

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE

TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI RĀRUA

**SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER
AND CABINET**

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

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Ranea te rangi e tū nei
Ranea te papa e takoto nei
Ranea te pouherenga tangata o motu,
Kei ngā mate tautini, taumano
Haere, whakangaro atu rā
Ki a tātou te hunga ora

**Whakamana te puna mauri ora o Ngāti Rārua,
kia kaha pupuri ai ngā hekenga ā mauri muri ake tonu.**

Realise the wellspring of vital identity that is Ngāti Rārua,
to strengthen all the migrations yet to come

1. Ngāti Rārua descend from the Tainui waka and originate from the western coast of the King Country, Waikato. Our origins are traced back by whakapapa to the eponymous ancestor Rāruaioio. Ngāti Rārua tūpuna came to Te Taihū o te Waka a Māui in the 1820s and 1830s, as part of the great southward migration of the Kawhia and Taranaki iwi. Ngāti Rārua were participants in the series of war parties or tauā that came to Te Taihū o te Waka a Maui (Te Taihū), which were followed by heke of occupation, whereby Ngāti Rārua were established as mana whenua down the West Coast and across the top of Te Waipounamu.
2. By 1840, Ngāti Rārua were resident in the Cloudy Bay and Wairau districts in eastern Te

Tauihu. In western Te Taihū, Ngāti Rārua maintained seasonal and permanent kāinga at Whakatū, Motueka, Moutere, Aorere and West Whanganui/Taitapu.

3. Ngāti Rārua marae today are: Te Āwhina Marae (Tūrāngāpeke), Motueka; Wairau Pa (Wairau), Blenheim; Hauhunga Marae (Parerārua), Blenheim; Whakatū Marae (Kākāti), Nelson; and Onetahua marae (Te Ao Mārama), Takaka.
4. The Ngāti Rārua Iwi Trust was established in 1992 and in 1996 the historical Treaty claim WAI 594 was lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal. The claim settlement was signed and celebrated at Hauhunga in 2013. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua was established as the overarching identity for the Ngāti Rārua Iwi Trust, Ngāti Rārua Settlement Trust and all other Ngāti Rārua iwi entities.
5. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua is active today working for the wellbeing, prosperity, and sustainability of our whānau, hapū, iwi and rohe. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua manages an extensive portfolio of assets including aquaculture, horticulture and forestry enterprises.
6. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua is committed to working collaboratively with the other seven iwi of Te Taihū, the Crown and the region's local authorities, on collective kaupapa Māori initiatives for the benefit of our whānau, hapū and communities.

INTRODUCTION

7. This submission is made by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua in response to the Discussion Document released by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (**DPMC**) on options to strengthen the resilience of Aotearoa NZ's critical infrastructure system (***the Discussion Document***). The submission focuses on high level principles to guide the DPMC's consideration of the challenges and opportunities for improving the infrastructure systems that support our wellbeing, our ability as iwi, hapū and whānau to maintain our mana and rangatiratanga in the rohe of Te Taihū, and our ability to fulfil our obligations of kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga to our natural environment and our people and their communities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

8. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua acknowledges and supports the focus of some of Section 1 of the Discussion Document which highlights the wider principles of resilience and what will be necessary for an effective review. We are encouraged to see the references to

resilience as more than just the physical assets, encompassing human and social capital such as strategic capability, leadership, organisational culture, networks and relationships (page 12, paragraph 16), and as supporting wellbeing (page 13, paragraph 21). It is also positive to note the reference (page 23, paragraphs 61-62) to the value of a systems approach. However we are concerned that these kinds of principles are not meaningfully carried through and integrated with the rest of the Discussion Document, which reverts to conventional engineering and economics paradigms and consequently takes a fairly narrow perspective on both the challenges and the opportunities for critical infrastructure resilience.

