



Hui Taumata 2024 – Discussion document

Murua te reo - Use of te reo Māori when engaging with central government

A large rōpū of Ngāruahine attended Te Hui ā Motu, Ratana, Waitangi, the Ngāti Toa Rangatira led protest in Pōneke regarding the Fast-track Approvals Bill and now look to attend Te Hui Taumata. From the release of the coalition agreements, we have been targeted in our campaign and informed by these series of hui and kōrero within our own Iwi. How can we be tactical, effective and impactful in our approach?

Sparked on by the words of Kīngi Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII at Te Hui ā Motu:

*“The best protest we can do right now is **be Māori**. Be who we are, live our values, **speaking our reo**, care for our mokopuna, our awa, our maunga, just be Māori. Māori all day, every day. We are here, we are strong.”*

A key response to the policy agenda is the utilisation of te reo Māori in our engagement with central government, the purpose of this is to:

- demonstrate the value and demand for te reo Māori in real terms; and
- create resourcing pressure on the government policy agenda.

Me waipuke e tātou i te whenua ki te reo Māori – Impact

- One 5 minute OIA request or services enquiry in te reo Māori costs the Government \$375 in additional te reo Māori resourcing
- If just 50% of Ngāruahine speakers ensured that one single engagement point with the government is in te reo Māori – that will result in **\$375k of additional te reo Māori resourcing**
- If just 50% of Ngāti Kahungunu speakers ensured that one single engagement point with the government is in te reo Māori – that will result in **\$3.46m of additional te reo Māori resourcing**
- 186,000 of people in Aotearoa can hold an everyday conversation in te reo Māori. If just 50% of speakers ensured that one single engagement point with the government is in te reo Māori – that will result in **\$34.87m of additional te reo Māori resourcing**

To put this into perspective, this simple tactic will cause resourcing pressure that exceeds the annual budget of Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori by two fold. No contestable funding process, no better business case, no Vote Māori budget bid needed – an easy \$34.87m of additional te reo Māori resourcing demand created.

E ai ki a Tā Timoti Kāretu “Me waipuke e tātou i te whenua ki te reo Māori.”

Murua te reo

Murua te reo references the mamae of muru and the negative impact it had on our connection with whenua, and subsequently our connection to our reo. Successive governments have oppressed our reo, misappropriated our reo and now want to erase our reo and Te Tiriti. Murua te reo, plays on the notion that the use of our reo is a form of protest, retribution, but also a cathartic process of reclamation and empowerment.

We understand this response will have an impact on our whanaunga in the public service, and we want to ensure that our intentions are well communicated, this includes:

- Our engagement intentions are legitimate. While we want to demonstrate demand for te reo Māori, we have no intentions to create unnecessary work. We are simply doing business as usual, but in our reo.
- This isn't a one-off campaign. The impetus for this response is the policy agenda, however, this also led us to asking - are we embodying the values and objectives we are espousing? Therefore, this is a long-term commitment to ensure te reo Māori is our reo of mahi.

We have started this strategy internally within Te Korowai o Ngāruahine. This strategy is targeted and effective, but to maximise scale and impact, we require the commitment of all our te reo Māori speakers. We would like the opportunity to launch the Murua te reo campaign and promote this tactical approach at Te Hui Taumata.

Murua te reo!



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Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust (Te Korowai) is a PSGE and does not have any political affiliations, and we will work alongside any government to progress the interests of Ngāruahine. Equally, we have the responsibility of challenging any statutory reforms and policies that conflict with the interests of Ngāruahine.

Te Korowai has released a position statement on the Government's policy agenda which can be found [here](#), and on our planned response found [here](#).