

MEDIA STATEMENT

28 February 2025

New name better reflects agency's refreshed focus

The Office for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti (Te Arawhiti) has a new name following the transfer of Māori Crown relations functions to Te Puni Kōkiri this week.

Interim Chief Executive Anaru Mill says, “The departmental agency has a sharpened focus on completing historical Treaty settlements and supporting Takutai Moana determinations. It’s appropriate that we have a new name that reflects the significant changes in our responsibilities.”

Cabinet approved the new name The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana: Te Tari Whakataou on 24 February to replace its current name.

In te reo Māori the name means the office ‘te tari’ where things are settled or determined ‘whakataou’. This applies equally to the work we do in negotiating Treaty settlements and supporting Takutai Moana applicants.

Mr Mill says, “We have worked with designer Len Hetet (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Apa) who developed the original branding for Te Arawhiti to retain the tohu (design elements) and to refresh the logo.

“We have registered the name whakataou.govt.nz and updated our website URL to www.whakataou.govt.nz. It will take a few weeks for us to switch out the name and logo across all our communications including our email addresses, so we ask for patience while this is implemented.”

The name change comes at the end of a five month change process which began after the Government decided to transfer some of the functions of Te Arawhiti to Te Puni Kōkiri.

“Te Tari Whakataou will work closely with Te Puni Kōkiri who are now responsible for the Māori Crown relations portfolio. It’s important that iwi Māori have confidence in our collective ability to resolve their claims, uphold their Treaty settlements, rights and interests and uphold the mana of the Crown,” says Mr Mill.

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EDITOR’S NOTES

In October 2024, Ministers Willis, Goldsmith and Potaka confirmed the following functions would be transferred from Te Arawhiti to Te Puni Kōkiri:

- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of Treaty settlement commitments
- leading post-settlement relationships

- coordinating significant events on behalf of the Crown
- providing strategic advice on the distinct rights, interests, and responsibilities of Iwi, hapū and Māori, except as they relate to Treaty settlement and Takutai Moana matters; and
- ensuring the Public Service has the capability to engage effectively with Māori.

For more information on the Māori Crown relations functions, go to www.tpk.govt.nz

The Ministers confirmed the following functions would remain with Te Arawhiti:

- completing historical Treaty settlements
- administering the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 and Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019
- providing strategic advice on Māori rights and interests as it relates to Treaty settlements and Takutai Moana determinations.