

3 June 2022

Ministry for the Environment

Environment House 23 Kate Sheppard Place,

Pipitea, Wellington 6011

Tēnā koutou,

Te Tira Whakamātaki submission on the Draft National Adaptation Plan to Building a Climate Resilient Aotearoa New Zealand

Te Tira Whakamātaki welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft National Adaptation Plan to Building a Climate Resilient Aotearoa (“the draft adaptation plan”). Te Tira Whakamātaki is committed to protecting our natural heritage through Indigenous-led and Indigenous knowledge solutions. Our team includes mātauranga experts, Māori scientists, policymakers, and kaitiaki. Accordingly, we are making this submission because we believe that the draft adaptation plan should meaningfully recognise the integral role of Māori in climate resilience. Our submission does not seek to represent the views or experiences of all Māori but rather provides our feedback based on our whakapapa and expertise.

1. We support a transformational and system-wide change to address Aotearoa's climate resilience that empowers hapū/Iwi/Māori and centres equitable outcomes.

We agree that climate change requires transformational change that is inclusive, cohesive, connected, planned and dynamic. We are encouraged by the Minister of Climate Change's vision to prioritise climate actions, and we are committed to supporting the implementation of this plan. Our feedback centres on ensuring that the draft adaptation plan and associated action details (as stated in Appendix 3 of the draft adaptation plan) empower hapū/Iwi/Māori and enable rangatiratanga. A draft adaptation plan for Aotearoa must acknowledge its constitutional foundation through Te Tiriti o Waitangi (“te Tiriti”).

2. We support efforts to ensure that kaitiakitanga alongside tino rangatiratanga, affirmed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, informs the direction of the draft adaptation plan

Māori are connected to the environment through whakapapa. We are related and inextricably connected. Our relationship with the environment is intergenerational, intimate and based on reciprocity and a responsibility to give more than we take as a way of life. Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing are increasingly recognised internationally for halting biodiversity decline, and as such Indigenous Peoples are commended for our responsiveness to addressing environmental degradation¹. However, our practices, knowledge and involvement in climate action are indivisible with our expression of te tino rangatiratanga. It is an all-inclusive holistic package. We support efforts to ensure that Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, inform the cross-governmental approach alongside the findings from following reports including Matike Mai², Te Pūtahitanga: A Tiriti-led Science-Policy Approach for Aotearoa New Zealand³, Te Mana Raraunga Māori Data Sovereignty Principles⁴, and the associated briefing with The Rauora Framework developed by the National Iwi Chairs Forum.

3. The Rauora Framework provides a set of priorities and objectives to advance the intergenerational equity of Māori

Intergenerational equity requires empowering communities and providing the tools and resources for us to be teachers, researchers, or to be that Aunty or Uncle at the marae facilitating wananga to share knowledge with the next generation. We support the Rauora Framework and associated briefing⁵ because it provides a framework to empower the intergenerational equity of Māori through the application of a ‘cultural shift model’. As noted in the Rauora Framework,

“Employing an Indigenous worldview to frame the policy response to climate change is investment in a cultural shift model. The central and local government agencies will actively empower (through legislative infrastructure), resource (through financial investment, research sponsorship, R+D investment, data commons) and foster (through funding, stimulus, investment, skills sharing, collaboration) local design (of resiliency solutions, of adaptation

¹ See IPBES Global Biodiversity Assessment 2019

² Matike Mai Aotearoa. (2016). He whakaaro here whakaumu mō Aotearoa. The Report of Matike Mai Aotearoa—The Independent Working Group on Constitutional Transformation. University of Auckland

³ Kukutai, T., McIntosh, T., Boulton, A., Durie, M., Foster, M., Hutchings, J., Mark-Shadbolt, M., Moewaka Barnes, H., Moko-Mead, T., Paine, S-J., Pitama, S. & Ruru, J. (2021). Te Pūtahitanga: A Tiriti-led sciencepolicy approach for Aotearoa New Zealand. Auckland: Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

⁴ Te Mana Raraunga (2018). Principles of Māori data sovereignty. <https://www.temanararaunga.maori.nz/nga-rauemi>.

⁵ The Rauora Framework was developed by Ihirangi, the operational arm of Te Pou Take Āhuarangi (Climate Lead) for the National Iwi Chairs Forum. <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/exploring-an-indigenous-worldview-framework-for-the-national-climate-change-adaptation-plan/>

actions, of wananga, of improving access to skilled practitioners/expertise, of mitigation actions, of culture-shifting actions, of education actions) etc.” (p. 12; Rauora Framework)

The Rauora Framework encourages the Government to be bold in addressing the pressures of climate change while prioritising the health and wellbeing of our whakapapa. It sets out how to empower and walk alongside our people, learn from us, and grow with us together as a nation. We support the Rauora Framework in its entirety.

4. Kaupapa Māori climate action also requires cohesion across the Government

Deploying models that centre our vision and aspirations as whānau/hapū/iwi requires Māori to be involved at all levels of decision-making. It requires cohesion across Government and Local Government to ensure that resources provided to Māori communities are impactful rather than ad hoc and scattered. We are pleased to see that a cross-government approach has been taken. We have provided a table with the action details that specifically focus on Māori outcomes in Appendix 1. However, we acknowledge the importance for Māori to be involved across all action details in the draft adaptation plan. To ensure our communities are aware of the funding and projects available, we suggest that climate resilience support is centralised as a one-stop-shop rather than scattered across the various Government Departments.

