



## Briefing: Māori Climate Platform Initiative

**Date submitted:** 9 February 2024

**Tracking number:** BRF-4150

**Security level:** Classified

**MfE priority:** Urgent

Actions sought from Ministers		
Name and position	Action sought	Response by
To Hon Simon WATTS, Minister of Climate Change	<b>note</b> the platform initiative's context and proposed options. <b>note</b> the risks associated with the proposed options <b>agree</b> on Option 3: Continue with current delivery approach but cut the outyear funding <b>agree</b> to receive further advice on option 2 regarding terminating the current contract and re-scope the delivery of the platform initiative	14 February

### Actions for Minister's office staff

**Return** the signed briefing to the Ministry for the Environment ([ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz)).

### Appendices and attachments

1. CAB-23—MIN-0445.01 Minute

s 9(2)(i)

### Key contacts at Ministry for the Environment

Position	Name	Cell phone	First contact
Principal Author	Anahera Nin		
Responsible Manager	Donald Matheson		
General Manager	Clare Maihi	021417676	✓

### Minister's comments

# Māori Climate Platform Initiative

## Key messages

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1. The Ministry has provided you with advice on meeting its baseline savings targets [BRF-4127 and BRF-4168 refer]. This briefing provides you additional information on the Māori climate platform (the platform) initiative.
2. The development of the platform is a key action in both the first emissions reduction plan (ERP) and the national adaptation plan (NAP), as actions 2.1 and 3.3 respectively. It is also in part a response to the Ministerial requirements set out under the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (CCRA), and recommendations by the Climate Change Commission (CCC).
3. In March 2022, Cabinet agreed to establish the platform initiative to support Māori climate action and a te Tiriti-led approach to an equitable transition for Māori. A key element of the platform is the longer-term, or enduring, positive impacts it could generate within Māori communities.
4. In October 2023, Cabinet agreed in principle to the Oho Mauri Charitable Trust (the Trust) being the independent governance entity to establish and deliver the platform, subject to a report-back in August 2024 seeking to confirm this agreement [CAB-23-MIN-0445 refers].

s 9(2)(i)

6. A total disbursement of non-departmental funding up to \$19M over three years (up to \$3M 23/24, up to \$6M 24/25, and up to \$10M 25/26) is available for the delivery and operation of the platform s 9(2)(i) Cabinet has approved a further \$10M from 26/27 and in outyears s 9(2)(i)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

## Recommendations

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We recommend that you:

- a. **note** the platform initiative's context and proposed options
- b. **note** the risks associated with the proposed options

Yes/No

Yes/No

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

## Signatures

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Clare Maihi  
General Manager – Te Tiriti & Te Ao Māori  
**Date: 9 February 2024**



Hon Simon WATTS  
**Minister of Climate Change**

**Date:** 15/2/2024.

## Māori Climate Platform Initiative

### Purpose

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11. To provide you with information on and options for the Māori climate platform (the platform) initiative. This should assist with decisions needed to finalise the Ministry's baseline savings requested by the Minister of Finance.

### Background

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#### *Māori climate platform initiative*

12. Māori communities, land, and taonga (including but not limited to infrastructure, assets, marae) are disproportionately impacted by climate change.
13. Engagement with Māori identified elevating te ao Māori and resourcing Māori to progress their own climate solutions as priorities to help mitigate increasing climate risks and the impacts of a low-emission economic shift.
14. The Māori climate platform initiative was developed as a Māori-facing approach, to support on-the-ground, pragmatic climate action, and build knowledge and skills in this area.
15. The platform initiative is a key action in both the ERP and the NAP (Actions 2.1 and 3.3 respectively) and currently one of very few actions in both plans that is focused on climate action outcomes for Māori. It also delivers on key Ministerial requirements under the CCRA.
16. The platform's development as a 'by Māori, for Māori climate initiative' has enabled the progression of a positive working relationship between the Minister of Climate Change, the Ministry and with the National Iwi Chairs Forum's Pou Take Āhuarangi.
17. In March 2022, Cabinet agreed to establish the platform to support Māori climate action and a te Tiriti-led approach to an equitable transition for Māori through Aotearoa New Zealand's climate response [MCR-22-MIN-0007 refers].
18. Cabinet agreed that the platform would be established in two phases to allow for collaboration with iwi/Māori:
  - Phase one: an Interim Ministerial Advisory Committee - Māori climate platform (the Committee) to provide recommendations for a more enduring governance mechanism, prior to seeking Cabinet agreement [MCR-22-MIN-0007].
  - Phase two: establishment of the enduring mechanism for Māori partnership and representation across the climate response.

