

EPA Hui Questions and Answers for Invitees

What is the purpose of the consultation?

The purpose of this hui is to seek your views on how Māori can best be involved in a fully formed Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The discussion will focus on what provisions are needed (both legislative and non-legislative) to ensure Māori are effective in advising the EPA on matters of interest to Māori.

What is an Environmental Protection Authority?

One workstream of the Government's Phase Two Resource Management Reforms is to establish a fully formed EPA. This will build on the EPA currently within the Ministry for the Environment and aim to consolidate other national-level environmental functions. The key functions of the EPA are likely to include:

- Administering applications of national significance that are 'called-in' under the Resource Management Act (RMA);
- The functions currently performed by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO).

Cabinet has yet to make decisions on the final form and function of the EPA. This discussion will inform the analysis of how Māori should be involved in each of the options for the EPA.

What is the current model for Māori involvement in ERMA?

The HSNO Act current provides for a statutory body (Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao) to advise the ERMA board and agency on Māori issues and perspectives. Ngā Kaihautū is also supported by a section within the ERMA agency (Kaupapa Kura Taiao) that provides a Māori perspective on process and HSNO applications.

The discussion will focus on the effectiveness of these models within ERMA and potential alternatives. We will send out further information on this model and the 'call-in' process under the RMA when attendance has been confirmed.

Why should I attend?

You should attend if you are interested in the future involvement of Māori in the EPA, the call-in process under the RMA and ERMA's current functions. We are particularly interested to hear views from those with experience or interest in governance, resource management, or the ERMA decision-making model.

Please pass this invite onto another interested person in your organisation if you are unable to attend.