

**Government Response to the
Report of Māori Affairs Committee briefing on
Te Mātāwai**

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 256

Government response to Report of Māori Affairs Committee briefing on Te Mātāwai

Introduction

- 1 The Government has given careful consideration to the report of the Māori Affairs Committee (**the Committee**) briefing on Te Mātāwai.
- 2 The Government's response to the report has been prepared in accordance with Standing Order 256.

Government response to the Committee's briefing and recommendations

Recommendation 1: that the Government increase funding for Te Mātāwai and investigate ways to better support an equitable partnership between Maihi Karauna and Maihi Māori in te reo Māori revitalisation.

Response:

- 3 The Government welcomes the Committee's support and interest in ensuring a more equitable partnership between the Maihi Karauna and the Maihi Māori.
- 4 The Government agrees in principle to investigate ways to better support an equitable partnership between Maihi Karauna and the Maihi Māori in te reo Māori revitalisation.
- 5 There has been ongoing work across government over the last few years that is in alignment with the recommendation. Some of this work has been developed in partnership between the Crown (represented by Government) and iwi and Māori (represented by Te Mātāwai).
- 6 Regarding the section of recommendation 1 to increase funding for Te Mātāwai, it is the Government's position that any future funding decisions will need to be considered through future Budget processes and decisions.

Te Ture mō Te Reo Māori 2016

- 7 Te Ture mō Te Reo Maori 2016 (**Te Ture**) reaffirmed the Government's commitment to te reo Māori and established Te Mātāwai as an independent statutory entity to provide leadership on behalf of iwi and Māori in their role as kaitiaki of te reo Māori. Te Ture sets the frame for a new operating model for language revitalisation built on **partnership** as represented in the conceptual framework, Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora.

Te Rūnanga Reo

- 8 Te Rūnanga Reo is a partnership forum between Ministers and Te Mātāwai which was established by Cabinet to set the shared direction of Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora, and to identify opportunities and issues of shared importance [CAB-Min-15-0168 refers].

- 9 Te Rūnanga Reo has the infrastructure to give effect to equitable partnership. However, best practice on how to utilise the forum is still evolving due in part to delays to the Maihi Karauna strategy and its forums caused by COVID-19. Despite this, there have been notable developments in the past 18 months such as agreement in principle to the kawa and ritenga which supports and enables Te Rūnanga Reo and the organisations within Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora. These kawa and ritenga provide guidance to how an 'active partnership' enshrined in Te Ture can be realised so that collective impact and outcomes for te reo Māori and its kaitiaki, iwi and Māori can be achieved.
- 10 Te Rūnanga Reo is in place to enable the partnership relationship and now with the kawa and ritenga in place it can evolve to an active partnership forum focused on strategic issues to support the revitalisation of te reo Māori.
- 11 We are also considering potential future areas where Te Rūnanga Reo can play a more prominent role, including having discussions about resourcing and investment within Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora.

Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori

- 12 Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Maihi Karauna under Te Ture. Cabinet also noted that Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori is to support language planning, and coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Maihi Karauna [MCR-18-MIN-0012 refers].
- 13 Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori has been reporting on the progress and functionality of the Maihi Karauna and Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora over the past few years. The recently completed Formative Evaluation of Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora 2021/2022 outlined suggested areas for improvement that focus on how to work together in partnership as envisioned by Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora. The report also notes there is overwhelming consensus for a more involved leadership role from Te Rūnanga Reo and that it could meet more regularly to provide direction, visibility, and credibility to Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora.
- 14 The refresh of the Maihi Karauna (2019-2023) provides an opportunity for the Government to consider incorporating the recommendations from the Māori Affairs Committee into sharpening the strategy and implementation of the government's efforts to revitalise te reo Maori.

Review of Te Ture mō Te Reo Māori 2016

- 15 The review of Te Ture produced recommendations to strengthen Te Ture where it makes sense to do so, including improvements to ensure the Maihi Karauna and Maihi Māori are more united and complementary, as was intended by Te Ture, and for this to be reflected in future decisions on resourcing.
- 16 The development of a joint work programme under Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora is under consideration to address improvements outside of the legislation through current operational practice and policy settings. It was recommended that this work programme be taken under the leadership of Te

Rūnanga Reo. This presents an opportunity for the forum to be more participatory and reflective of partnership and joint strategic decision-making.

Recent and future increases to Budget

- 17 Budget 2023 announced an increase in funding of \$2.6 million to support Te Mātāwai and their work which funds whānau, hapū, iwi and hapori based initiatives aimed at revitalising te reo Māori. This is part of a larger package of \$10.4 million over four years. Baseline funding for Te Mātāwai for 2023/24 is \$14.8 million, the additional funding represents an 18 percent increase and a total allocation of \$17.4 million over the next four years.
- 18 The additional funding will:
 - 18.1 build strategic capability and capacity within Te Mātāwai to support its partnership with government;
 - 18.2 support the functioning of Pae Motuhake that are responsible for guiding te reo Māori revitalisation in their regions; and
 - 18.3 create provisions for new locally based te reo Māori champions who will support whānau, hapū, iwi, and communities, including through administrative assistance for revitalisation initiatives.
- 19 Any decisions to increase funding for Te Mātāwai will need to be considered through future Budget processes and decisions.

Recommendation 2: Consider how it [the Government] can best track and report on overall public sector expenditure for initiatives that support te reo Māori revitalisation.

Response:

- 20 The Government agrees in principle to the recommendation to investigate and consider how to best track and report on expenditure for initiatives that support te reo Māori revitalisation across the public sector.
- 21 While public sector agencies individually report on their expenditure, including resources that support te reo Māori, there is no coordinated or coherent reporting on expenditure specifically identified to support te reo Māori revitalisation activities. Efforts have been made, notably by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, to track and report on expenditure by agencies for initiatives through monitoring and evaluation activities to support and strengthen te reo Māori revitalisation efforts across Government.
- 22 Whilst Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori has no legislative requirement or mandate to monitor or report on expenditure relating to te reo Māori initiatives, it has encouraged individual agencies to report on their expenditure and has periodically collected their findings through Maihi Karauna Annual reports using surveys and interviews.
- 23 Reporting against Maihi Karauna activities including expenditure by agencies has been inconsistent. Te reo Māori initiatives often sit within baselines and or are not specifically tagged as supporting te reo Māori initiatives therefore making it more difficult to identify, which can be disincentivising for agencies. There is

also a distinction between resources to support te reo Māori provision and those activities directed at te reo Māori revitalisation.

- 24 Any options for reporting and tracking expenditure for te reo Māori revitalisation efforts across the public sector moving forward will be considered as part of the work to refresh the Maihi Karauna.

Conclusion

- 25 The Government agrees in principle to investigate ways to better support an equitable partnership between Maihi Karauna and Maihi Māori in te reo Māori revitalisation and notes that steps are already being taken to address this recommendation to ensuring better utilisation of existing infrastructure including Te Rūnanga Reo. The Government agrees in principle to the second recommendation, due to its complex nature Government will need to spend time examining past and existing efforts to track expenditure that support te reo Māori initiatives through the refresh of the Maihi Karauna to inform the best approach moving forward.