

**Index to appendices to brief of evidence of Dayle Takitimu dated 12 May 2025**

	<b>Document</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1	Letter from Minister Watts dated 14 March 2024	1
2	Letter to Minister Watts and Minister Potaka dated 22 April 2025 setting out the agreements and understandings from the meeting.	2 - 6

**RECEIVED**

Waitangi Tribunal

**13 May 25**Ministry of Justice  
WELLINGTON

# Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change  
Minister of Revenue



14 March 2024

Oho Mauri Charitable Trust

*By email:* rangiwhere@gmail.com; dtakitimu@taunakilegal.com; lani.kereopa@gmail.com; jacqui@parakore.maori.nz; veronica.baldwin@outlook.co.nz; Nicolamacdonald17@gmail.com; Tbdean7@gmail.com; tumukorero@gmail.com; david.perenara-o'connell@ecan.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou Trustees

## **Deeds of Funding between the Ministry for the Environment and Oho Mauri Charitable Trust – Māori Climate Platform**

I am writing to follow up on the milestones that you have delivered to the Ministry for the Environment as part of deeds of funding #26762 and #26763, and to express my concerns about how the funding agreement is progressing.

As you are aware, in August, Cabinet will consider whether to continue with the project through the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Financial Years. I am aware of the following issues which may impede my August report-back;

- Concerning time delays in meeting agreed objectives
- Some deliverables do not reflect an acceptable level of planning or standard required to establish and govern the platform
- Inadequate information related to projected expenditure.

I acknowledge and thank you for the work that you have done to date, however I would like you to halt further work on the contracted deliverables until your co-Chairs and myself can meet to discuss the future of the platform project. My office will be in contact to set up a meeting, hopefully during the week commencing 25 March 2024. I very much look forward to a positive outcome for the platform's continuing development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Simon'.

Hon Simon Watts  
**Minister of Climate Change**

---

22 April 2024

Hon Simon Watts  
Minister for Climate Change - Manatū mo te Taiao  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Minister for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti  
WELLINGTON

By email: [Simon.Watts@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Simon.Watts@parliament.govt.nz)

Cc: Hon Tama Potaka, [Tama.Potaka@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Tama.Potaka@parliament.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe e Simon, kōrua tahi ko Tama,

Thank you for our recent meeting which we consider was a positive way of addressing the progress of the Māori Climate Platform.

We acknowledged the receipt of your recent communication concerning the Māori Climate Platform (MCP) and addressed several critical issues outlined therein. We also noted that the tone of the correspondence was strong and that you stated that you were not interested in the past but rather how this programme would proceed.

In this letter we address the risks to Government that we perceive could occur if the trajectory of the project is significantly altered, and on page 4 we have recommendations on next steps.

In summary:

The Ministry for the Environment has allocated a substantial grant to support the Oho Mauri Charitable Trust in implementing pilot initiatives for Māori climate action and establishing the Māori Climate Platform. This project is a pivotal step towards enhancing climate resilience within Maori communities through tailored, community-driven approaches.

Specific Points Raised

1. **Removal of Current Correspondence.** The initial request and agreement to retract the letter is noted. This step is essential to maintain the decorum and mutual respect necessary for our ongoing collaboration.

## **2. Clarifications of the Māori Climate Platform's Purpose.**

The MCP's objective remains steadfast, to foster collaboration and constructive outcomes, supporting the best possible results for all stakeholders.

Any alteration in the trajectory of the MCP's ongoing work presents substantial risks. These include commitments already made and legal obligations that must be fulfilled. Abrupt changes could significantly undermine the efforts and progress thus far. Therefore, maintaining the current course of action until the completion of our objectives is strongly advised.

## **3. Reputational Risks as follows:**

- a) The upcoming pilot projects, including the regional climate wānanga for youth, are crucial. These initiatives are aligned with both national interests and international climate strategies, reflecting our commitment at the recent COP meeting.
- b) Significant resources have already been allocated, with national youth networks informed and venues booked. The potential reputational damage from withdrawing support at this juncture could be considerable, not only to the MCP but also more broadly to the government's standing with respect to indigenous and youth engagements.
- c) Furthermore, any deviation from the promised funding and support risks legal repercussions, potentially culminating in judicial review under stringent provisions of the Climate Change Response Act. Such actions could critically impede the ongoing climate initiatives and New Zealand's adherence to international commitments like the Paris Agreement.

## **4. Funding has already been committed.**

The budget allocations are already in place as is the governance board. It would be easier to leave the budget allocations in place and let the work happen than remove essential work-streams for te ao Māori and rangatahi.

