



Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy

The Māori Party is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa. The Government has an obligation to honour and protect the rights of Māori guaranteed under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Māori Party will:

- ✓ **Entrench** Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all legislation.
- ✓ **Empower** the Waitangi Tribunal to make binding recommendations.
- ✓ **Implement** a suite of overlapping policies and law changes that recognise the status of Māori as tangata whenua and uphold the rights guaranteed to Māori in Te Tiriti.
- ✓ **Give** Māori voters the right to change from the General Electoral Roll to the Māori Roll at any time.
- ✓ **Progress** the Crown's WAI 262 response.
- ✓ **Implement** the [UNDRIP](#)
- ✓ **Progress** the Crown's response to the Kōhanga Reo Claim.
- ✓ **Establish** the role of a Treaty of Waitangi Commissioner as an Officer of Parliament.

Māori representation and Tiriti

- ✓ **Retain** the Māori electoral seats as our birthright and make a provision that only Māori will decide when or if they no longer need them.
- ✓ **Amend** the Māori electoral option to enable Māori voters the right to change from the General Electoral Roll to the Māori Electoral Roll at any time.
- ✓ **Legislate** for Māori seats in Local Government without the need for a referendum and on District Health Boards as of right.

Treaty settlements

- ✓ **Continue** to support all Treaty settlement legislation that implements agreements reached between the Crown, hapū and iwi.
- ✓ **Support** the protection of Treaty settlement land and whenua Māori from compulsory acquisition under the Public Works Act.
- ✓ **Press** for funding for Treaty settlement education in all schools.
- ✓ **Support** the return in Treaty settlements of cultural icons such as maunga.
- ✓ **Continue** to support the transfer, co-governance and special recognition of wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga and wāhi whakahirahira through historical Treaty settlements.
- ✓ **Ensure** the value of settlement land will be locked in and will not be re-opened if there is a delay that cannot be attributed to the iwi.
- ✓ **Continue** to protect the integrity of Treaty settlements that have been completed.

- ✓ **Press** strongly for any potential breaches to be identified, acknowledged and remedied immediately in the letter and spirit.
- ✓ **Advocate** for greater acceleration in the identification of Crown land by LINZ.

Legislative reform and Tiriti

- ✓ **In consultation** with whānau, hapū, iwi, and hapū the Māori Party will progress:
 - NRAIT and Mawhera Leases
 - Taranaki Annuity
 - Rua Kenana Statutory Pardon
 - Protect property rights and fisheries settlements in the Kermadecs Ocean Sanctuary Bill
- ✓ **Repeal** local government laws regarding the Māori wards referendum threshold and legislate for Māori representation on local wards.
- ✓ **Amend** the Electoral Act to:
 - Ensure persons of Māori descent are automatically enrolled on to the Māori roll
 - Every three years have an 'opt-off' option
 - Reduce the boundaries of the current Māori electorates; and
 - Entrench the Māori electorate seats
- ✓ **Repeal** the Public Works Act to exempt Māori land and land for Treaty settlements from compulsory or voluntary acquisition.

- ✓ **Amend** the Urban Development Authorities Bill currently provides that Urban Development Authorities (UDAs) to ensure mana whenua are represented on all UDAs.
- ✓ **Amend** the Immigration Act to include tikanga Māori in its application and incorporate a pledge to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Oath of Citizenship.
- ✓ **Review** of the Crown's structure and process for addressing Marine and Coastal Act applications to identify and address any unnecessary delays and ensure justice is not delayed for Māori who have made applications under the MACA.
- ✓ **Update** the Treaty of Waitangi Exception Clause in existing and future Free Trade Agreements with Māori legal experts, drafted in both English and Te Reo Māori, with the Māori text given precedence in the event of any disputes.
- ✓ **Press** for the Public Works Act to be amended to prohibit the compulsory acquisition of whenua Māori and any other land returned to an iwi or hapū as cultural redress in a Treaty settlement.
- ✓ **Support** the review of MACA process and government structures.

Freshwater and Tiriti

Māori see freshwater as a *tāonga* protected under Te Tiriti.

Therefore, the Māori Party will:

- ✓ **Set up** a Royal Commission of Inquiry in to water rights and interests.
- ✓ **Stop** the export of water by foreign owned companies.
- ✓ **Legislate** to protect freshwater and give it the status of tāonga.
- ✓ **Introduce** a levy on water used for commercial purposes.

- ✓ **Set up** annual Te Mana o Te Wai funding to support community projects such as planting riparian buffers and establish wetlands.
- ✓ **Establish** Regional Water Authorities based on a co-governance model re: management, clean up, allocation and development rights, of water.
- ✓ **Ensure** Te Mana o Te Wai is the overarching objective for freshwater management.
- ✓ **Impose** a moratorium on the sale of water (this includes all water used/sold for commercial use including water exports by foreign companies) so that issues around water, namely quality, management and ownership, can be addressed.
- ✓ **Make** the freshwater standard 'drinkable'
- ✓ **Prioritise** action to counter the effects of pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus that are leaching into our waterways.
- ✓ **Support** funding for the capturing of rainfall and better clean water storage systems particularly in rural areas.

Immigration and Tiriti

- ✓ **Introduce** a Te Tiriti o Waitangi programme as a prerequisite to gaining citizenship, meeting language and settlement requirements.
- ✓ **Introduce** a compulsory Te Tiriti o Waitangi educational programme for all international students studying in Aotearoa to grow their cultural understanding of tangata whenua and enrich their study abroad experience.