

# TALKING POINTS

## Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review project plan and engagement methods

### *Introduction*

- Ministerial Advisory Group (**MAG**) appointed an Independent Technical Advisory Group (**ITAG**), to undertake a review of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 (**the review**).
- The intention is to introduce legislative amendments to the House before the end of the year.

### *Scope for the review*

- The review includes the Tribunal's jurisdiction; types and categorisation of claims; interaction with other legislation; and other matters as identified by ITAG to improve the functionality of the legislation.
- The review does not include any concerns that may be raised by Iwi, Māori and others on issues outside the scope of this Review.
- Those matters will be noted and may be considered as part of wider policy work in 2026.

### *Project plan*

- The project plan includes four key phases:
  - May 2025 – Establishment
  - June 2025 – Engagement (in person and written submissions)
  - July 2025 – Consideration of Review inputs
  - August 2025 – Developing recommendations.

### *Engagement*

- ITAG intends engaging as widely as possible within the review timeframe.
- It is important to ITAG to understand different perspectives of the various parties with an interest in the Waitangi Tribunal and outcomes of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975.
- Inline with the Terms of Reference, ITAG will consider the views of representatives of all branches Government, the Waitangi Tribunal, claimants, and legal professionals.

- ITAG has designed and is implementing engagement with Iwi and Hapū as a priority.
- ITAG intends to hold as many wānanga as practical to inform it's recommendations to Ministers.
- However, given the time constraints of the Review, ITAG will not be able to meet with all interested parties.
- Instead, ITAG will adopt different engagement approaches to meet the needs of different parties.

### *Engagement methods*

- ITAG is organising targeted meetings; written submissions; and regional wānanga to gather insights for the Review.

### *Targeted engagement – Cabinet paper*

The Cabinet paper notes the below on targeted engagement:

- “Genuine engagement with Iwi and Māori will be fundamental to the successful outcome of the review and potential legislative changes.”
- “Engagement will be undertaken with peak Māori entities like the National Iwi Chairs Forum, the Māori Council, and Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa (Māori lawyers’ association) and targeted engagement with Iwi and key Māori organisations that have expertise in Treaty law and legal matters.”
- “My expectation is that officials will engage with Iwi and Māori in a deliberate matter at the outset and throughout the Review.”
- “The engagement will be framed as iterative and targeted, with built-in feedback loops throughout. This engagement is necessary to enable decision-making to effectively consider Iwi and Māori perspectives, particularly as participants in the Tribunal”

Please note that the Cabinet paper does not include the commentary on engagement as a recommendation. Hence, this is not minuted.