

The Takutai Moana Engagement Strategy (the strategy) sets out the approach the Crown is taking to engage with and support iwi, hapū and whānau applicant groups who are seeking recognition of existing customary interests in the takutai moana under te Takutai Moana Act 2011 and Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019.

Under the strategy, the Crown is committed to working together with all applicants to support the progress of applications in all coastal areas in a fair, transparent, and timely manner.

The strategy provides opportunities to all applicant groups to work with and receive support from the Crown regardless of which coastal area their application relates to and whether they are seeking recognition from the Crown directly or through the High Court. The strategy promotes better cohesion between the two pathways.

The Crown will actively support applicant groups to discuss application areas where there are shared or overlapping interests and to work together to develop an approach for their coastal area. This may include agreeing the use of tikanga-based processes to guide and underpin partnership and engagement arrangements.

The strategy:

- is a nationwide approach to engagement, covering all applicants
- enables the Crown to better support applicant groups
- enables a fair, transparent and timely process for engagement leading to recognition of longstanding customary interests where the legal tests can be met
- was developed as a result of taking on applicant feedback

The strategy is underpinned by five core values



The Crown seeks to work together with groups in all coastal areas concurrently in three phases, as and when applicants are ready. These phases are not necessarily linear and there are no set timeframes. It may take a shorter or longer time in some coastal areas.

Initial engagement

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This phase starts with discussion between the Crown and applicants to confirm the coastal area and all the applications within that area, including the interconnected nature of the applications and their respective boundaries. These discussions will help to identify the support needed by applicants, which could include, funding, research, and support to discuss shared or overlapping interests. Discussion focuses on the approach, timeframes and processes for the coastal area, and agreeing next steps.

Research & evidence

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This phase focuses on the core work of research and evidence gathering about customary interests and may include ongoing discussions about shared or overlapping customary interests through appropriate tikanga processes. This phase may also include opportunities for non-applicants to provide information about their use of, and connection to, the takutai moana.

Determination & recognition

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The collected evidence from applicants, the Crown, and non-applicants will be considered by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations or by the High Court. Applications may be decided in full or in part. Where customary interests are recognised, this phase also includes the processes needed to give full legal effect to that recognition.