

## HEI WHAKATAU | BRIEFING

### Public consultation approach for proposed amendments to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993

<b>Date:</b>	19 March 2025	<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Classification</b>	In confidence	<b>Tracking Number</b>	TPK-71932

Action sought	Date action required by
<p>It is recommended that you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Note</b> we provided you with a briefing paper [BP71881 refers] on 21 February 2025 seeking approval to begin Ministerial and departmental consultation on proposed amendments to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993.</li> <li><b>Note</b> that an updated draft Cabinet paper and discussion document were provided to you on 10 March, and these are currently out for Ministerial consultation.</li> <li><b>Note</b> that it is intended the Cabinet paper and discussion document will be considered by the Cabinet Economic Committee on 26 March 2025, with Cabinet approval expected on 31 March 2025 to commence public consultation.</li> <li><b>Note</b> this briefing provides you with an overview of the work that is underway to confirm the public consultation process and how engagement will be regionally delivered.</li> <li><b>Agree</b> to advise officials regarding if you have additional material you would like to see included in the consultation process.</li> <li><b>Note</b> we consider it would be beneficial for a pre-recorded video of you be made to set the scene for engagement, and that it is screened at each consultation session.</li> <li><b>Agree</b> to record an introductory video to be shown during information sessions as part of public consultation.</li> </ol>	28 March 2025

Name	Position	Mobile	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
Paula Rawiri	Hautū – Te Puni Hononga Kaupapa Here	9(2)(a)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Te Paa	General Manager, Policy Partnerships	9(2)(a)	√

Other Agencies Consulted					
<input type="checkbox"/> MBIE	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH
<input type="checkbox"/> MHUD	<input type="checkbox"/> Other				

Attachments	<p><b>Appendix 1:</b> Te Ture Whenua Maori proposed amendments – Indicative engagement plan</p> <p><b>Appendix 2:</b> Other key organisations for engagement</p>
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|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted    | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen     | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |

Minister's office to complete:

☐ See Minister's Notes

☐ Withdrawn

Comments:

19 March 2025

## Public consultation approach for proposed amendments to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993

### Purpose

1. This briefing outlines the regional and national approach to public consultation on amendments to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 (**TTWM Act**) and seeks your agreement to prepare an introductory video for the consultation sessions.

### Background

2. On 21 February 2025 we provided you with a briefing paper [BP71881 refers] which sought approval to begin Ministerial and departmental consultation on proposed amendments to TTWM Act.
3. Updated versions of the discussion document and Cabinet paper were provided on 10 March and are currently out for Ministerial consultation. The papers are due to be considered at the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (**ECO**) on 26 March 2025.
4. Agency consultation concluded on Thursday 6 March. Feedback from that process was considered to update the discussion document and Cabinet paper provided to you on 10 March.
5. Officials are preparing supporting material for consultation. This includes organising the logistics for regional engagement and communications to be ready to go live on 31 March 2025 (subject to Cabinet confirmation of decisions on the same date).

### Outline of planned regional engagement

6. Public consultation is scheduled to run from 31 March 2025 through to the 23 May 2025. An outline of planned regional engagement is provided in **Appendix 1**, including key dates and an indication of where regional sessions will be held. Engagement has been planned with regions and also considers dates for school holidays and public holidays for Easter and ANZAC day, which fall within this period.
7. The engagement schedule will include a combination of regional in-person information sessions, targeted industry group engagements, and online webinars. This approach will ensure broad geographic coverage and also flexibility for those unable to attend in person.
8. The key objectives of the public consultation is to achieve wide awareness that consultation has started on the proposed changes to TTWM, and to encourage people to feedback on these changes. We also hope to ensure Iwi, Hapū and Māori landowners understand this is public consultation that will inform advice to government, which could lead to legislative change. The relationships our teams have in the regions is a real strength for Te Puni Kōkiri and we hope to maximise these networks to get as much quality feedback as possible as well as to continue to build open and trusting relationships with people in our communities.
9. Officials have identified key groups to engage with, including the Federation of Māori Authorities and the Iwi Chairs Forum. A list of proposed organisations is set out in

**Appendix 2.** This is by not an exhaustive list at this stage; therefore we expect to add to this list as interest increases off the back of the regional engagements

10. Further engagement will occur on a smaller scale throughout the regions in May, as regional kaimahi continue to engage with Māori landowners through existing networks.

