



**Taranaki Rohe Submission on
The Government's Proposed Māori Language Strategy 2013**

28 Hui Tānguru 2014

He Kupu Whakahau i ngā Rōpū Reo o roto o Taranaki

He kupu mārō, he kupu kaikaha

Nau mai e hoki e te tira takitaki rautaki. Kua tatū iho nei ki te take o Taranaki maunga, he pūtake nō Taranaki tangata. Ka horaina te takapou whariki hei papa rautaki ki te motu, ā, kawea haeretia ki ngā tōpito o tēnei whenua. A tēnā, koia tēnei he kupu whakautu i ngā karangatanga o Taranaki, i Parininihi ki Waitōtara. Kua hui tahi, kua kōrero tahi, kua tau tahi ai ngā whakaaro. Tēnā koutou.

Taranaki has welcomed the consultation group to our rohe and has carefully considered The Government's Proposed Māori Language Strategy 2013 ("Strategy"). On 25 February, 2014 a wide range of iwi and community representatives (25 people) met at Tauranga Ika marae, Waitotara to decide on a position regarding the Strategy. There was a strong alignment of thinking and the points raised in this paper have gained unanimous agreement. Nineteen people signed an attendance register identifying a main group they were representing. Their names and organisations are listed at the end of this submission. Ten key points were developed and reflect the agreed position of those Taranaki groups present. Other Taranaki iwi and community organisations may formally support this submission in part or whole. The following ten key points are not in any particular order of priority.

He Aronga Rautaki a Taranaki – Parininihi ki Waitotara, tatū ki Taipakē

1. The eight iwi of Taranaki have well-established affiliations. For more than twenty-five years we have worked together with Te Reo o Taranaki in a region-wide approach for our reo. We also have a history of working in conjunction with Whanganui. It is unlikely that we will be able to work in any meaningful way with iwi further south. Taranaki has decided to form its own Mātāwai and will be sending our own representatives to best convey our aspirations for the revitalisation of Taranaki reo. The current proposal to recognise seven arbitrary regions to make the formation of a small national Mātāwai easier is not consistent with Taranaki's position.
2. Taranaki will be redesigning its regional strategy inclusive of iwi and community strategies in our rohe. The strategy will be driven by our own self identified needs and aspirations. This proposed national Strategy is not clear in how it will deal with regional strategies. It recognises Kura, Ataarangi, Kohanga, Whakaata Māori, etc. but is largely silent about importance of existing iwi/rohe strategies and initiatives. It needs to recognise current iwi initiatives and leadership and not swamp existing drivers with a generic approach. It is unrealistic to expect these multiple interests to naturally align.
3. The strategy needs to explain how a variety of skill-sets and experience will be included in the national Mātāwai. The body should also ensure there is a

balanced representation of gender. While the Strategy goes to great lengths to incorporate a spread of regional representation with seven geographically determined members, there is no explanation of how a workable set of skills will work around the table, particularly if each member is selected independently of other regions. The knowledge-base and experience for language revitalisation initiatives is potentially more diverse than that seen in the fisheries model described in the strategy.

4. It is our view that Māori language revitalisation should not be simply referred to in the Strategy in general terms; it should be described as the over-riding priority of the Strategy. A high level of understanding is required about what revitalisation entails. The prioritisation of objectives and activities is at risk of being overwhelmed by other priorities that are not well aligned to Language revitalisation. We want to see a strong commitment made to raising critical awareness among participating organisations and a firm primary prioritisation of initiatives that will have a direct impact on community/whānau based intergenerational reo use.
5. Significant apprehension was expressed about the shortness of time and the ability to work on finding solutions on many of the major concerns and gaps of information. There were comments that this was left late intentionally knowing the legislative process is too complex to negotiate so close to an election. Lack of time, capacity and resources limits our ability to have meaningful input into the formation of a robust strategy.
6. We saw that research was included in the proposal but it is unclear about specific priorities. Much is made about research of projects to help ensure accountability and effectiveness of initiatives. We feel the document needs to be more explicit in this area especially on forward thinking research and piloting of innovation. We would like to see an emphasis on research that supports the raising of critical awareness.
7. A lot of our time was taken up with discussion regarding CBLI and Kāinga Kōrerorero initiatives. The transfer of funding streams between agencies has negatively impacted on important funding for vital iwi based initiatives. The Strategy needs new funding given the grossly under-resourced iwi/community-based budget when compared with education, and broadcasting.

8. If the national Mātāwai body is considered to own these initiatives of language revitalisation and its related service delivery then the body should have base-lined budgets. Although there is an expectation for a strong relationship and role of Ministers, the document appears to describe Te Puni Kōkiri in a role of determining the validity and viability of initiatives. With a high level of critical awareness the Mātāwai should have a great role and responsibility in ensuring the initiatives are funded and strategically placed. Their ability to make these decisions and ensure implementation is uncertain.

9. A small point was raised at the presentation in Hawera regarding the use of the words 'quality' and 'kounga' in the third "Result Area" of the Strategy. Our hui agreed that the interpretation of the word is problematic and could be used to disparage genuine efforts to become engaged in language revitalisation. We prefer the terms 'appropriateness' and 'hāngai'. Quality at a national level and in Government contexts can be determined by the proposed Mātāwai, however Taranaki is adamant that the quality of language use in our rohe will be determined by what we consider to be appropriate to our needs under guidelines we will identify and we expect other iwi to do the same. This point is not made clearly enough in the document.

10. While the Strategy has identified a range of reo focussed organisations to select the final two people to fill the Mātāwai seats, there is a need for a body to be formed among language revitalisation centred organisations to ensure this priority is well voiced. Taranaki proposes that a national forum of language revitalisation groups is formed. We intend to pursue this development and expect that this body will be included in the Strategy.

Attendees of hui at Tauranga Ika marae on 25 February 2014

Ruakere Hond	Te Reo o Taranaki
Archie Hurunui	Te Kaahui o Rauru
Atutahi Pirikahu	Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa
Will Edwards	Te Kupenga Matauranga o Taranaki
Te Amoroa Clifton	Te Kura Tuarua o Waitara
Jocelyn Millard	Ngāti Maruwharanui
Mahuru Robinson	Ngā Hapū o Ngāruahine
Ngapera Moeahu	Te Kura o Ngāruahinerangi
Renee Wright	Te Kura o Ngāruahinerangi
Peeti Watene	Te Reo o Taranaki
Mohi Apou	Ngaa Rauru
Te Pahunga Marty Davis	Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi
Mike Noho	Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi
Te Ingo Ngaia	Te Reo o Taranaki
Arohaina Korewha	Te Kopae Piripono
Hinerangi Korewha	Te Kopae Piripono
Ruta Broughton	Te Ataarangi
Leaara Kauika-Stevens	Te Kaahui o Rauru - Takirau Marae
Mitchell Ritai	Te Reo o Taranaki