

Te Reo Strategy Submission from Ngā Manawhenua o Hauraki

This submission is forwarded on behalf of Ngā Manawhenua o Hauraki and the present treaty settlement negotiations of the Hauraki Collective

He Kupu Whakataki

Tēnā koutou e ngā rangatira.

Ka whakatauria e koutou te kaupapa whiriwhiri kia whakaora i te reo Māori i tēnei tuhinga 'Māori Language Strategy 2013'. Ka whakaaengia he take nui, he take matua e Ngā Manawhenua o Hauraki te Whakaora i te reo Māori mō Hauraki, mō Aotearoa whānui. Ka āhukahuka hoki e te Karauna i raro i Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Ko ngā reo katoa ka whakaratohia, ka whakanuia hoki, i raro i te 'United Nations Declaration of Human Rights'.

Ko Te Reo Māori te pōkapu matua o Aotearoa. Ka whakaratohia te tūāpapa o Aotearoa ka ora pai ai te tuakiri me ngā pākihi hei painga mō tātou katoa pērā i ngā mahi a Te Rēhia me ngā Pākihi Tūruhi. Ka tautoko hoki Te Reo Māori ki ngā whakaaro akoranga, te huanga o te ako i nga reo e rua.

Mauri ora ki te whai ao ki te ao mārama

Background

The state of te reo in Hauraki

The state of te reo in Hauraki is dire. While knowledge and use of te reo is facing a nationwide crisis the number of speakers in Hauraki is lower than other regions. Notwithstanding the Government initiatives over the last 25 or so years, the decline of te reo in the Hauraki region has been ongoing. There has been a failure to either stem the tide of decline or reverse the impact of declining te reo use in Hauraki. The impact of this on all of Pare Hauraki is significant.

As stated in the te reo Māori Tribunal Report, 'If the language dies the culture will die, something quite unique will have been lost to the world.'

A strong and prosperous Hauraki region is dependent on the reversal of this cultural dispossession.

Commitment from the Crown

In 2010 the Waitangi Tribunal released its report on Wai 262 the Te Reo Māori claim. In this report the Tribunal detailed the value of te reo as a taonga to the country and made findings related to the urgent need for the revitalisation of the language.

The present collective negotiations of historical grievances with the Hauraki Collective through their Treaty settlement has provided an avenue for Hauraki iwi to access resources and Crown support for a comprehensive intergenerational

revitalisation strategy. The Te Reo Revitalisation Initiative forms a crucial part of the cultural redress package of the Hauraki Collective settlement.

Long term commitment to revitalizing te reo:

The overall objective is to reverse the declining trend of te reo so as to benefit future generations of Hauraki iwi and all New Zealanders. We are currently working with the Crown as to the form and content of any redress package for the revitalisation of te reo for Hauraki.

A 'Pare Hauraki' that is foundationally strong in the four pou: pou reo, pou kawa/tikanga, pou tāngata, pou marae to create Te Whare Tāhūhū Kōrero o Pare Hauraki in our view will be a catalyst to restore te reo o Hauraki as a taonga to the nation.

Position: Proposed New Māori Language Strategy:

We strongly support;

- Ngā Whāinga' (Key Results):
 - Te Ako i te Reo
 - Te Mana o te Reo
 - Te Kounga o te Reo
 - Te Kōrerotanga o te Reo

- Key principles:
 - Whakamana whānau, whakapiki hapū, iwi.

- Mātāwai:
 - We do not support Te Mātāwai for the following reasons:
 - The proposed structure and make up of Te Mātāwai is not iwi representative, we view it as 'pan Māori' and in reality, from past experience, (e.g. TOKM) iwi, hapū and whānau will be alienated from the process and the ability for influence upon Te Mātāwai decision making. Our relationship with our Treaty partner is with the Crown not through an appointed pan Māori Forum.
 - The transfer of ownership proposal under the described structure and purpose infers that any Hauraki iwi initiative will be reliant upon Te Mātāwai sanction. Again our relationship with the Crown is direct via Te Tiriti o Waitangi, not through Te Mātāwai an appointed pan Māori Forum.

Given the state of te reo Māori in Hauraki (as mentioned earlier), direct meaningful engagement with the Crown needs to start and continue. The proposed structure in the Te Reo Strategy must support and not hinder present direct treaty negotiations outcomes and Te Reo Revitalisation objectives of Ngā Mana Whenua o Hauraki. Future engagements regarding Te Reo Māori needs to be direct with the Crown.

Should you have any questions or queries, please contact:

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on behalf of Ngā Manawhenua o Hauraki

(Hauraki Collective)

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