

Public Consultation: CMT rights for Ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou

November 2025: Questions and answers

Who is Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou

The iwi Ngāti Porou is made up of multiple hapū, collectively known as Ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou. They have been engaging with the Crown on their application for customary marine title since 2011.

Several historical and traditional evidence reports have been prepared to inform the Minister's decision. These reports outline both Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou and third-party use of the application area since 1840.

To date, the Crown has recognised Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou's customary marine title from Pōtikirua to Koutunui Head out to three nautical miles.

What is public consultation?

Public consultation gives interested parties and the wider community the opportunity to provide feedback on Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou's application for customary marine title and wāhi tapu recognition in the area from Pōtikirua to Koutunui Head from 3 to 12 nautical miles from the line of mean high-water springs.

Why is public consultation needed?

A fair and accessible consultation process ensures that the application is considered openly and with integrity. It allows the Minister and the public to see that all perspectives have been heard. Providing an opportunity for interested parties to share their views helps reduce the risk of challenges later and supports the Minister to make an informed decision.

What is customary marine title?

Customary marine title recognises the customary interests or whānau, hapū or iwi in specific parts of the common marine and coastal area. It does not affect public access, fishing, or navigation, except where lawful restrictions are required to protect wāhi tapu.

What are wāhi tapu protection rights?

The Minister may choose to recognise wāhi tapu protection rights, which could impose prohibitions or restrictions on access to these sites. Wāhi tapu protection rights allow customary marine title holders to place prohibitions or restrictions on access to particular sacred sites within their customary marine title area.

These would be the only restrictions to public access or navigation. If recognised, the boundaries of any wāhi tapu sites will be clearly identified. Breaching wāhi tapu prohibitions or restrictions on access could result in fines of up to \$5,000.00.

Who can make a submission?

Anyone – including local communities, other iwi/hapū, commercial and recreational users – can make a submission.

How can I make a submission?

Online survey on Citizens Space. You can access on [our website](#).

Email: takutaimoana@whakatau.govt.nz

Post: Te Tira Takutai Moana, Te Tari Whakatau, 19 Aitken Street, SX1011, Wellington 6011

Oral submission: Request a meeting via email

What is the deadline for submissions?

Submissions must be received by 6 March 2026. Submissions via post must be posted by 4 March 2026.

Will my submission be made public?

Yes. All submissions will be published on Te Tari Whakatau's website after the consultation closes. If you wish to withhold specific information (for example, commercially sensitive or personal details), please state this clearly in your submission.

However, please note that information provided in submissions may still be subject to release under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Any decision by Te Tari Whakatau to withhold information can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may require that it be released.

Will this affect my ability to fish or access the beach?

No. Customary marine title does not affect public access, fishing, or navigation unless it involves protecting wāhi tapu. This application does not cover beaches or areas within 3 nautical miles from the shore, where customary marine title has already been recognised.