19. In October 2023, Cabinet agreed in principle to the Interim Ministerial Advisory Committee's recommendation for the Oho Mauri Charitable Trust (the Trust) to be the independent governance entity to deliver the platform, subject to a report-back in August 2024 seeking to confirm this agreement [CAB-23-MIN-0445 refers, included as Appendix 1].
20. Specific functions for the platform as outlined in the Committee's recommendations include:
- coordination of Māori perspectives on climate change.
  - identification of gaps or barriers to action.
  - distribution of funding for Māori communities across the country, to support climate projects at place.
  - regular evaluation of funded projects to build an evidence base about different Māori climate responses.
21. Cabinet also agreed to establish a new non-departmental output expense appropriation "Supporting Equitable Transitions and Climate Resilience for Māori" in Vote Environment, to be administered by the Ministry for the Environment (Appendix 1).
22. The scope of this appropriation is limited to contribution to funding kaupapa Māori and tangata Māori (for Māori, by Māori) solutions for climate change and related operational costs.

s 9(2)(i)

### ***Funding available for the platform initiative***

24. Through the first round of Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funding, a multi-year appropriation of \$30.5M (\$19M of non-departmental and \$11.5M departmental) funding was received for the platform initiative for FY 22/23 to FY 25/26. Following Cabinet approval of the platform's continued development and operation, these funds were drawn down to the Ministry.
25. Cabinet approved outyear non-departmental funding for the platform from FY26/27 onwards of \$10M. s 9(2)(i)
- The draw down of these funds was intended to be dependent on the outcome of the August 2024 report to Minister of Climate Change and subsequent Cabinet decision, as well as future Budget bids.
26. The non-departmental funding available is to support community-led Māori climate action, via the platform. This includes:

- \$1M in FY22/23 for a community-led Māori climate action pilot. This has been carried over to 23/24 and is available now. The purpose of this pilot is to build understanding and inform the enduring form of the platform.
- \$8M (\$8M FY24/25) for community-led Māori climate action foundational investment (i.e. capability, data, and knowledge).
- \$10M is held for the platform's operations in FY25/26, to continue building on the foundational investment.


27. The \$11.5M of departmental funding is for the Māori Climate Action team and the platform's operations:

- \$2M of this funding has been held for the platform s 9(2)(i)
- The remaining \$9.5M is for the Māori Climate Action team's operations and should not be considered.

s 9(2)(i)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)


s 9(2)(f)(iv)