9. The Discussion Document notes (page 8, paragraph 8(a)) that one of the principles underpinning the DPMC’s review of critical infrastructure resilience is that: “Any reform will be consistent with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and other domestic policy obligations.” Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua considers that this is seriously inadequate as a recognition of a senior Crown agency of its Tiriti responsibilities.
10. A stronger and more proactive approach is necessary to ensure that this review is effective and fit for purpose, that it is consistent with the Crown’s obligations to its Tiriti partners, and that it delivers meaningful and enduring outcomes. A more Tiriti-compliant approach will be necessary both to understand, recognise and provide for the particular infrastructure needs and priorities of iwi and hapū and our communities, and to engage with and support the knowledge, skills, investments and other contributions that iwi and hapū might make to system resilience.
11. The reliability, accessibility, efficiency and quality of our local, regional and national critical infrastructure systems and services are central to our ability to maintain our taonga tuku iho – cultural and traditional connections, environmental taonga and values, customary practices and mahinga kai, wāhi tapu and other significant locations, our tribal wānanga and events, our businesses, our social connectedness and support systems for our marae and whānau – as kaitiaki and as iwi.
12. Our ability as Ngāti Rārua to access and utilise essential infrastructure services is central to our Tiriti Article III rights as citizens of Aotearoa NZ. But more importantly our ability to access and utilise infrastructure is inherent in the Crown’s obligations under the Tiriti principle of Active Protection of iwi and hapū rights and interests. Therefore it is the considered view of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua that the DPMC’s review must be grounded upon a formal Tiriti commitment.

Recommendation 1:

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua strongly recommends that the DPMC review of critical infrastructure resilience is framed within a formal commitment to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

13. In order to fulfil the Crown’s Tiriti obligations, the review must incorporate an active, comprehensive evaluation of the rights and interests, needs and priorities of iwi and hapū for critical infrastructure now and into the future. The review can only do this and build the necessary understanding by engaging directly with iwi and hapū and establishing a collaborative approach with adequate resourcing and timelines.
14. It is well understood that iwi, hapū and whānau are uniquely and directly impacted by contemporary challenges such as climate change, that affect our natural taonga and environmental values, our tikanga and cultural and spiritual identity and wellbeing, and our rangatiratanga and mana as tangata whenua. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua is currently developing a Climate Change Strategy to future proof our cultural, social, environmental and economic interests through the coming challenges and to strengthen our mātauranga and resilience as an iwi.¹
15. We note the assumption (page 16, paragraph 35) that preparing for and mitigating the consequences of potential hazards and threats, awareness and capability building are to be “provided by government agencies”. However, increasingly iwi and hapū, community groups, and business entities are undertaking our own mahi to build knowledge and preparedness, and to work proactively to minimise the adverse impacts of climate change and other risks. The review should be open to working collaboratively and in partnership with iwi, hapū and others who are already committed to our own resilience building.

Recommendation 2:

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua strongly recommends that the DPMC review of critical infrastructure resilience incorporates proactive engagement with iwi and hapū as the Crown’s Tiriti partners to understand iwi and hapū rights and interests, needs and priorities for critical infrastructure.

¹ We acknowledge the work and commitments of other iwi who have also established Climate Change Strategies: eg: <https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/environment/policy/climate-change-strategy/>; <https://tearawa.io/climate-change/>

PRACTICAL PARTNERSHIPS

16. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua also considers that the review should take a more proactive approach to the opportunities for partnerships with iwi and iwi-owned entities across a range of areas where the particular knowledge, experience and resources of tangata whenua could be of use.² Such initiatives could include partnerships, research initiatives, joint ventures, and new business developments. These could identify needs and scope future options, construct new facilities, or upgrade or repurpose existing infrastructure.
17. There is significant potential for work across a range of high priority areas in Te Taihū including health services, social and community support, housing, roading, energy generation including solar and distributed generation systems, freshwater and three waters work, and environmental protection. For example, medium to long term strategy to strengthen and protect access routes alongside waterways, coastal areas and estuaries across Te Taihū will be highly significant due to the many cultural and historical values in these locations for iwi and hapū.

Recommendation 3:

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua recommends that the DPMC review of critical infrastructure resilience includes proactive exploration of opportunities for partnerships, research initiatives, and new business developments involving iwi and Māori entities.

CONCLUSION

18. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua has not offered any comment at this stage on the regulatory options outlined in Section 2 of the Discussion Document. We consider that the principles outlined in this submission need to be first addressed in order for the review to be meaningfully advanced.
19. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua thanks the DPMC for the opportunity to contribute to this early phase of the review, and we look forward to future involvement in this important work.

² Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua notes the inclusion – in the *Statement of Intent 2023-2027* of the NZ Infrastructure Commission: Te Waihanga (page 9) – of the commitment to undertake a “State of Play” review of current Māori engagement activity for infrastructure. We suggest that the DPMC review and this initiative of Te Waihanga could usefully align.