

TĀNGATA HUAWHENUA

MĀORI HORTICULTURE COUNCIL AOTEAROA

PRESS RELEASE

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Māori Must Be at the Centre of Land Use Transformation – New Report

The Māori Horticulture Council (Tāngata Huawhenua) welcomes the *Future Use of Land and How to Fund It* report, released by the Ministry for the Environment in May 2025.

The report highlights the urgent need to shift Aotearoa’s land use away from unsustainable practices and toward diversified, low-emissions models such as horticulture, agroforestry, and conservation. Crucially, it also points out that Māori landowners are **key to leading this transformation** — but current funding and capital systems **do not serve them well**.

“The whenua is ready. Our people are ready. But the system must evolve to support Māori collectives with capital that understands intergenerational value,” says Tāngata Huawhenua General Manager, Te Horipo Karaitiana.

Key recommendations include:

- Dedicated transition funding to support Māori land development
- Investment in enabling infrastructure like irrigation and processing
- New capital models that share risk and recognise whenua constraints
- Capability-building tailored to Māori governance and whenua aspirations

Tāngata Huawhenua supports the report’s call for a fresh approach to financing whenua transformation and urges Government and investors to **act with urgency and partnership**.

ENDS

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About Tāngata Huawhenua Māori Horticulture Council

Tāngata Huawhenua – Māori Horticulture Council Aotearoa is the national voice for Māori in horticulture and produce. As a platform for collective influence, collaboration, and advocacy, we represent Māori interests across the full spectrum of flora and produce – from taonga species and emerging fruits to hemp, vegetables, and value-added ingredients.

Our purpose is to grow Māori influence and impact in the sector through unity, investment, innovation, and capability. We work across the value chain, from breeding and intellectual property through to commercialisation and market access – grounded in our foundational values of Tino Rangatiratanga, Mātauranga Māori, and Tikanga Māori.