

18 October 2022

Ministry for the Environment

8 Willis Street

Wellington

New Zealand

insights@mfe.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou,

**Te Tira Whakamātaki submission on *Where to From Here? How We Ensure The Future Wellbeing of Land and People* (Consultation on the Ministry for the Environment's draft Long-term Insights Briefing 2022)**

Te Tira Whakamātaki welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Long-term Insights Briefing 2022. Te Tira Whakamātaki is committed to protecting our natural heritage through the use of indigenous knowledge solutions. Our team includes mātauranga experts, Māori scientists, policymakers, and kaitiaki. Accordingly, we are making this submission because we believe that the Long-term Insights Briefing 2022 needs to meaningfully address Māori interests.

**1. Inclusion of Māori in the Consultation Process**

Engagement with a range of Māori voices is important as different iwi, hapū, and whānau all have different views that should be considered. Although it might be more difficult, it is nonetheless important that both rangatahi and kaumatua are sought out by the Ministry when seeking engagement. To have an equal chance at consultation there might need to be special measures taken by the Ministry. The range of rangatahi Māori who did consult on this briefing is disappointingly small. Te Tira Whakamātaki is helping to launch an Indigenous Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Network, which while international in scope, includes several rangatahi Māori working in the environmental space in Aotearoa, and could potentially be consulted with by the Ministry in the future.

## **2. Impact of Negative Environmental Changes on Māori**

While it was briefly noted on page 22 of the draft Long-term Insights Briefing that Māori are disproportionately affected by negative impacts on te taiao (e.g. climate change, pollution, or biodiversity loss), this should also be prominent when discussing those impacts and drivers. On page 42 it is briefly noted that Māori ‘... continue to face systemic disadvantages in Aotearoa...’. This will only worsen as climate change and other impacts affect Māori land-owners and mahinga kai systems.

## **3. Investment in Mātauranga and Māori-led Projects**

As noted on page 24, it is important that Māori are supported to incorporate mātauranga into the protection of te taiao. Investment into Mātauranga and other Māori-led environmental research projects will be crucial to this, as will incorporating genuine co-governance practices into future projects. Māori should be at the forefront of decision-making for environmental policy at every level and should be well-funded on the ground to carry out the mahi required. In particular, on the ground mahi should be funded not just for two- or three-year cycles so that long-term capacity can be built.

## **4. What should be prioritised?**

Clearly, sustained and significant investment into Māori-led environmental efforts is needed. The Ministry needs to uphold their obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi not just for two or three years but with long-term capacity building in mind. Mātauranga and Māori science are areas that need to be given the funding needed to thrive, without significant interference from the Crown. Better consultation with Māori communities may require greater effort and investment from the Crown – for example, paying for the time taken to consult, as many cannot otherwise take the time away from paid work – but will result in better outcomes for te taiao.

Please contact us if you have any further questions or wish to discuss the context of our submission; email .

Ngā mihi,

**Privacy disclaimer**

- We are happy to be contacted in the future by the Ministry for the Environment.
- We do not wish to speak to this submission.
- We give permission for this submission to be proactively published but only after removing any personal details, including names of people and their email addresses. You may publish our organisation's name.
- You may make our submission available in response to requests made under the OIA but must remove or redact personal details, including individuals' names and contact details.
- We request that personal details only are withheld as they are private.