

HEI WHAKATAU | BRIEFING

Minster's foreword for the Proposed changes to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 Discussion Document

Date:	Friday 14 March 2025	Priority	
Classification		Tracking Number	TPK-72005

Action sought	Date action required by
It is recommended that you: 1. Approve the draft Minister's foreword to be included in the 'Proposed changes to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 Discussion Document for public consultation'.	Tuesday 18 March 2025

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone	Mobile	1 st contact
Bern Te Paa	General Manager, Wellbeing, Policy Puni		9(2)(a)	
Joanna Pohatu	Policy Manager, Te Pou Taiao, Policy Puni		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	1. Draft Minister's foreword for the Proposed changes to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 Discussion Document for public consultation.
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Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments:



Friday 14 March 2025

Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori
Associate Minister for Māori Development
Minita mō Whānau Ora

Seeking approval of the Minister's foreword for the Proposed changes to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 Discussion Document

Purpose

1. This paper seeks your agreement to include the draft Minister's foreword (*Attachment One*) in the Proposed changes to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 Discussion Document for public consultation (**the Discussion Document**).

Executive Summary

2. The Discussion Document is currently undergoing Ministerial consultation, which is intended to conclude close of business, Tuesday 18 March. Once feedback has been received, Te Puni Kōkiri officials will finalise the Discussion Document to be lodged to Cabinet next week. One outstanding aspect of the Discussion Document is the Minister's foreword, which has been drafted by officials and now requires your approval.

Background

3. Eighteen proposed amendments to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 have been identified. These were identified by staff at Te Puni Kōkiri and in consultation with entities such as Te Tumu Paeroa and the Māori Land Court, as well as yourself in your capacity as Minister for Māori Development. These proposed amendments formed the Discussion Document provided to you on Friday 21 February 2025 [TPK 71881 refers].
4. The Discussion Document provided to you on Friday 21 February 2025 did not include the Minister's foreword; it was noted in the Discussion Document that this was to be added.

Ministerial foreword

5. We have drafted a Minister's foreword for your consideration. This will be included at the beginning of the Discussion Document.
6. The key purposes of the Minister's foreword is to outline:
 - a) The importance of whenua Māori and Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993;
 - b) Why the Government is proposing amendments to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 and what these are aimed to do;
 - c) Alignment with other Government priorities, such as Going for Growth; and
 - d) What we are asking readers to do.

Next Steps

7. Following your approval of the draft Minister's foreword, it will be inserted into the Discussion Document. The next iteration of the Discussion Document (with the Minister's foreword

included) will be provided to you next week (week of 17 March 2025), once updates are made post the conclusion of Ministerial consultation.

Recommended Action

8. It is recommended that you:

1. **Approve** the draft Minister's foreword (*Attachment One*) to be included in the **Yes / No** 'Proposed changes to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 Discussion Document for public consultation'.

Bern Te Paa
General Manager, Wellbeing, Policy Puni

Hon Tama Potaka
Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori

Date: ____ / ____ / 2014

Attachment 1 – Draft Minister's foreword for the Proposed changes to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 Discussion Document for public consultation

Whenua is fundamental to the identity, culture and expression of Māori as tangata whenua, connecting us to whakapapa and traditional knowledge. It represents a living legacy, spanning from our tupuna to our future mokopuna. Beyond its cultural significance, whenua is also a vital resource that drives economic growth, community resilience and positive social outcomes for, with and alongside Iwi, Hapū and Māori communities.

Since its enactment, Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 has been foundational to protecting the retention, use, development and control of whenua Māori as taonga tuku iho. Over the years, this important piece of legislation has been amended to address the needs of Māori landowners. However, we recognise that there are still areas where the system could work more effectively for landowners now and into the future.

As a result, I am proposing a series of targeted improvements to Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 to be introduced through the proposed Te Ture Whenua Maori Amendment Bill. This Discussion Document outlines the proposed changes for you to provide feedback on during public Consultation. Your feedback will support the determination of what the Te Ture Whenua Maori Amendment Bill may look like.

The proposed changes are designed to ensure greater equality of opportunity for and with Māori through streamlining and simplifying processes within the Māori land system. Making it easier for Māori landowners to develop and use their whenua, boost the economic potential of their land and support the continued growth of the Māori economy. These changes aim to help landowners achieve their aspirations for their whenua, while maintaining the necessary protections to ensure whenua remains a taonga tuku iho for future generations.

Going for Growth sets out this government's approach to economic development and opportunities for whenua development is part of this. How we do this for, with, alongside and through Māori is a key ingredient to our success. It is my very strongly held view that we must realise the potential of te ao Māori, whānau, Iwi, Hapū and Māori communities and organisations, if we are to achieve being a leading small, advanced nation. One of which we can all be proud.

I invite you to provide feedback on the proposed amendments outlined in this document. Your insights on potential opportunities, risks, benefits and any alternative options will help guide the development of the amendments. Your input will help ensure that the changes we make truly serve the needs of Māori landowners now and for the future.

Mauriora,

Hon Tama Potaka
Minister for Māori Development