

**Government Response to  
Report of Māori Affairs Committee  
on  
Review briefing on the 2022/23 annual review of Te Aratuku  
Whakaata Irirangi Māori (Māori Television Service)**

**Presented to the House of Representatives**

**In accordance with Standing Order 256**

# Government response to Report of Māori Affairs Committee on Review briefing on the 2022/23 annual review of Te Aratuku Whakaata Irirangi Māori (Māori Television Service)

## Introduction

- 1 The Government has carefully considered the Māori Affairs Committee (**the Committee**) report on the 2022/23 annual review of Te Aratuku Whakaata Irirangi Māori (Māori Television Service).
- 2 This response reflects the Government's commitment to the partnership approach to the revitalisation of te reo Māori, established by Te Ture mō Te Reo Māori 2016 (**Te Ture**).
- 3 The Government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 256.

## Recommendation and Government response

- 4 The Committee made one recommendation:

*The Māori Affairs Committee has conducted the annual review of Te Aratuku Whakaata Irirangi Māori (Māori Television Service) for 2022/23 and recommends that the Government progress a review of Whakaata Māori's legislation as soon as possible.*

- 5 The Government acknowledges the importance of the legislation under which Whakaata Māori operates being fit for purpose given the evolving media landscape.
- 6 The Government proposes to consider the Committee's recommendation in the context of policy work currently under way, in partnership with Te Mātāwai and with the other Māori language entities. The aim of this work is to consider what shifts are needed in the Māori language sector to achieve high impact outcomes for te reo Māori revitalisation. This policy work is anticipated to be concluded by Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Mātāwai by Hūrae 2025.
- 7 When modernising the legislation, consideration would be given to the impact of digital and emerging technologies, changing audience preferences, and the purpose of Whakaata Māori to protect and promote te reo Māori me ngā tikanga Māori.

### *Māori Television Service (Te Aratuku Whakaata Irirangi Māori) Act 2003*

- 8 The Committee made its recommendation because of Whakaata Māori raising concerns on how the legislation limits it from achieving its purpose to protect and promote te reo Māori me ngā tikanga Māori.
- 9 The Committee considers the legislation of Whakaata Māori requires modernisation to better support its use of digital platforms where it considers that those platforms are the best way to deliver on its purpose.

- 10 The Committee considers the reporting requirements in the legislation should be changed because the requirement for an annual statement of intent is inconsistent with similar entities, too stringent, and an inefficient way to use the organisation's limited resources.
- 11 Section 56 of the Māori Television Service (Te Aratuku Whakaata Irirangi Māori) Act 2003 requires the responsible Ministers – the Minister for Māori Development and the Minister of Finance – to consult with Te Mātāwai on the terms of reference for any review of the legislation.

## **Conclusion**

- 12 The Government agrees in principle to consider whether a full or partial review of the Māori Television Service (Te Aratuku Whakaata Irirangi Māori) Act 2003 is required to ensure the legislation of Whakaata Māori is fit for purpose, efficient and effective.
- 13 This consideration will take place alongside the ongoing work with the Māori language sector to improve Māori language outcomes which is anticipated to be concluded by Hūrae 2025.
- 14 Any changes to the legislation would be made following consultation by responsible Ministers with Te Mātāwai.