# 

# Taumata Arowai – the Water Services Regulator: Māori Advisory Group

# Member candidate information sheet

## Taumata Arowai – the Water Services Regulator

Taumata Arowai was established in 2021 by the Taumata Arowai–the Water Services Regulator Act 2020 (the Act), with the objectives of:

* protecting and promoting drinking water safety and related public health outcomes;
* effectively administering the drinking water regulatory system;
* building and maintaining capability among drinking water suppliers and across the wider industry;
* giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai, to the extent that Te Mana o te Wai applies to the functions and duties of Taumata Arowai;
* providing oversight of, and advice on, the regulation, management, and environmental performance of wastewater and stormwater networks (Regional Councils will remain the primary regulators of waste water and storm water); and
* promoting public understanding of the environmental performance of wastewater and stormwater networks.

For more information about Taumata Arowai see https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/

***The Māori Advisory Group (Te Puna)***

The Taumata Arowai–the Water Services Regulator Act 2020 requires the responsible Minister to appoint between five and seven members to a Māori Advisory Group, given the name Te Puna, to advise the Taumata Arowai Board and Taumata Arowai on Māori interests and knowledge, as they relate to the objectives, functions, and operating principles of Taumata Arowai and the collective duties of the Board.

That role includes:

* developing and maintaining a framework that provides advice and guidance for Taumata Arowai on how to interpret and give effect to Te Mana o te Wai; and
* providing advice on how to enable mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori, and kaitiakitanga to be exercised; and
* any other matters requested by the board.

Māori Advisory Group members are appointed by the Minister for terms of up to three years. They may be reappointed, but there is no guarantee of appointment for a further term.

The Minister of Local Government is the responsible Minister for Taumata Arowai. The Department of Internal Affairs supports the Minister in this role, and is the monitor of Taumata Arowai.

## Skills, experience, and attributes required

The primary criterion for the Māori Advisory Group members should be knowledge and experience of, and capability in, providing advice on mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori, and kaitiakitanga, particularly as it relates to water.

It is also preferable for members to have some understanding of working within a regulatory environment and the role of Crown entities, and experience in public health and/or operational local government.

The generic criteria for a governance role in the Crown context include:

* understanding the respective powers and responsibilities of Ministers, boards, management and employees;
* having, and following effective and well-understood accountability processes;
* working in collaboration with other public entities, where practicable;
* modelling acceptable behaviours; and
* probity in the management of public funds and disclosing and managing conflicts of interest.

Other general qualities and experience required for the Chair role are:

* well respected and can obtain the confidence of governments;
* an ability to analyse and understand complex issues;
* an ability to lead peers; and
* an appreciation of diversity, and ability to manage tensions arising from diversity.

Finally, under s.29(2)(b) of the Crown Entities Act 2004, in appointing or recommending an appointment, the responsible Minister must also take into account the desirability of promoting diversity in the membership of Crown entities.

## Remuneration and meetings

The current remuneration for the Māori Advisory Group member is $300 per day. Māori Advisory Group meetings may be held monthly, or otherwise as required.

The Chair and the Chief Executive, with the support of the staff, will establish an agenda for each Māori Advisory Group meeting. Meeting materials will be distributed to members in advance of the Māori Advisory Group meetings to allow members to be thoroughly prepared.

The Chair will oversee meetings and ensure they are conducted in an orderly fashion. Members are expected to attend and participate regularly in meetings consistent with general fiduciary standards and the governance requirements of Crown entities.

## Taumata Arowai as a Crown entity

Taumata Arowai is a Crown agent under the Crown Entities Act 2004. This Act provides a framework for Crown entity governance and accountability, including responsibilities of board members, disclosure of interests, and the roles of Ministers. It is available at [http://www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/). As a Crown agent, Taumata Arowai can be directed to give effect to a government policy that relates to the entity’s functions and objectives.

Further information on how the relationships between Crown entities, Ministers, and departments work in practice can be found on the Public Service Commission’s website ([https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/guidance/it-takes-three-operating-expectations-framework-for-statutory-crown-entities](https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/guidance/it-takes-three-operating-expectations-framework-for-statutory-crown-entities/)).

***Role of the Chair***

In addition to the skills and experience required above the role of the Chair of the Māori Advisory Group includes the following:

* Providing effective leadership and direction for the group consistent with the requirements of relevant legislation, including the Taumata Arowai-the Water Services Regulator Act 2020.
* Developing and maintaining sound relationships with the Chair of the Taumata Arowai Board, the Chief Executive of Taumata Arowai and their senior advisors.
* Ensuring that the inputs provided to the Taumata Arowai Board are received and reviewed by the board.
* Ensuring that any requests for additional support or guidance from the Board are responded to in a timely manner.
* Acting as spokesperson for the Māori Advisory Group, ensuring that both the Board and the Entity are aware of the groups views and activities.
* Chairing meetings including:
  + ensuring there is sufficient time to cover issues;
  + ensuring the group receives the information it needs, before the meeting in papers and in presentations at the meeting;
  + ensuring that contributions are made by all members;
  + assisting discussions towards the emergence of a consensus view; and
  + summing up so that everyone understands what has been agreed.

***Conflicts of interest***

Applicants will be asked to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, or any other matter relevant to their suitability for appointment. The Department of Internal Affairs may check the accuracy of any information relating to an application for appointment.

***The appointment process***

The process for appointing to a Crown entity can take up to three months after the closure of applications and consists of the following stages:

* Shortlisting of applications – the Department of Internal Affairs and Minister will select candidates for interviews.
* Disclosure of interests – shortlisted candidates will be asked to disclose interests.
* Interviews – a panel will be convened to interview candidates in person or by other means.
* Due diligence – the Department will undertake due diligence (covering public profile, credit, qualification, criminal, and reference checks) to assess the recommended candidate’s suitability for appointment.
* Recommendation to Minister – the Department will brief the Minister on the outcome of the interviews and recommended candidate(s).
* Consultation – once the Minister has selected the candidate who they consider best meets the needs of the Māori Advisory Group, she will consult Ministerial colleagues and the Government coalition and support parties.
* Cabinet process – the Minister will raise an appointment proposal for discussion by the Cabinet Appointments and Honours (APH) Committee and Cabinet.
* Appointment by the Minister – depending on the outcome of these discussions, the Minister will then appoint a member.

***Next steps***

Nominations, including a completed nomination form and curriculum vitae, should be emailed to [ta.appointments@dia.govt.nz](mailto:ta.appointments@dia.govt.nz) by **5pm on 28 June 2024**.

Please note that nominations do not necessarily result in the appointment of a particular person.