

## In Confidence

Office of Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori

Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Government response to the Māori Affairs Committee report on Te Mātāwai

### Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks Cabinet Legislation Committee approval of the Government response (Appendix 1) to the recommendations in the Māori Affairs Committee report on Te Mātāwai.

### Relation to Government Priorities

- 2 This response reflects the Government's commitment to the partnership approach to the revitalisation of te reo Māori and its efforts to advance the Maihi Karauna and support the Maihi Māori in order to strengthen the implementation of Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora.

### Background

- 3 The Māori Affairs Committee (**the Committee**) met between 16 November 2022 and 21 June 2023 to consider its report on Te Mātāwai. The Committee heard evidence from Te Mātāwai on 15 March 2023.
- 4 On 30 June 2023, the Committee presented its report on Te Mātāwai to the House of Representatives.

### *Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora*

- 5 Te Mātāwai is an independent statutory entity established by the Te Ture mō Te Reo Māori 2016 (**Te Ture**) to represent iwi and Māori on matters relating to the revitalisation of te reo Māori and support the revitalisation of te reo Māori in homes and communities – operating within the framework of Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora – the house of the living language (**Te Whare**).
- 6 Te Whare represents an active partnership between the Crown, and iwi and Māori (represented by Te Mātāwai) to revitalise te reo Māori.
- 7 Te Ture took a different approach to the earlier government strategies by legislating dual strategies, one led by the government and the other by iwi and Māori. The strategies draw on the framework of Te Whare whereby the two maihi (bargeboards), support each other meeting at the kōruru (the apex). One maihi represents the iwi/Māori language strategy – the Maihi Māori – and

is developed and delivered by Te Mātāwai. The other maihi represents the Crown Māori language strategy - the Maihi Karauna – which is issued by the Minister for Māori Development.

- 8 The vision for Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora is 'Kia mauri ora te reo Māori' (Making Māori language a living [language]).
- 9 Te Whare describes, in te ao Māori terms, the roles required to support the revitalisation of te reo Māori at national and community levels. The Taraiti and Taranui of Te Whare speak to the responsibilities that iwi / Māori and government agencies undertake within Te Whare. One should lead (Taraiti) while the other supports and guides (Taranui), as at a pōwhiri. The Te Whare approach privileges the haukāinga to lead, as the kaitiaki of te reo Māori, while the Crown is on the manuhiri side.
- 10 The Crown's responsibility, as the holder of the Taranui space, is to be a responsive and supportive partner. At the operational level, the government is required to develop and implement the Maihi Karauna. The Maihi Karauna sets out how government agencies resource, coordinate, and manage services, programmes, and policies to create the necessary macro level conditions.

#### **Māori Affairs Committee recommendations**

- 11 The Committee made two recommendations; these are that the Government:
  - 11.1 increase funding for Te Mātāwai and investigate ways to better support an equitable partnership between Maihi Karauna and the Maihi Māori in te reo Māori revitalisation; and
  - 11.2 consider how it can best track and report on overall public sector expenditure for initiatives that support te reo Māori revitalisation.

#### **Background to the proposed Government response**

- 12 As part of Budget 2023 Te Mātāwai received \$10.4 million in further funding reflecting a \$2.6 million annual increase in funding. The funding is intended to support additional capacity for Te Mātāwai's leadership role across te reo Māori. It is part of a broader approach to increase investment over time in the revitalisation of te reo Māori through efforts reflected across Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora.
- 13 Additional investment through Te Mātāwai in te reo Māori revitalisation in homes and communities will be considered through annual Budget processes and decisions.
- 14 The Maihi Karauna 2019-2023 is set to be refreshed, with work planned to begin next year. As part of the refresh, there will be an opportunity to consider options for reporting and tracking expenditure for te reo Māori revitalisation efforts across the public sector. Currently agencies report on their expenditure on te reo Māori as part of their existing accountability and reporting requirements. The current requirements do not easily enable a coherent and

coordinated picture of government expenditure across the public sector on efforts directed specifically at language revitalisation to be presented. A specific requirement to track and report on this work will need to be considered for any refreshed Maihi Karauna.