5. WAI 262 is critical to consider in any discussion about the environment

The Waitangi Tribunal Claim WAI262 should feature in this draft plan. We note its absence at present. As noted by the Waitangi Tribunal in *Ko Aotearoa tēnei*⁶,

"The Treaty obliges the Crown to actively protect the continuing obligations of kaitiaki towards taonga, as one of the key components of te ao Māori and also obliges the Crown to conduct its conservation activities in a manner that is consistent with the tino rangatiratanga of iwi and hapū to the greatest extent practicable" (pg. 366 -367)

The draft adaptation plan notes a commitment, but it's also important to acknowledge the foundation of its policies.

We are committed to supporting this plan to ensure that the role of Māori is meaningful. We are pleased with the Government's bold commitment to transformational and system-wide change. Please contact us if you have any further questions or wish to discuss the context of our submission; email.

⁶ Waitangi Tribunal. (2011). *Ko Aotearoa tēnei: A report into claims concerning New Zealand law and policy affecting Māori culture and identity*.

Ngā mihi,

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- We are happy to be contacted in the future by the Ministry for the Environment.
- 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.

Appendix 1 – Action Details that focus on Māori outcomes as referenced in the Draft National Adaptation Plan

Objective	Title	Lead agency	Relevant portfolio	NCCRA risks addressed	Timeframe	Implementation progress expected by August 2024
SW1	Establish a foundation to work with Māori on climate actions	MfE	Climate Change	G4	Years 1–2 (2022–24)	TBC – to align with the emissions reduction plan
SW3	Produce guidance on integrating mātauranga Māori into adaptive planning and working with mana whenua	MfE	Climate Change	G4	Years 2–3 (2023–2025)	Publish a delivery plan for this guidance by January 2023.
SW2	Produce new tools and guidance specific to mātauranga Māori and mātauranga indicators	MfE	Climate Change	G1, G4	Years 3–4 (2024–26)	Publish a delivery plan for this guidance by January 2024.
NE1	Develop mātauranga Māori indicators of climate impacts on the natural environment	MfE	Environment	N11, E3	Years 1–2 (2022–24)	Mātauranga Māori indicators have been agreed.
HBP1 and HBP2	Embed adaptation in funding models for housing and urban development, and Māori housing	HUD	Housing	B2, H5, H2, E1, E6	Years 1–2 (2022–24)	By August 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will review the funding programmes it administers and amend them to appropriately consider climate-related risks.
HBP3 and HBP4	Support kaitiaki communities to adapt and conserve taonga/ cultural assets	MCH	Culture and Heritage	H5	Years 1–6 (2022–28)	Working with iwi/Māori and relevant agencies, completed a high-level understanding of existing activities/ support for planning and adapting and of potential gaps (2022–23). Begun working with relevant partners on how we might improve support and access to information on cultural assets to help kaitiaki to self-determine adaptation pathways (2023–24).
HBP3	Partner with iwi to facilitate through Iwi Management Plans	HUD	Housing	B2, H5, H8, G4, G1	Years 3–4 (2024–26)	Not applicable – action to be delivered after August 2024.
HBP3	Partner with Māori land owners to increase the resilience of Māori-owned land, homes and cultural sites	HUD	Māori Housing	B2, H5, H8, G4, G5	Years 3–4 (2024–26)	Not applicable – action to be delivered after August 2024.
HBP4	Research how cultural heritage contributes to community wellbeing and climate change adaptation	MCH	Culture and Heritage	H8	Years 1–4 (2022–26)	Initial 'literature review' on the current state of knowledge completed. Includes identification of key stakeholders and existing research programmes.

HBP4	Produce guidance for disaster risk management for cultural heritage	MCH	Culture and Heritage	H8	Years 2–5 (2023–27)	Current knowledge of disaster risk management in relation to cultural heritage captured and key stakeholders identified and engaged with.
HBP4	Develop a framework for assessing exposure and vulnerability of cultural assets/taonga to climate change	MCH	Culture and Heritage	H8	Years 1–3 (2022–25)	Relevant partners (including iwi/Māori and relevant agencies across national adaptation plan) identified. Research on how we identify taonga/cultural heritage at risk from climate change at national and local levels completed. With partners, draft framework developed for engagement with wider interest groups/stakeholders.
C2	Assess socioeconomic and climate vulnerability for Māori	TPK	Māori Development	H2	Year 1 (2022/23)	A scope for this work is underway and will be completed by June 2022. This will enable more specific indicators to be developed. Insights have been developed on intersecting Māori climate and socioeconomic vulnerability, and a plan is in place for these to be shared by the end of 2024.
EF1	Support Māori small business resilience and transitions	TPK	Māori Development	E3, E4, E5, H2	Years 1–4 (2022–26)	By August 2024, resilience and transition supports for Māori small and medium enterprises are established and have been accessed by 1,000 Māori small and medium enterprises.
EF1	Deliver the Māori agribusiness extension	MPI	Agriculture	E3, H5, H6, G4	Years 1–6 (2022–28)	Terms of reference for the steering group to lead development of the tikanga-based programme are in place by November 2022. Two MABx panels will assess project proposals by June 2023 for the Māori advisor's aspect.