### **Considerations for planned consultation for the TTWM amendments**

11. We recognise the importance of plain language explanations, bilingual materials, and tailored approaches. This will particularly be important through the regional engagement and information sessions. Emphasis will also be placed on ensuring that landowners are given clear information about how their input will be considered as part of the decision-making process.
12. A comprehensive set of resources is being developed to facilitate engagement. Materials include:
  - a. Fact sheets providing concise information on key topics;
  - b. one-page summaries for quick reference;
  - c. summary of key changes to highlight what is being proposed;
  - d. discussion document outlining the amendments in detail;
  - e. presentations tailored for webinars and hui;
  - f. a Ministerial press release to communicate key messages;
  - g. updates to go on the Te Puni Kōkiri website; and
  - h. feedback forms.
13. To support the consultation process, we recommend you could participate through the creation of a short introductory video that can be shown at the start of the information sessions. A personal message will help demonstrate the Government's commitment to engaging with Māori landowners and provide a clear and consistent message throughout the consultation process of what you are aiming to achieve and why.
14. We will provide you with a script outlining the purpose of consultation, significance of the proposed amendments to the TTWM Act, and the importance of Māori landowners and other stakeholders participating and sharing their views.
15. If you agree, we will liaise with your office to confirm your availability to support the preparation of the consultation video. We propose this is prepared in the week commencing 24 March and it will require approximately one hour to complete.

### **Risks and Mitigations**

16. The two-month period may not provide enough time for landowners to engage fully with the process, leading to concerns about rushed decision-making. To mitigate this risk we intend to clearly communicate the importance of early participation and provide information to ensure landowners are aware of key dates and deadlines. We also intend to emphasise the stages the work will need to progress through, the key decision points (when and by whom) and the next possible opportunity for public engagement through the Select Committee process.

Many landowners may be unavailable for daytime sessions due to work commitments, which could limit participation and exclude key voices. Offering flexible engagement options, such as evening and online participation opportunities will be included to help accommodate different schedules. Our regional offices have provided robust commentary regarding what will work for their specific region.

17. Some participants may raise concerns about how the consultation aligns with wider climate and environmental or Government policy changes, such as the Fast-Track Approvals Bill, Resource Management reforms, water reforms, Public Works Act changes, and the Treaty Principles Bill. These overlapping policy developments may lead to opposition or disengagement for this consultation round. We will be prepared with back-pocket material to respond to any questions that arise about these other reforms.
18. Some landowners may support the overall intent of the legislative reforms but disagree with the scale or specifics of the proposed amendment changes. To manage expectations and encourage constructive engagement, we will provide clear explanations of how feedback will be considered in decision-making. We will also ensure that there are opportunities for discussion where participants can voice concerns, seek clarification, and contribute to shaping the final proposals.
19. Several proposed amendments require increased support and additional roles from the Māori Land Court, which may need further resourcing and funding. The Court has indicated that its ability to deliver these new functions may be constrained without additional support. During consultation, we will acknowledge this potential challenge and explain that while operational resourcing sits outside the scope of these specific proposals, feedback on this issue will be captured.

## **Te Tautuhi-ō-Rongo**

20. Te Tautuhi-ō-Rongo positions the Crown as a responsible guardian of fit-for-purpose legislation, ensuring that it meets its Kāwanatanga obligations to Māori landowners. The amendments outlined in the discussion document reaffirm a commitment to providing Māori landowners and those acting on their behalf with an effective and efficient operational framework.
21. The primary identity impacted by the proposed amendments to TTWM Act are tangata whenua as a collective. This is due to the significance of TTWM Act in supporting access, use, management retention and protection of and connection to whenua. Māori as tangata whenua also have an interest as whenua is often multiple owned, enjoyed as a community and passed down generationally.
22. We aim to provide clear guidance on where we are in the government processes, what steps remain, and how stakeholders can engage. This aligns with our commitment to ensuring those affected understand not only the opportunities for input but also the necessary legislative and policy changes ahead.

## **Next Steps**

23. Following the consultation period, officials will analyse feedback received and provide an updated briefing summarising key themes and suggested revisions to the proposed amendments to you.
24. A summary of feedback document will support the development of the final set of proposals to be included in a TTWM Amendment Bill. Te Puni Kōkiri Technical Advisory Panel will also provide their views about the feedback received.

