

# Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review

## Independent Technical Advisory Group

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### Briefing: Progress update

**Date:** 13 August 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.<sup>1</sup>
3. On 28 July 2025, ITAG provided its monthly written briefing to update the Ministerial Advisory Group (**MAG**). ITAG met with you to discuss this briefing on 29 July 2025.

### Progress update

4. ITAG is now in phase four of the Review, and we remain on track with all deliverables and timeframes as outlined in **Table 1** below.
5. We have confirmed with your office that the draft report will be provided to MAG on Thursday 21 August 2025.
6. ITAG have considered the feedback you shared in your meeting with us on 29 July 2025, as part of ITAG's ongoing deliberations.
7. ITAG have met for a series of focused workshops to finalise our recommendations. We are now engaged in the writing of a technically focused report.

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

**Table 1 – High-level work programme**

Phase	Objective	Approach	Key deliverables	Date	Status
<b>ONE</b>	Establish ITAG and Secretariat and plan work programme	ITAG induction hui	Induction pack	17 May 2025	Complete
		ITAG hui	Supporting papers	Weekly	Ongoing
	Commence research	ITAG commission Secretariat to undertake research	Research papers	Ongoing	Complete
		ITAG instruct Crown Law	Legal advice commissioned from Crown Law	26 June 2025	Complete
<b>TWO</b>	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	Complete
		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
<b>THREE</b>	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	Complete
<b>FOUR</b>	Finalise report for MAG	ITAG prepare report for MAG	Draft report and recommendations  Final report and recommendations	29 August 2025  August and early September 2025	Underway

## High-level engagement summary

8. A high-level outline of themes from engagement insights was provided in the MAG briefing on 28 July 2025.
9. ITAG has organised and participated in 43 engagement events as part of the Review process. This includes meeting with Iwi Chairs and CEOs at the National Iwi Chair Forum on 3 July 2025, and 42 events organised by ITAG:
  - 39 hui / meetings with individuals and groups
  - 3 wānanga.
10. In the 42 events organised by ITAG, we met with 153 individuals, either in person or online.
11. In addition to the hui and meetings held by ITAG, we received 44 written submissions. The majority of written submissions were received from claimants or claimant representatives, iwi/hāpu and Māori organisations.

## Risks and mitigations

12. The Review carries inherent public, political and operational risk. Risks and mitigations are actively monitored, reviewed and updated regularly as needed.
13. ITAG and the Secretariat consider that current mitigations are effectively minimising and/or addressing risk appropriately.

## Next steps

14. ITAG will provide a full draft report to you as MAG Chair, for you to forward to your MAG colleagues, by 10.00am Thursday 21 August 2025.
15. ITAG will be providing you with a final report of Review recommendations by the end of August and early September 2025.