

06 February 2025

Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
ti@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe,

PREAMBLE:

He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tirenī and Te Tiriti o Waitangi were some of the enabling frameworks, outside of Te Ao Māori, that our tupuna envisioned would support the development of our nationhood as Aotearoa New Zealand.

This submission is an ongoing part of that continuum to reassert the aspirations of our tupuna to facilitate intergenerational equity whilst recognising and upholding the mana and mauri of He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Submission to the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee on the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill

1. This response is made on behalf of Te Kahu o Taonui (Te Tai Tokerau Iwi Chairs Forum).
2. Te Kahu o Taonui was established in 2006/07 and is now a collective of Authorities in Te Tai Tokerau namely Ngāti Kuri Trust Board, Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Takoto, Te Iwi o Ngāti Kahurangi Trust, Kahukuraariki Trust / Ngātikahu ki Whangaroa, Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-Ō Ngāpuhi, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine, Ngātiwai Trust Board, Te Iwi o Te Roroa and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua.
3. The aim of Te Kahu o Taonui is to advance the collective aspirations of Te Tai Tokerau iwi and hapū. *“Me mahi tahi tātou mā te iwi te take”*.

Offshore Renewable Energy Bill

POSITION:

4. Energy poverty and resilience, with its associated infrastructure issues within Te Tai Tokerau, is an ongoing concern for our communities, especially our rural or end of the line consumers. Therefore, Te Kahu o Taonui supports the process of increasing the supply of renewable electricity for our communities as well as the opportunity to support Aotearoa New Zealand’s transition away from emissions-intensive fuels.
5. Te Kahu o Taonui is not wholly opposed to Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) per se however, there are components of the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill (the Bill) that must

be amended to ensure our full and effective leadership in advancing and delivering Aotearoa New Zealand's Energy Strategy.

6. Te Kahu o Taonui fully understands the complex resourcing issues associated with the development of large-scale infrastructure, however as Te Tiriti partners determining our rangatiratanga, the allocation or quota of ORE space will enable our iwi and hapū to consider and implement their obligations rather than just being part of the permit and consent decision-making processes. The ability to have prescribed ORE space rights enables our iwi and hapū to determine their economic and social prosperity opportunities including who to develop with, how and when. It also provides them with a mechanism to manage their wider proprietary rights and obligations within the marine environment, that includes but is not limited to:
 - Formally recognised customary interests under relevant Treaty settlements
 - Fisheries and aquaculture resources and assets
 - Management mechanisms and tools (e.g.) taiāpure, mātaimai, rāhui, Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe
 - Permit and consenting processes; and
 - Our kaitiakitanga responsibilities and obligations to our taonga and migratory species.
7. Given our relationships across the marine environment, it would be pragmatic and beneficial to support the development of a marine spatial planning framework that would help resolve the alternative and conflicting uses of marine space. Such a spatial plan would also clearly delineate preferred areas of the marine environment that could be considered as renewable energy generation areas. These overlays would provide better process efficiencies and support inclusive development relationships with iwi and hapū.
8. The opportunity to have secured access to ORE quota facilitates the ability for our iwi and hapū to determine their rangatiratanga whilst presenting the opportunity to unlock economic potential in Te Tai Tokerau, including enabling new industry opportunities, high-quality jobs and building local supply chains.
9. The opportunity to integrate ORE into the electricity system will also benefit the development of a more sustainable and reliable power grid within Te Tai Tokerau.
10. The Crown has an obligation to make decisions in a way that is consistent with Aotearoa New Zealand's founding document, Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The key principle of partnership provides an expectation, and obligation, that in collaboration we have the ability to support and protect our respective communities and taonga.
11. As a Te Tiriti partner it is our expectation that components of the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill must be amended to ensure our full and effective participation in advancing and delivering Aotearoa New Zealand's Energy Strategy.

12. Within Te Tai Tokerau seven of our iwi members have negotiated Treaty Settlements¹ with the Crown whereby a range of formal and informal arrangements have been negotiated in response to the Crown's Treaty breaches.
13. The subsequent Crown apologies in relation to Treaty breaches clearly identifies the socio-economic impacts on our respective communities when we are not able to implement our development philosophies and obligations. Failure to consider an ORE provision that supports our Te Tiriti / Treaty partner status maintains the status quo and will not enhance our economic development and social prosperity aspirations.

CONCLUSION:

14. Te Kahu o Taonui supports renewable energy options that sustain its communities given our infrastructure deficit, however, there needs to be better access for Māori wishing to participate in the energy sector space (should they wish to) and in doing so there needs to be a cautionary approach when considering the impact on our taonga, migratory species and marine property rights. More importantly, this cautionary approach is better facilitated with iwi and hapū as strategic partners rather than participants.

Please note that Te Kahu o Taonui seeks to make an oral submission and wishes to be heard on the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill.

Please also note that this request does not usurp the mana of our respective Authorities to engage directly with the Select Committee should they so wish.

Signed:

Dated: 06 February 2025



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Co-Chairperson
Te Kahu o Taonui

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¹ See [Quarterly-report-to-31-Mar-2024.pdf \(tearawhiti.govt.nz\)](#)