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Policy	**Honouring Te Tiriti**
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Te Tiriti, Rangatiratanga and Māori Development

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the foundation of the relationship between Māori and the Crown.

Opportunity supports a durable, practical approach to that relationship: honour the commitments already made, ensure legislation gives proper effect to Treaty obligations, create better ways to address long-term constitutional questions, remove distinctive barriers to Māori economic development, and devolve responsibility where Māori organisations are better placed to achieve results.

Treaty Settlements

Treaty settlements create enduring commitments for the Crown as well as for claimant groups.

Opportunity will:

- Honour existing Treaty settlements and ensure Crown agencies give effect to the commitments they contain.
- Complete outstanding historical settlements fairly and efficiently.
- Restore the customary marine title settings that applied before the 2025 changes, providing greater stability and certainty for groups seeking recognition under the Marine and Coastal Area framework.

The Crown should be as reliable in keeping its side of a settlement as it expects others to be in keeping theirs.

Legislation

Treaty obligations arise differently across different areas of law. Opportunity supports legislation that reflects the actual rights, responsibilities and purpose involved in each case.

Opportunity will:

- Review recent changes to statutory Treaty provisions and amend them where necessary to give appropriate effect to substantive Crown obligations.
- Assess Treaty provisions statute by statute, rather than applying a single formula across unrelated laws.
- Make Treaty analysis a stronger part of transparent, high-quality lawmaking, so Parliament and the public can see what obligations were considered and how they influenced the proposal.

The objective is clear law that gives practical effect to Treaty obligations where they arise.

Role of Te Tiriti

New Zealand has unresolved long-term questions about the relationship between parliamentary democracy, Te Tiriti and the exercise of rangatiratanga.

Opportunity supports addressing those questions through careful deliberation rather than repeated changes driven by short-term parliamentary majorities.

Opportunity will:

- Support a national constitutional conversation about the long-term place of Te Tiriti within New Zealand's constitutional arrangements.
- Use deliberative democratic processes, including the principles developed through Opportunity's Citizens' Voice policy, to enable informed public participation.
- Ensure Māori participate as a Treaty partner in any process directly concerning the Treaty relationship, alongside wider democratic participation.
- Seek durable areas of agreement that can command legitimacy across generations.

Any constitutional change should follow a process that is informed, transparent and capable of building broad public confidence.

Economic Development and Access to Capital

The Māori economy is a major and growing part of New Zealand's productive economy. Māori businesses and collective asset owners should be able to invest and grow within the same competitive economy as other New Zealand enterprises.

Some Māori ownership structures create distinctive barriers to finance and investment, particularly where collective ownership and protections against alienation do not fit conventional lending models.

Opportunity will:

- Work with Māori asset owners, lenders and institutional investors to improve access to capital for commercially viable projects.
- Support financing models that can recognise project cash flows, lease income and other forms of security where conventional mortgage security is unsuitable.
- Ensure Māori businesses can fully access Opportunity's innovation, investment, commercialisation and export policies.

The aim is straightforward: viable Māori businesses and developments should not be held back simply because the financial system was designed around different ownership structures.

Devolution

Rangatiratanga should have practical expression in the way the government makes decisions and delivers services.

Where Māori organisations have the capability, mandate and local knowledge to achieve better outcomes, Opportunity supports shifting responsibility closer to the communities affected.

Opportunity will:

- Apply a presumption in favour of devolution where it can improve outcomes.
- Match the level of Māori decision-making authority to the nature of the issue, ranging from consultation through to co-design, delegation or independent decision-making where appropriate.
- Give devolved organisations meaningful operational autonomy, alongside clear expectations for outcomes, financial integrity, transparency and the protection of individual rights.
- Use longer-term funding arrangements for organisations with a strong record of delivery, allowing them to invest in capability and plan with greater certainty.
- Evaluate devolved approaches and expand those that demonstrably work.

Opportunity's approach is greater Māori agency with clear accountability for results.