



# Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### The Next Māori Purposes Bill: Policy Approval

**Portfolio**                      **Māori Development**

On 11 March 2026, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1        **agreed** that the next Māori Purposes Bill (the Bill) will:
  - 1.1        vest eight Taupō tributary beds in the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board;
  - 1.2        include the management arrangements for transferred tributaries to be the same as for Taupō Waters (including management under the Taupō-nui-a-Tia management plan);
  - 1.3        amend the Māori Trustee Act 1953 to:
    - 1.3.1        enable the Māori Trustee to make grants available from the General Purposes Fund;
    - 1.3.2        repeal spent provisions;
    - 1.3.3        increase the maximum value for an estate that can be administered without a grant of administration;
    - 1.3.4        increase the maximum value for the balance of an estate that the Māori Trustee can elect to administer;
    - 1.3.5        increase the maximum amount the Māori Trustee can provide funds to recognised committees of owners for 'tribal or community' purposes;
    - 1.3.6        increase the maximum value that the Māori Trustee can make small payments owed to claimants without a Court order;
    - 1.3.7        increase the maximum value of a small claim that can be barred by the Māori Trustee if the claimant does not take legal proceedings to Court within a three-month period to enforce the claim; and
    - 1.3.8        amend the maximum value that the Māori Trustee can make grants or loans for the purposes of residential accommodation for Māori who need special care or instruction without approval from the Minister for Māori Development;

- 1.4 amend the Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012 and Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act 2015 to remove encumbrances over Treaty settlement redress land;
- 1.5 amend the Moriori Claims Settlement Act 2021, Ahuriri Hapū Claims Settlement Act 2021, Ngāti Rangitahi Claims Settlement Act 2022, and Ngāti Maru (Taranaki) Claims Settlement Act 2022 to provide for observance of the Matariki public holiday;
- 1.6 repeal the following spent or redundant Acts:
- 1.6.1 the Maori School Sites Act Extension Act 1890;
- 1.6.2 the Maori Purposes Act 1937;
- 1.6.3 the Maori Purposes Act 1938;
- 1.6.4 the Maori Purposes Act 1949;
- 1.6.5 the Maori Purposes Act 1953;
- 1.6.6 the Maori Purposes Act 1961;
- 1.6.7 the Maori Purposes Act 1962;
- 1.6.8 the Maori Purposes Act 1978;
- 1.6.9 the Maori Purposes Act 1993;
- 2 **authorised** the Minister for Māori Development to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decisions above;
- 3 **authorised** the Minister for Māori Development, in consultation with relevant portfolio Ministers, to further clarify and develop policy matters relating to the proposals in the paper under SOU-26-SUB-0016 in a manner consistent with the policy in that paper;
- 4 **agreed** that the Bill include a provision stating that the Act will bind the Crown;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister for Māori Development intends to seek Cabinet Legislation Committee approval to introduce the Bill in due course.

Tom Kelly  
Committee Secretary

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**Present**

Hon David Seymour  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)  
Hon Dr Shane Reti  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Matt Doocey  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Nicola Grigg  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Hon Karen Chhour

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the Minister for Māori Development  
Officials Committee for SOU