**It is recommended that you:**

1. **Note** we provided you with a briefing paper [BP71881 refers] on 21 February 2025 seeking approval to begin Ministerial and departmental consultation on proposed amendments to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993.
2. **Note** that an updated draft Cabinet paper and discussion document were provided to you on 10 March, and these are currently out for Ministerial consultation.
3. **Note** that it is intended the Cabinet paper and discussion document will be considered by the Cabinet Economic Committee on 26 March 2025, with Cabinet approval expected on 31 March 2025 to commence public consultation.
4. **Note** this briefing provides you with an overview of the work that is underway to confirm the public consultation process and how engagement will be regionally delivered.
5. **Agree** to advise officials regarding if you have additional material you would like to see included in the consultation process.
6. **Note** we consider it would be beneficial for a pre-recorded video of you to be made to set the scene for engagement, and that it is screened at each consultation session.
7. **Agree** to record an introductory video to be shown during information sessions as part of public consultation.

**Yes/No**

**Yes / No**



**Bernard Te Paa**

Paeārahi, Hauora, Te Puni Kaupapa-Here| General Manager, Wellbeing

Hon Tama Potaka  
Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2025

## Te Ture Whenua Māori proposed amendments – Indicative communications and engagement plan

### Key features for public consultation –

- Formal press release, discussion document and information about the regional and national engagement online from the 31 March.
- Consultation occurs from 31 March to 23 May 2025 (pending formal Cabinet confirmation of approval to consult)

### Key messages

- Messaging must confirm it's not a reform, but a set of discrete changes to improve TTWM Act.
- List of where and when regional information session and online hui are scheduled to occur
- Email invitations to national organisations
- Email messaging sent out advising of the consultation by Te Puni Kōkiri to stakeholders

### Proposed Approach to engagement for regions–

- Regional kaimahi will lead engagement with Iwi and hapori Māori.
- Kaimahi from te tari matua will be present to address pātai on policy/process etc as subject matter experts.
- Initial hui will run concurrently in two regions to get the messaging out earlier and provide wider reach. This will provide more time for regional kaimahi to continue regional engagement post the initial hui (if needed).
- Hui will be conducted as information focused discussion sessions and be for approximately 1 hour duration each.
- Focus of the Hui will be to encourage participants to provide their feedback by email or written form as a submission.

### Proposed Approach to engagement for national organisations–

- Te Tari Matua will lead engagement with national organisations.
- Hui will be held either online or kanohi ki te kanohi, depending on timing and proximity in terms of face-to-face engagements.
- Efforts will be made to hold hui with multiple organisations to be efficient in the outreach.
- Organisations will be encouraged to provide its feedback by email or written form as a submission.

### Risks to be managed

- Some attendees may consider attending the hui and giving verbal feedback is sufficient. We will mitigate this with a short form that can be completed by individuals at the conclusion of the information session. This will be signed and dated by them as their feedback.

### Online hui -

- Will be held on 4 and 29<sup>th</sup> of April
- Proposal to also host an online Iwi Chairs Forum hui week beginning 31 March. Date to be confirmed.
- Specific requests from organisations will be scheduled as they are requested.

### Milestones to measure success -

- Discussions align with tikanga and allow beneficial landowners time to make informed decisions
- Confidence that clarity on the process (when, how to submit) for beneficial landowners, has been achieved
- Te Puni Kōkiri confidently able to advise the Minister that a meaningful, wide-reaching consultation has been delivered.

### Key materials for the hui -

- Presentation (plain English)
- Handouts of presentation
- Computer access/ screen
- Meeting room – seating to suit potential size of audience. In some regions inhouse room may be available, for others a venue will need to be sourced
- Pens/paper
- Catering for morning or afternoon tea.
- Note writers for kaumatua, kuia (if needed)
- Draft feedback template and FAQs