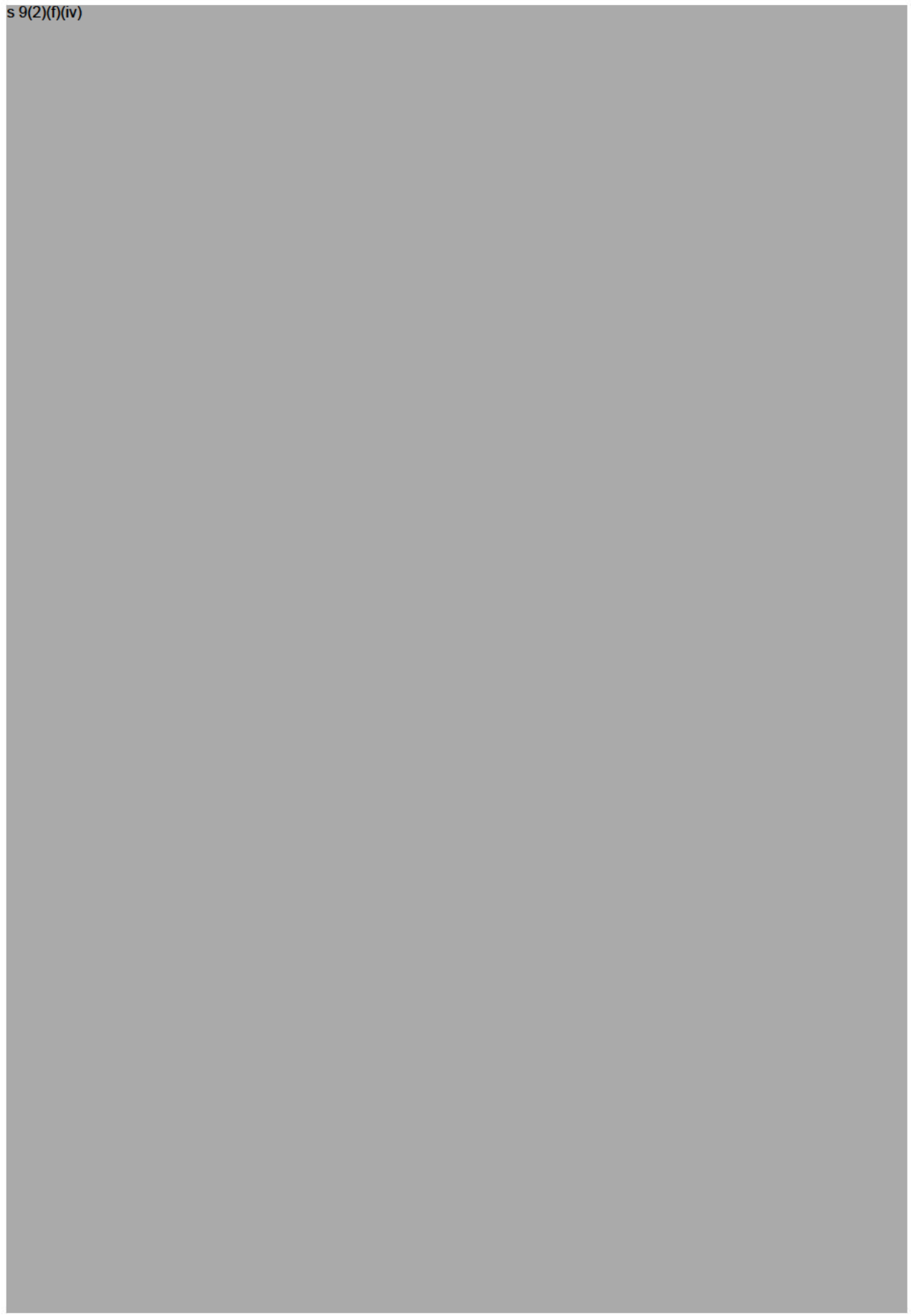
## **Analysis and advice**

34. Below are options that provide a way forward for this initiative:


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## **Te Tiriti analysis**

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59. The platform proposal arose from engagement with Māori, in response to feedback, as well as evidence from the CCC, that Māori do not currently have sufficient resourcing, capacity or capability to take an effective role in the climate response. The platform initiative is an example of the Crown listening to, and acting on, the advice of our Treaty partners about matters that directly affect them.
60. The platform has been cited in various communications relating to climate change initiatives for iwi/Māori. Communications on the platform to date include:
- a dedicated publication on the Ministry's website on the platform and the Committee
  - specific email updates to iwi/Māori on the platform
  - NICF Forum updates to iwi/Māori
  - engagements with specific iwi providing updates on the platform where appropriate.
61. Risks associated with Te Tiriti have been identified in the options advice provided above and will be expanded upon in the legal section below.

## **Other considerations**

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### **Risks and mitigations**

62. Risks outlined above.
63. The reduction of resources or changes in delivery approach may impact the relationship with NICF given Pou Take Āhuarangi's work with the Ministry to establish this initiative. However, Oho Mauri Charitable Trust have previously advised officials that they lead the platform independently from NICF but maintain a constructive relationship with the forum in the interest of transparency and collaboration.
64. While Oho Mauri Charitable Trust and Pou Take Āhuarangi share a co-chair in Mike Smith, their independence means direct relationship impacts on NICF are

mitigated so long as changes to the delivery of the platform are well communicated. It is not clear how well socialised the current status of the Māori Climate platform is throughout the wider NICF and iwi/Māori.

## Legal issues

s 9(2)(h)



### **Financial, regulatory, and legislative implications**

- 72. Cabinet agreed to charge the operating expenditure associated with this initiative against the Climate Emergency Response Fund for the period 22/23 to 25/26. After this period operating expenditure will impact OBEGAL and net debt directly.
- 73. The CERF process for new initiatives has been paused with no expenditure allocated as part of Budget 24.
- 74. Existing CERF funding for approved initiatives remains in place and appropriated. As a result, any changes to initiatives, including requests to return funding, will likely require cabinet decision.
- 75. Exiting this initiative will return any remaining funding to the Crown.

### **Next steps**

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- 76. You will continue to have budget discussions with key officials and Ministers. It is expected that this briefing note will inform these discussions and decisions.

## **Appendices**

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Please see appendices as attached via email to the Minister's office.

Appendix 1: [CAB-23-MIN-0445.01 Minute.pdf](#)

s 9(2)(i)



s 9(2)(i)



s 9(2)(i)