### **Proposed Government response to Māori Affairs Committee recommendations**

- 15 I propose that the response states that Government:
- 15.1 agrees in principle to investigate ways to better support an equitable partnership between Maihi Karauna and the Maihi Māori in te reo Māori revitalisation;
  - 15.2 note that ongoing work across Government is already aligned with this recommendation and recent increases to funding for Te Mātāwai were announced in Budget 2023;
  - 15.3 note that further increases to funding will need to be considered through future Budget processes and decisions;
  - 15.4 agrees in principle to investigate and consider how the Government can best track and report consistently and transparently on te reo Māori revitalisation expenditure across the public sector through the refresh of the Maihi Karauna; and
  - 15.5 note there have been recent efforts, notably by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, to track and report on expenditure for initiatives to support and strengthen te reo Māori revitalisation efforts across the public sector.

### **Timing of Government response**

- 16 The Government response must be presented to the House of Representatives by 25 September 2023 to ensure compliance with Standing Order 256.

### **Financial Implications**

- 17 There are no immediate financial implications for the proposals in this paper. Any future funding decisions will need to be considered through future Budget processes and decisions.

### **Population Implications**

- 18 Government commitment to revitalising te reo Māori is a Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligation through te reo Māori being a taonga under Article II, and by way of the principle of active protection.
- 19 Te Ture mō te reo Māori 2016 created a partnership for the revitalisation of te reo Māori between the Crown and iwi and Māori. The legislation acknowledges that iwi and Māori are the kaitiaki of te reo Māori, while

recognising that the Crown expresses its commitment to work in partnership with iwi and Māori to actively protect and promote te reo Māori for future generations.

- 20 Under section 14, the Public Service Act 2020 requires public service Chief Executives and agencies to lift the cultural capability of staff and their organisations.

### Consultation

- 21 We consulted with Te Mātāwai officials during the development of the Government response and with Te Mātāwai Co-chairs, and Te Mātāwai officials again during Ministerial and departmental consultation respectively.
- 22 The following departments and agencies have been consulted on the proposed Government response: Public Service Commission, the Treasury, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and Te Arawhiti.

### Communications

- 23 The proposals in this paper are expected to be communicated by being tabled and presented in the House of Representatives no later than 8 September 2023.

### Proactive Release

- 24 The Minister for Māori Development intends to release this paper proactively in whole or part within 30 business days of final decisions being made.

### Recommendations

- 25 The Minister for Māori Development recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

1 **note** that on 30 June 2023 the Māori Affairs Committee presented its report on Te Mātāwai to the House of Representatives

2 **note** that the Māori Affairs Committee recommended that the Government:

2.1 increase funding for Te Mātāwai and investigate ways to better support an equitable partnership between the Maihi Karauna and the Maihi Māori in te reo Māori revitalisation; and

2.2 consider how it can best track and report on overall public sector expenditure for initiatives that support te reo Māori revitalisation

3 **note** the proposed response that Government:

3.1 agrees in principle to investigate ways to better support an equitable partnership between Maihi Karauna and the Maihi Māori in te reo Māori revitalisation, notes that ongoing work across Government is already

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aligned with this recommendation and recent increases to funding for Te Mātāwai were announced in Budget 2023

- 3.2 notes that further increases to funding will need to be considered through future Budget processes and decisions
- 3.3 agrees in principle to investigate and consider how the Government can best track and report consistently and transparently on te reo Māori revitalisation expenditure across the public sector through the refresh of the Maihi Karauna
- 3.4 notes there have been recent efforts, notably by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, to track and report on expenditure for initiatives to support and strengthen te reo Māori revitalisation efforts across the public sector
- 4 **approve** the Government response, attached to this paper, to the report of the Māori Affairs Committee's briefing on Te Mātāwai
- 5 **note** that the Government response must be presented to the House of Representatives no later than 8 September 2023
- 6 **invite** the Minister for Māori Development to present the Government response to the House of Representatives in accordance with Standing Order 256.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Willie Jackson

Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori