

Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review

Independent Technical Advisory Group

Briefing: Progress update

Date: 8 July 2025

To: Hon Tama Potaka – Minister for Māori Development

From: Bruce Gray KC, Chair, Independent Technical Advisory Group

Phone: [REDACTED] Withheld under OIA
S9(2)(a)

Purpose

1. This paper provides you with a progress update from the Independent Technical Advisory Group (**ITAG**), on the process to review the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 (the **Review**).

Background

2. The Review, and the appointment of ITAG was announced on 9 May 2025. The scope of the Review is provided in the Independent Technical Advisory Group – Terms of Reference.¹
3. On 10 June 2025, ITAG provided you with an initial update, including a project plan that sets out phases and deliverables, engagement approach, risks and mitigations, and talking points.
4. On 23 June 2025, ITAG provided a written briefing to update the Ministerial Advisory Group (**MAG**), for the MAG meeting on 24 June 2025. ITAG did not attend this hui.

Progress update

5. ITAG remains on track with all deliverables and timeframes as outlined in **Table 1** below.
6. The next key deliverables to MAG are a further update by the end of July, and draft recommendations by the end of August 2025.
7. ITAG has largely concluded its engagement activities, including targeted meetings, hui with key groups, and three regional wānanga.
8. A small number of short, focussed meetings are planned over the next two weeks with select individuals, groups, Iwi, and claimants in addition to the remaining scheduled hui.
9. A planned wānanga in Waikato did not proceed, due to a timing conflict with local Iwi commitments. We are pursuing a different approach to conclude this engagement.
10. Since the ITAG update to MAG on 23 June 2025, ITAG has held the following hui:

¹ [Independent Technical Advisory Group - Terms of Reference \(May 2025\)](#)

- Three regional wānanga for Iwi, Hapū and claimants (in Northland – Te Tai Tokerau, Gisborne – Tairāwhiti, and Wellington – Te Whanganui-a-Tara),
- National Iwi Chairs Forum,
- Sir Eddie Durie – Former Chair of the Waitangi Tribunal (1980 – 2004) and [REDACTED] Withheld under OIA S9(2)(a)
- Lady Tureiti Moxon – Chair of National Urban Māori Authority and member of the Waitangi Tribunal Strategic Direction Review Group,
- Hon Andrew Little – Former Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations (2017 – 2023),
- Hon Te Ururoa Flavell – Former Minister for Māori Development (2014 – 2017),
- Hon Nanaia Mahuta – Former Minister for Māori Development (2017 – 2020),
- Justice Palmer and Justice Williams,
- [REDACTED] – Co-Presidents of Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa/Māori Law Society, Withheld under OIA S9(2)(a)
- Legal practitioners,
- Crown Law,
- Academics and historians,
- [REDACTED] Withheld under OIA S9(2)(a)

11. Remaining meetings being held in the upcoming two weeks include:

- Hon Judith Collins – Wednesday 9 July 2025,
- Public sector agencies – Friday 11 July 2025,
- Debbie Ngawera Packer and Rawiri Waititi – TBC,
- Labour Party Māori caucus – TBC,
- Waitangi Tribunal Presiding Officers and Members.

12. ITAG is currently receiving written submissions. The submissions period was extended, on request, to provide submitters with additional time to coordinate and prepare their responses.

13. ITAG is receiving and reviewing a range of commissioned research from the ITAG Secretariat, Crown Law, and the Waitangi Tribunal.

Table 1 – High-level work programme

Phase	Objective	Approach	Key deliverables	Date	Status
ONE	Establish ITAG and Secretariat and plan work programme	ITAG induction hui	Induction pack	17 May 2025	Completed
		ITAG hui	Supporting papers	Weekly	Ongoing
	Commence research	ITAG commission Secretariat to undertake research	Research papers	Ongoing	Ongoing
		ITAG instruct Crown Law	Legal advice commissioned from Crown Law	26 June 2025	Complete
TWO	Implement targeted engagement plan	Meetings with key stakeholders	Stakeholder database Letters and participant communications Participant insights and meeting notes	26 May to 17 July 2025	Underway
		Three regional wānanga with Iwi and Hapū and their representatives	Event management Regional facilitators Participant insights and meeting notes	30 June to 3 July 2025	
		Written submissions	Submissions template distributed to Iwi, Hapū, post-settlement governance entities and targeted stakeholders	12 June to 3 July 2025 (three weeks) – extensions to 10 July 2025 on request	

Phase	Objective	Approach	Key deliverables	Date	Status
THREE	ITAG consider inputs to the Review	ITAG hui	Analysis, synthesis and drafting of recommendations Update to MAG	7 July to 31 July 2025 By end July	Underway
FOUR	Finalise report for MAG	ITAG prepare report for MAG	Draft report and recommendations Final report and recommendations	29 August 2025 September 2025	Yet to commence

Risks and mitigations

14. The Review carries inherent public, political and operational risk. ITAG and the Secretariat have undertaken risk analysis and consider that current mitigations are effectively minimising and/or addressing risk appropriately. Risk analysis was included in the project plan provided on 10 June 2025.
15. Risks and mitigations are actively monitored, reviewed and updated regularly as needed.

Next steps

16. ITAG will conclude its engagements by mid-July 2025.
17. ITAG expects to provide a progress update to MAG late July 2025.
18. ITAG will be providing you with review recommendations by the end of August 2025.