

Kaupapa Māori Policy

Vision

The Green Party envisions a nation in which He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirene and Te Tiriti o Waitangi are accepted and celebrated as the founding documents of Aotearoa New Zealand and the status of Māori as tangata whenua is recognised and respected. We seek a future where tino rangatiratanga is achieved. We affirm the value of te ao Māori to all people in Aotearoa, and affirm Māori collective rights over both tangible and intangible taonga. We acknowledge the need for the Crown to recognise the full harm of colonisation and to support initiatives that restore the mana of iwi, hapū and whānau.

Key Principles

1. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a living constitutional document and provides a foundation for our country, establishing governance by the Crown, guaranteeing tino rangatiratanga to iwi and hapū, ensuring equal rights for all citizens as individuals, and affirming protection for religious, cultural and spiritual rights of all peoples (see [Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy](#) and [Democracy and Constitutional Reform Policy](#) for further detail).
2. Recognise and support iwi and hapū rights under Te Tiriti o Waitangi to manage and develop their resources sustainably.
3. Respect kaitiakitanga rights of iwi and hapū, and support shared decision making with mana whenua in all matters involving conservation and water management, agriculture, waste, transport development and the marine environment.
4. Local economic development by, with, and for tangata whenua should be promoted in all regions.
5. Whānau, hapū, and iwi, and other Māori organisations, must be properly resourced and enabled to support the needs of Māori communities.

6. The Crown must provide particular support for hauora Māori, recognising the existing health disparities and the responsibility to provide funding to address this.
7. All people in Aotearoa should have the opportunity to learn te reo Māori, both tangata whenua and tauwiwi, with a particular focus on education at all year levels of our schools. The Crown has a responsibility to ensure the protection of taonga, including Māori arts and culture; and must support and contribute to the revitalisation of toi Māori, tikanga Māori and te reo Māori.

1. Rangatiratanga and the Crown/Māori relationship

The rangatiratanga of mana whenua, set out in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Article 2), is a collective human right protected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (See our [Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy](#) for further detail on giving effect to rangatiratanga)

Policy Positions

- 1.1. Support implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with the interests of tangata whenua as the principal consideration of its implementation.
- 1.2. Support the entrenchment of the Māori seats so that there is guaranteed Māori representation in the current form of Parliament.
- 1.3. Support and resource the investigation of how to implement recommendations from the Matike Mai constitutional transformation report.
- 1.4. Enable Māori voters to change from the General to the Māori roll, or vice versa, at any time, and support a public information campaign to highlight the opportunity to change enrolment before each election.
- 1.5. Promote and support guaranteed tangata whenua participation in local governance through the establishment of Māori wards.
- 1.6. Amend the Public Works Act to prevent compulsory acquisition of Māori customary and Māori freehold land, as defined in the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act.

2. Ngā here kaupapa taiao – Affirming and supporting kaitiakitanga

We acknowledge and affirm Māori rights of kaitiakitanga over natural resources and support co-management where possible.

Policy Positions

- 2.1. Support an increased role for tangata whenua as kaitiaki of their rohe, in both urban and rural areas, including formal recognition of rāhui.

- 2.2. Enable mana whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga over the marine environment, including customary and commercial fishing resources, and reform legislation on marine reserves to better enable solutions that promote ecosystem protection and customary rights.
- 2.3. Resource local Government and iwi and hapu to develop and implement Mana Whakahono ā Rohe.
- 2.4. Recognise the cultural heritage value of traditional Māori plants and animals, such as the kiore, and develop strategies to ensure these species are conserved in areas where they will not seriously threaten indigenous species.
- 2.5. Increase funding to help Māori landholders actively manage and protect indigenous habitats and ecosystems.
- 2.6. Respect mātauranga Māori concepts for environmental management and affirm the relevance of these concepts for decisions about natural resource use, including mahinga kai.
- 2.7. Implement recommendations of Ko Aotearoa Tenei Waitangi Tribunal (WAI262) report.

3. Ngā here kaupapa ohaoha Māori - Access to economic prosperity

Effects of colonisation and Tiriti breaches have excluded Māori from receiving a fair share of the benefits of economic development. This needs to be urgently addressed in the transition to a fair and sustainable society.