Description	Te Tai Tokerau	Tāmaki Makaurau	Ikaroa-Rāwhiti	Waikato-Waiariki	Te Tai Hauāuru	Te Waipounamu
<b>Date(s) for kanohi ki te kanohi hui</b> (Involves regions and Tari Matua kaimahi)	7-8 April 2025	9 – 10 April 2025	7 - 10 April 2025	14-15 April 2025	14 -16 April 2025 –all 5.30pm hui 23rd April – Nelson	16 - 17 April 2025
<b>Number of hui needed in region and rationale</b>	2 Hui – regional and tari matua subject matter experts (SMEs)	2 Hui – regional and tari matua SMEs  Ongoing regional hui as part of the 'kaupapa' of day-to-day mahi	9 Hui – regional and tari matua SMEs.  2 Hui targeted at Incorporations and Trusts	5 Hui – regional and tari matua SMEs  3 further public Info sessions run by regions	4 Hui – regional and tari matua SMEs	2 Hui – regional and tari matua SMEs
<b>Dates for continued ongoing regional engagement</b> (Regional kaimahi only)	Week commencing 14 April	Week commencing 14 April	Week commencing 14 April	Week commencing 14 – 21 April	Week commencing 14 April	Week commencing 21 April
<b>Location of the hui</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whangarei</li> <li>Kaikohe Venues to be confirmed (TBC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tāmaki Makaurau – Regional Office</li> <li>Te Manukanuka o Hoturoa marae</li> </ul> <p>Venues TBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wairoa</li> <li>Gisborne x 2</li> <li>Ruatōria</li> <li>Te Araroa</li> <li>Masterton Dannevirke</li> <li>Hastings</li> <li>Central Hawke's Bay</li> </ul> <p>Venues TBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hamilton</li> <li>Rotorua</li> <li>Whakatane or Opotiki</li> <li>Tauranga</li> <li>Hauraki</li> </ul> <p>Venues TBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 April Porirua</li> <li>15 April Whanganui</li> <li>16 April - New Plymouth</li> <li>23rd April 2025</li> </ul> <p>Venues TBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Ōtautahi</li> <li>1 x Murihiku</li> </ul> <p>Venues TBC</p>
<b>Regional statistics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5131 blocks</li> <li>123,680 hectares</li> <li>24.1 average hectares per block</li> <li>1008 Governance Entities</li> <li>26.8% blocks governed / 73.4% blocks ungoverned</li> <li>56.6% of total area governed / 43.4% of total area ungoverned</li> <li>184,831 owner interests</li> <li>36 average owners per block</li> </ul> <p><b>NB</b> Figures encompass Whenua Māori in the TPK Region. The Māori Land Court boundary differs as it extends to Mangere Bridge in Tamaki. Wider Auckland region is zoned 70% rural.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>362 blocks</li> <li>8,491.3 hectares</li> <li>90 Governance entities.</li> <li>39.2% governed / 60.8% ungoverned</li> <li>71.3% hectares governed / 28.7 ha ungoverned</li> <li>14,545 owner interests.</li> <li>40 average owner interests per block</li> </ul> <p><b>NB</b> Census 2023 identifies about 203,500 Māori resident in the Tamaki region - many have 'beneficiary' interests in other regions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tairāwhiti (specifically Ngāti Porou) has the highest concentration of Whenua Māori in Aotearoa</li> <li>391,000 hectares of Whenua Māori across our rohe</li> <li>6,900 land blocks</li> <li>28% of Māori land nationally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27+ iwi represented across region</li> <li>9000 land blocks</li> <li>429,500 hectares of whenua Māori across the rohe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4004 land blocks</li> <li>193,972 hectares of whenua Māori across the rohe</li> <li>478,989 + Māori landowners across TTH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,804 land blocks</li> <li>54,731 hectares</li> <li>461 management structures</li> <li>66% whenua blocks managed (80% by area)</li> <li>169,323 recorded landowners</li> </ul>
<b>Audience – Regional level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maori Landowners, Lawyers, Trustees, Regional and City Councils, Papatipu Runanga, and others with whenua Māori interests.</li> <li>Regional Accord discussions – where these proposals can be on agendas.</li> </ul>					
<b>Regional roles</b>	<p>Regional kaimahi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jointly present</li> <li>provide regional context and examples to help audience understand kaupapa</li> <li>Uphold tikanga/kawa.</li> </ul>					



### Other key organisations for engagement

- Federation of Māori Authorities
- Iwi Chairs Forum (Whenua Māori Working Group)
- Te Tai Kaha
- New Zealand Māori Council
- Te Tai Tokerau Māori Landowners Alliance
- Māori Land Court (Te Kooti Whenua Māori)
- Te Tumu Paeroa – The Māori Trustee
- Tairāwhiti Whenua Charitable Trust
- Wi Pere Trust
- Whangārā Farms
- Wairarapa Moana Incorporation
- Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board
- Groups identified by Ministry for Primary Industries.

Note - Other organisations will likely self-identify during consultation, we will engage with them as needed.