

CONSULTATION OPENS - PROPOSED PERMANENT CHANGES TO THE TAKUTAI MOANA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

This pānui advises that consultation is open on proposed permanent changes to the Takutai Moana Financial Assistance Scheme.

Consultation will run from 13 December 2024 – 21 February 2025.

Please read this pānui carefully.

Background

The Takutai Moana Financial Assistance Scheme supports applicants seeking recognition under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011. With an annual limit of \$12.023 million, the Government is considering further measures to ensure the Takutai Moana Financial Assistance Scheme is sustainable while providing equitable access to funding for applicants.

In July 2024, interim changes to the Takutai Moana Financial Assistance Scheme were implemented for the 2024/25 financial year to manage costs within the annual limit. When the changes were signalled, we said we would come back to applicants to consult on proposed permanent changes for the scheme.

[Linked here](#) is a discussion document detailing the proposed permanent changes. The consultation period runs from 13 December 2024 to 21 February 2025. Consultation will run for 10 weeks to ensure sufficient time for meaningful participation beyond the holiday season.

Proposed permanent changes to take effect or continue from 1 July 2025:

The four proposed permanent changes for consultation are as follows:

- **Budgeted Work Plans:** Continue the requirement for all groups to have an agreed budgeted work plan with Te Arawhiti before funding is provided.
- **Alignment with Legal Aid Rates:** Continue alignment of legal service costs for hearings with legal aid rates for consistency and equity.
- **Milestone-Based Funding:** Introduce pre-approved funding releases tied to milestones as per agreed work plans.
- **Prioritisation Process:** Introduce criteria to allocate funding annually for activity and court costs, including potential funding caps.

What is the rationale behind these proposed permanent changes?

- To better support applicants while managing limited resources effectively.
- To provide certainty of funding availability through clear allocation processes.
- To ensure equitable cost management, with legal fees aligned to legal aid rates.

- To enable enhanced flexibility and less administration for applicant groups, through milestone-based funding provided in advance.

How can you get involved?

There are two ways to be involved:

1. Attend one of our online facilitated hui to discuss the changes and provide feedback. The hui are scheduled as below. Links to the hui will be published on the [Te Arawhiti website](#) from the week of 13 January 2025:

January 15 2025	12pm – 1pm
January 22 2025	5.30pm – 6.30pm
February 12 2025	12pm – 1pm
February 19 2025	5.30pm – 6.30pm.

2. Have your say on the proposed permanent changes detailed in the attached discussion document by providing feedback to takutaimoana@tearawhiti.govt.nz by 5pm, Friday, 21 February 2025.

We welcome your views on the proposals.