



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Review of the Waitangi Tribunal Legislation

Portfolio **Māori Development**

On 9 April 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU):

- 1 **noted** that, with the expected conclusion of historical inquiries but an increasing workload, it is timely to review the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975;
- 2 **noted** that the National Party and New Zealand First Coalition Agreement includes a commitment to "amend the Waitangi Tribunal legislation to refocus the scope, purpose, and nature of its inquiries back to the original intent of that legislation";
- 3 **agreed** to the scope for the review of the Waitangi Tribunal legislation (the Review) consisting of:
 - 3.1 Tribunal Jurisdiction;
 - 3.2 Types and Categorisation of Claims;
 - 3.3 Interaction with Other Legislation; and
 - 3.4 other matters as identified by the Technical Advisory Group, referred to in paragraph 5 below, to improve the functionality of the legislation;
- 4 **noted** that Iwi, Māori, and other organisations and individuals may raise other issues relating to the form and function of the Waitangi Tribunal in the context of this Review, and those matters may be considered as part of wider policy work in 2026;
- 5 **agreed** that the Review will be led by an independent Technical Advisory Group, supported by Te Puni Kōkiri, which will report back to the Ministerial group (referred to in paragraph 7 below) with recommendations by September 2025;
- 6 **agreed** that the Technical Advisory Group may provide recommendations on prioritising legislative reform within the scope, as set out in paragraph 3 above;
- 7 **agreed** that the Ministerial group of Minister for Māori Development (Chair), Attorney-General, Minister of Justice, Minister for Resources, and Associate Minister of Justice (Hon David Seymour) oversee the review process, including the composition and appointment of the Technical Advisory Group;

- 8 **noted** the range of work underway across the system in relation to Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi matters;
- 9 **invited** the Minister for Māori Development to report back to SOU following the conclusion of the Review, with proposals to address the recommendations of the Review by the end of September 2025;
- 10 **noted** the intention to introduce legislation to amend the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 before the end of 2025.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

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

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU