Appendix A: Update on Mātauranga Māori NAP Actions 3.21 and 3.24 March 2026

1. Actions 3.21 and 3.24 continue to be progressed through the Limits programme (MfE's work to develop the technical foundations for setting environmental limits under the proposed Natural Environment Act). A key vehicle for this work is the draft technical report Identifying Attributes for Environmental Limits, which collates MfE's analysis of potential attributes (measurable characteristics of the natural environment that could be used to set limits) for environmental limit setting and is currently undergoing subject matter expert review.

2. The primary audience for the report is MfE policy staff who will be developing limits-related national instruments (secondary legislation that gives effect to environmental limits). It is an evidence-based technical document and does not include policy options or decisions.

3. The report documents the process used to identify candidate attributes for environmental limits across key environmental domains (air, coastal, land and soil, indigenous biodiversity, and freshwater). It outlines how mātauranga Māori could inform attribute identification and assessment, while acknowledging its strong grounding in place and the need to balance this with potential national-level consistency.

4. The approach taken in the report is consistent with the Natural Environment Bill Māori Participation Goal (clause 11(f)(i)), which requires provision for Māori interests through Māori participation in the development of national instruments.

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