards would need to be met for permitted papakāinga:

- maximum building coverage of 50 per cent of the site
- in residential zones, minimum setback of 1.5 metres from front boundaries and 1 metre from all other boundaries
- in rural zones, minimum front and side setbacks of 3 metres
- in Māori-purpose zones, minimum front and side setbacks will be the same as the underlying zone



Photo: Josie McClutchie



# Proposals we plan to consult on

Certain rules and standards in the underlying plan zone would continue to apply. This is to maintain protection for the natural environment and for the health and safety of people and communities.

Regional council consents would still be required (for example for wastewater and storm water) and other reports may also be required.



Photo: Josie McClutchie





# Proposals we plan to consult on

**The following would require consent (but council discretion to refuse consent would be limited):**

- Small papakāinga that do not meet all the permitted activity standards
- Papakāinga that have between 11 and 30 residential units
- Papakāinga on Treaty settlement land

**Matters for council discretion would be defined in the NES-P**



Photo: Josie McClutchie



# Proposals we plan to consult on

Larger papakāinga developments over 30 homes would require consent (discretionary activity)



Photo: Quinn Phelan





## Find out more

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- The Ministry for the Environment is leading this work.
- To submit feedback and view the full discussion document go to the Ministry for the Environment website.
- If you have questions send them to [ndprogramme@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ndprogramme@mfe.govt.nz)

