

# Toi te Kupu – Evaluation of Aotearoa Reorua - Survey

## 1. What's your vision for Aotearoa Reorua in your rohe/region?

Our vision for Aotearoa Reorua in our rohe is to create a vibrant, bilingual community where te reo Māori is a living language used in daily life. We aim to foster a sense of pride and identity among our whānau, ensuring that te reo Māori and cultural practices are integrated into all aspects of our community life, from education to local government and business. Our ultimate goal is to see te reo Māori flourishing, with widespread use and understanding, contributing to the cultural, social, and economic wellbeing of our region.

## 2. What reo kaupapa have been funded through Aotearoa Reorua in your rohe?

In our rohe, several reo kaupapa have been funded through Aotearoa Reorua, including:

- Te Reo Māori classes: Offering beginner to advanced courses for community members.
- Kura Reo: Intensive language immersion programs for learners of all ages.
- Whānau Reo Programs: Initiatives that support families in using te reo Māori at home.
- Bilingual Signage: Implementing bilingual signage across public spaces and local businesses to promote everyday use of te reo Māori.
- Cultural Workshops: Workshops that integrate te reo Māori with traditional cultural practices such as weaving, carving, and kapa haka.
- Naming Workshops: Community-led workshops to assign meaningful Māori names to local facilities, such as Te Puna Whaiora – Arvida Retirement Village, Te Amopūtoro – Community Playground, Te Puāwaitanga – Local Sports Complex, Te Mauora – New MRI, Xray facility, Te Amotai – Predetor 2050 Project, Te Tira, Te Arapū and Te Tui Ora – Community Housing Developments.

## 3. In terms of how you've been partnering/working with mana whenua or council, what's working well?

Our partnerships with mana whenua and the council have been marked by strong communication and mutual respect. Collaborative initiatives such as the bilingual signage project, naming workshops, and community reo classes have seen significant success due to the shared commitment to promoting te reo Māori. Regular meetings with the Far North District Council (FNDC) and joint planning sessions have ensured that both mana whenua and the council are aligned in their goals, strategies and approaches, leading to cohesive and effective implementation of projects.

## 4. In terms of how you've been partnering/working with mana whenua or council, what can be improved?

While our partnership has been fruitful, there are areas for improvement, such as:

- Increased Resource Allocation: Ensuring that sufficient resources, including funding and personnel, are allocated to support ongoing and new initiatives.
- Enhanced Training: Providing more training opportunities for council staff on cultural competency and te reo Māori to foster a deeper understanding and better collaboration.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing robust feedback mechanisms to regularly assess the effectiveness of initiatives and make necessary adjustments based on community input.

**5. From your perspective, what are the key ingredients that make the relationship between local government and mana whenua 'work'?**

The key ingredients that make the relationship between local government and mana whenua work include:

- **Trust and Respect:** Building relationships based on mutual trust and respect for each other's perspectives and knowledge.
- **Effective Communication:** Maintaining open, honest, and regular communication channels.
- **Shared Goals:** Aligning on common goals and priorities that benefit the entire community.
- **Cultural Competency:** Ensuring that local government staff have a strong understanding and appreciation of mana whenua's cultural values and practices.
- **Collaborative Decision-Making:** Involving mana whenua in all stages of decision-making processes to ensure their voices are heard and respected.

**6. Are there any other non-Aotearoa Reorua kaupapa you and mana whenua/council are collaborating on?**

Yes, there are several non-Aotearoa Reorua initiatives we are collaborating on, including:

- **Environmental Restoration Projects:** Joint efforts in kaitiakitanga, focusing on restoring native habitats and protecting local waterways.
- **Housing Initiatives:** Developing affordable housing projects to meet the needs of our whānau, such as the Kainga Ora Housing Development and MHUD Housing Development.
- **Health and Wellbeing Programs:** Collaborating on initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes for our community through culturally appropriate services and support.
- **Community Workshops:** Conducting wānanga with schools and community organizations like Healthy Homes to promote cultural education and wellbeing.

**7. How might this relationship be harnessed in future?**

This relationship can be harnessed in the future by:

- **Formalizing Partnerships:** Establishing formal agreements that outline roles, responsibilities, and shared objectives.
- **Long-Term Planning:** Engaging in long-term strategic planning to ensure sustainability and continuity of initiatives.
- **Capacity Building:** Investing in capacity-building programs for both mana whenua and council to enhance their ability to collaborate effectively.
- **Innovative Projects:** Exploring innovative projects and funding opportunities that align with our shared vision and goals.

**8. In terms of how you've been working with Te Tari Tai Whenua, what's working well? Not so well?**

Working well:

- **Support and Guidance:** Te Tari Tai Whenua has provided valuable support and guidance in implementing our reo kaupapa.
- **Resources:** Access to resources and expertise that have helped enhance our initiatives.

Not so well:

- **Communication Delays:** At times, there have been delays in communication, which have impacted project timelines.

- Reporting Requirements: The reporting requirements can be cumbersome and time-consuming, sometimes taking focus away from the actual implementation of initiatives.

**9. How do you find the reporting process, through progress reports? How can this be improved?**

The reporting process through progress reports is thorough but can be improved by:

- Simplifying Requirements: Simplifying the reporting requirements to reduce the administrative burden on our team.
- Digital Tools: Implementing digital tools and platforms to streamline the reporting process.
- Clear Guidelines: Providing clearer guidelines and templates to ensure consistency and ease of reporting.

**10. How often do you use the Aotearoa Reorua website ([www.aotearoareorua.govt.nz](http://www.aotearoareorua.govt.nz)) for information or resources?**

We use the Aotearoa Reorua website regularly, approximately once a week, to access information and resources. The website is a valuable tool for keeping up to date with the latest initiatives, funding opportunities, and best practices related to reo Māori kaupapa.