Policy Positions

- 3.1. Ensure Government economic and environmental policy recognises the needs of Māori and maximises opportunities for Māori-led sustainable economic development.
- 3.2. Support programmes to enable Māori into higher-paid areas of employment.
- 3.3. Support recruitment policies to actively encourage Māori applicants, particularly in the public sector, and especially new graduates; and support policies to encourage all workplaces to identify and address institutional racism in recruitment and promotion practices.
- 3.4. Recognise the importance of local economic development by, with, and for tangata whenua.
- 3.5. Ensure New Zealand only enters international trade and investment treaties if these preserve rights under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

4. Ngā here kaupapa tangata – Social policies

Māori systems of social support should be nurtured, and Government systems of social support should recognise the needs of Māori communities. We recognise that tikanga Māori, including whanaungatanga and manaakitanga, should underpin social policies.

A. Education

All people in Aotearoa should have the opportunity to learn te reo Māori and understand the history of Aotearoa, both tangata whenua and tauwi, with a particular focus on education at all year levels of our schools. Tamariki Māori should feel nurtured, supported, and confident in their identity and whakapapa, whether at kura kaupapa or in mainstream education. Māori education should receive adequate Crown funding and support, while retaining Māori control.

Policy Positions

- 4.1. Introduce universal teaching of Te Reo Māori as a core curriculum subject through to year 10 and universally available elective Te Reo Māori learning through to year 13, and provide the resources necessary to enable this.
- 4.2. Increase funding for Māori-medium education, including kura kaupapa, kōhanga reo, and mainstream te reo immersion and bilingual learners, including funding for professional support of Māori-medium teachers.
- 4.3. Provide support, including scholarships, to encourage teachers to train for and teach in full immersion and bilingual educational institutions.
- 4.4. Support and expand programmes that focus on cultural activities, such as kapa haka.
- 4.5. Promote better responsiveness of tertiary educational institutions to the needs of Māori students and support Te Wananga o Aotearoa to continue to develop new models of Māori tertiary education.

B. Justice

The Green Party acknowledges and supports the effort within the Māori community to develop working models of Māori justice processes. The Greens recognise there is benefit in borrowing from both restorative justice and Māori justice models. Tikanga based justice is as an expression of sovereignty under Te Tiriti and can be a more effective way of reducing re-offending. Reducing the overrepresentation of Māori in prisons is urgently important. We endorse better support for Māori victims of crime, and recognise that many Māori offenders are themselves victims.

Policy Positions

- 4.6. Support the development of wānanga to transmit and extend such knowledge, and funding for the implementation of such processes.
- 4.7. Ensure that tikanga and reo programmes, prepared and delivered by Māori, are readily available in all prisons and youth justice centres.
- 4.8. Facilitate hapū and iwi collaboration in prison and youth justice centre management.
- 4.9. Fund the development of Māori focus units in all prisons and youth justice centres.
- 4.10. Require corrections and probations officers to undergo training to ensure they are responsive to the cultural backgrounds of inmates, including basics such as pronunciation of names and understanding of tikanga.
- 4.11. Kaupapa Māori rehabilitation programmes and Māori restorative justice models should have an ongoing role in our criminal justice system and should be adequately resourced, especially through Rangatahi and Matariki Courts.
- 4.12. Drivers of crime that disproportionately affect Māori need to be addressed, in particular, more effective intervention for children at risk of harm - acknowledging the interconnected, intergenerational, and complex causes of family violence.
- 4.13. Increased support for whānau, hapū and iwi to intervene around at-risk children instead of Oranga Tamariki to reflect the importance of maintaining whakapapa connections.
- 4.14. All aspects of the criminal justice system should be responsive to tikanga Māori and should address potential for racism (structural or otherwise) to ensure fair and appropriate treatment of Māori.

C. Health

The needs and preferences of Māori whānau, from the beginning of life to the end of life, must be recognised and respected in the development and delivery of health services.

- 4.15. Increase accessibility of health services to Māori, including through provision of community and marae-based services.
- 4.16. Increase funding of Whānau Ora. Whānau Ora has the ability to improve whānau outcomes across multiple areas, not just health.
- 4.17. Support measures aimed at addressing the continuing disparities in the standards of health between Māori and non-Māori.

- 4.18. Promote culturally appropriate healthcare for both physical and mental health at all phases of life, and ensure public health initiatives take account of the particular needs of Māori.
- 4.19. Support Māori to train as health professionals, including through scholarships, and support targeted professional development for Māori seeking management roles in the healthcare sector.
- 4.20. Support Māori-led health care during hapūtanga. Support kaupapa Māori initiatives to reduce smoking during pregnancy, promote breastfeeding, and address risk factors for Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome.
- 4.21. Acknowledge the value of rongoā and affirm that iwi and hapū have intellectual property interests in rongoā.