

Māori Language Strategy Consultation
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Submission to the Government Proposed Māori Language Strategy

**SUBMISSION FROM
NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU IWI INCORPORATED**

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Background

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated (the Kahungunu Iwi Authority) is the mandated iwi organisation responsible for all aspects of Ngāti Kahungunu development. Ngāti Kahungunu has the third largest iwi population (61,626¹) and the second largest tribal rohe and coastline, stretching from Paritu and extending inland across the Wharerata ranges in the north to Turakirae in the southern Wairarapa.

The mission of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated is:

“To enhance the mana and well-being of Ngāti Kahungunu”.

“Tae rawa atu ki te tau 2027 kua noho tonu ko te reo Māori me ōna Ngāti Kahungunutanga, hai reo matua, hai reo kōrero mō Ngāti Kahungunu whānui, ahakoa te kaupapa, ahakoa ki hea.”

“By the year 2027, the Māori language, along with its Ngāti Kahungunu distinctions, will be a principal language of communication for Ngāti Kahungunu in all events and places.”

The newly revised Ngāti Kahungunu Māori language strategy ‘*Kahungunu, kia eke!*’ was released last week at the Waitangi Day celebrations held in Heretaunga (Hastings). The strategy review process has taken close to two years to complete, including numerous consultation hui held within the Ngāti Kahungunu rohe (region) and with Ngāti Kahungunu *taura here* (in other rohe) throughout Aotearoa. This approach was taken to ensure that the new strategy is a fair representation of the hopes and aspirations of Ngāti Kahungunu hapū and whānau. The review team consisted of Leon Blake (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa, Ngāi Tūhoe) and Pānia Papa (Ngāti Raukawa), assisted by Jeremy Tātere MacLeod, the Director of Te Reo, Tikanga me te Mātauranga at Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated. The final result was the newly revised strategy, *“Kahungunu, kia eke! Ngāti Kahungunu Māori Language Strategy 2013-2027*. The release of the Ngāti Kahungunu strategy fortuitously coincides with the current consultation process regarding the proposed new Government Māori Language Strategy.

The Ngāti Kahungunu language strategy highlights the alarming diminishing pool of native speakers and the increased need for in-depth research of unique Ngāti Kahungunu dialectal variations, which some warn is on the brink of extinction. The proposed Māori language strategy poses the question:

Te Kounga o Te Reo

- How can Government support the acquisition, use and maintenance of iwi dialects?

Ngāti Kahungunu recommends:

- The Crown engages with Ngāti Kahungunu to work towards the preservation of our unique tribal dialect variations.
- The Crown provides resource for iwi to ensure that unique tribal dialect variations are safeguarded, preserved and maintained which will in turn encourage usage.
- With the highlighted danger of the imminent loss of native speakers, the Crown must provide immediate funding resource for Ngāti Kahungunu to conduct in-depth research to

¹ 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings, New Zealand Ngāti Kahungunu population only, i.e. excludes the vast overseas population.

- ascertain and gather our unique tribal dialect variations.
- The Māori language along with the Ngāti Kahungunu distinct tribal variations becomes the principal language of communication within Ngāti Kahungunu.

Ngāti Kahungunu believes that the Crown as partner to Te Tiriti o Waitangi must provide iwi the avenue to safe-guard and protect their unique tribal dialectal variations and that without immediate action the tribal dialectal variations will ultimately die out with the increasing loss of native speakers.

In regards to the proposed establishment of Te Mātāwai,

“Te Mātāwai is designed to oversee the transfer of control of te reo Māori back to its tribal origins, and to become the mechanism for mobilising whānau and iwi to reclaim te rangatiratanga o ō rātou ake reo tuku iho – their traditional dialects. The seven main dialect groupings will be represented on Te Mātāwai, as well as urban and national groups with interests in te reo Māori”.

Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc. recommends that the Crown revisits the current proposed structure of Te Mātāwai, which current has only seven iwi representatives, adjusted to be more inclusive of all iwi. The proposed structure will not cater for diverse iwi needs and aspirations as it states if only some (seven main dialect groupings) iwi are being represented. Accordingly, seven iwi representatives are not a fair representation of all iwi of Aotearoa, and one representative for the eight affiliated iwi (Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Ruapani, Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungunu and Rangitāne) of Te Tairāwhiti is not enough to fairly represent the views of all iwi within this region.

Summary of Ngāti Kahungunu Recommendations:

- The Crown revisits the current proposed structure of Te Mātāwai which currently consists of only 7 iwi representatives with a revised structure that is more inclusive of all iwi.
- The Crown engages with Ngāti Kahungunu to work towards the preservation of our unique tribal dialect variations.
- The Crown provides resource for iwi to ensure that unique tribal dialect variations are safe-guarded, preserved and maintained which will in turn encourage usage.
- With the highlighted danger of the imminent loss of native speakers, the Crown must provide immediate funding resource for Ngāti Kahungunu to conduct in-depth research to ascertain and gather our unique tribal dialect variations.

For any enquires regarding this submission, please contact Jeremy Tātere MacLeod, *Director of Te Reo, Tikanga me te Mātauranga* (06 8762718 ex 709) jeremy@kahungunu.iwi.nz .

Nā māua,



Ngahiwi Tomoana
Tumuaki/Chairman
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated



Dr Adele Whyte
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