There was unanimous support for the MCP from the National Iwi Chairs forum when the MCP was announced, and subsequently the MCP has been unanimously supported at every quarter, except for one iwi technician (not an iwi chair). This technician was mistaken in thinking that his hapū/iwi was being forced to go through the MCP for not only cyclone recovery but any future climate programme funding exclusively.

There is considerable anger and resentment being expressed in Te Ao Maori currently about "race based" cuts of Māori specific programmes. The continuation of this project is a way to show balance and equity particularly in relation to Climate Change as a declared National Emergency.

## 5. Legal Risk

5.1 The government's legal requirements regarding Emissions Reduction are dependent on the Māori Climate Platform under the Climate Change Response Act (the Act) and the government Emissions Reduction Plan:

- a) In the ERP Actions 2.1 the government committed to establishing and funding the Māori Climate Platform.
- b) In the ERP Action 2.3 the Māori strategy was to be drafted by the MCP.
- c) In the Act section 5ZI(2)(A)(b) the ERP was required to be finalised by 31 May 2022.
- d) In the Act section 3A(ad) the ERP must include a strategy which both recognises and mitigates the impacts on iwi and Māori of reducing emissions and must adequately consult with iwi and Māori.
- e) The Act therefore has the strongest judicial review provisions because its not simply mandatory considerations, it is mandatory outcomes.
- f) The government failed to include the Māori strategy in the ERP.
- g) The government failed to establish and resource the MCP in a timely fashion to enable the mahi to be completed by 31 May 2022.
- h) The government stated that the MCP would lead this mahi.
- i) The courts from the High Court to the Supreme Court are upholding the necessity of Māori-led processes to be compliant with tikanga, and mandating tikanga as a source of Māori law for all New Zealanders, not just for Māori.
- j) These government failures are core grounds for claimants in the climate cases at the Waitangi Tribunal.
- k) The government is currently referring to the MCP in its defence to these Waitangi Tribunal climate claims.
- l) These government failures put the country on track to fall behind on international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Rather than be diverted by these courses of action our preference to progress the work of the MCP with the support of the Ministers and officials.

## 6. The Data Platform

MCP members hold consultation data in the form of surveys and GIS info under Māori data sovereignty which can support the government to meet its obligations but cannot be transferred to the government in circumstances different to the original agreement for MCP lead mahi with government funding and support.

## Next Steps to Advance the Project

### 1. Initiate Pilot Māori Climate Action Initiatives (Funding Stream A)

- a) Immediate Actions: Commence the development of the community action pilot(s) by establishing frameworks and timelines.
- b) Financial Milestones: Update to ensure the first tranche of \$500,000 is utilised effectively by 30 August 2024, with a progress report due by 30 June 2024 and a final report by 30 September 2024.

### 2. Establishment Funds of the Māori Climate Platform

- a) Stage Gate Condition: Develop and finalise the funding allocation framework which outlines the criteria for distributing funds to Māori communities. This is a precondition for the initial payment of \$2,000,000.

### 3. Scheduled Payments

- a) Following the approval of the funding framework, ensure subsequent funds (\$3,000,000 and another \$3,000,000) are disbursed according to the achievement of milestones related to the utilisation of previous tranches.

### 4. Enhance Reporting and Monitoring

- a) Regular Updates: Adhere to the six-monthly and annual reporting schedules to provide comprehensive updates on project status, challenges, and forward-looking forecasts.
- b) Milestone Reporting: Align with the stipulated milestone reporting guidelines to transparently communicate the progress and strategic deployment of the allocated funds.

### 5. Engagement and Community Support

- a) Community Interaction: Strengthen community engagement processes to harness local insights and participation in pilot initiatives.
- b) Capacity Building: Focus on building local capacities to ensure sustainable project outcomes and leadership in climate action.

### 6. Knowledge Management and Protection

- a) Data Stewardship: Develop mechanisms for the protection and activation of Maori knowledge relevant to climate solutions.
- b) Knowledge Sharing: Facilitate the dissemination of learnings and best practices derived from pilot initiatives to wider Maori communities and other stakeholders.

Towards these outcomes in conjunction with the Ihirangi Project we have developed a powerful tool for enabling Climate Change Risk assessments at considerable time and effort and it is now ready to deploy.

We feel that a further conversation for us to better understand the priorities and expectations we both have of the Māori Climate Platform is urgent.

This project requires meticulous planning, robust community engagement, and stringent adherence to funding and reporting protocols. The Oho Mauri Charitable Trust, in collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment, is positioned to lead a transformative climate action initiative that aligns with both cultural values and environmental sustainability objectives.

The focus will remain on enabling equitable transitions and resilience through dedicated leadership and strategic funding utilisation.

Kia haumarū tonu te noho,

Mike Smith  
(Co-chair, Oho Mauri Trust)

Dayle Takitimu  
(Co-chair, Oho Mauri Trust)