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# LAW·COMMISSION

# TE·AKA·MATUA·O·TE·TURE

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## **Māori Liaison Committee**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Objective**

1. The Māori Liaison Committee is established to assist the Commission to take into account te ao Māori when making its recommendations for the reform and development of the law.

#### **Function and purpose of the Committee**

2. The principal function of the Māori Liaison Committee is to advise the Commission on projects which concern Māori, either as particular or general stakeholders.
3. For that purpose, members of the Māori Liaison Committee will draw on their personal expertise and knowledge of tikanga Māori, Māori governance entities, and Māori communities to:
  - a. Advise the Commission on how it engages and consults with Māori , both generally and in relation to specific projects;
  - b. Provide advice and opinion on tikanga and other elements of te ao Māori either generally or in relation to specific projects;
  - c. Provide advice and opinion on how the Commission frames its proposals and recommendations in relevant projects.
4. The Chair of the Māori Liaison Committee can convene special purpose subcommittees to enable Committee members to advise on specific projects, subject to their area of knowledge and expertise and their availability, and with an expectation that five to 10 members may form a subcommittee.
5. Members will be engaged on the project at an early stage, where possible, and may be involved at all stages based on need and availability.
6. Members will meet with staff of the Law Commission as agreed, including by remote means where necessary.

#### **Operation and meetings of the Committee as a whole**

7. The President of the Law Commission and the Chair of the Māori Liaison Committee will determine which projects would benefit from the advice and assistance of the Committee.

8. The Committee will meet at least twice per year to discuss the operation and function of the Committee, its role in relation to the Law Commission, specific projects, and any other matters.
9. For the purpose of those meetings five members of the Committee and at least one Law Commissioner will form a quorum, with an expectation that the lead advisor will be present if a particular project is being discussed.
10. Meeting dates will be set as far as possible in advance. Briefing papers and an agenda will be circulated beforehand.
11. Meetings will take place at the office of the Law Commission in Wellington. The Commission will provide secretarial services, including recording minutes.
12. Minutes and action points will be circulated after the meeting and agreed to by the Chair of the Committee or by another Committee member, if the Chair is absent.

#### **Fees and costs**

13. Members of the Committee will be paid on a per diem or half diem basis. The rate per diem will be \$600. However, some members will not claim this amount due to their existing positions held.
14. Committee members' related costs, including the cost of transport to Wellington, will also be covered.