



DRAFT LAND TRANSPORT RULE: TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (BILINGUAL SIGNS) AMENDMENT 2023 SUBMISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a Te Arawa submission on the Draft Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices (Bilingual Signs) Amendment 2023 jointly made by Te Tatau o Te Arawa and Te Arawa Lakes Trust.

TE TATAU O TE ARAWA

2. Te Tatau o Te Arawa (Te Tatau) is an independent Charitable Trust working to achieve the Sustainable Well-being of People, Culture and Place within te rohe o Te Arawa.
3. Te Tatau serves and represents Te Arawa whānui who mandated the establishment of the Trust in 2015 and determined that the Trust board be made up of elected members representing multiple Te Arawa sectors – rangatahi (youth), koeke (elders), Te Arawa land trusts and incorporations, hapū and iwi, and pan-Te Arawa entities.
4. Importantly Te Tatau was also mandated as the Te Arawa Partner to Rotorua Lakes Council to create and foster a high-trust environment to achieve enhanced socio-economic and cultural prosperity for Te Arawa, for Māori and for the wider community in the Rotorua district.

TE ARAWA LAKES TRUST

5. Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) is established by the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006 and the Te Arawa Lakes Trust Deed 2009 and is mandated by all registered members of Te Arawa to receive and manage the assets and funds of the Trust. This includes ownership of the lakebeds of 14 Te Arawa Lakes. While the Trust is the governance entity for its members, its decisions are informed by hapū and iwi whose contributions to decision-making are delivered through their respective Trustees.
6. TALT objectives include the promotion of the cultural well-being of Te Arawa; the maintenance of places of spiritual and cultural significance to Te Arawa; and any other objective the Trustees consider beneficial to Te Arawa.

OUR SUBMISSION

7. We appreciate the opportunity to jointly submit to the Draft Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices (Bilingual Signs) Amendment.
8. This Submission is made in alignment with the Te Arawa 2050 Vision, **Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora, Te Arawa E**, in particular, the Te Arawatanga | Culture whāinga tawhiti of:
 - Our future has Te Arawa reo, tikanga and values woven into the everyday of our people, our partners and the communities in our rohe.

9. Our submission is also made in recognition of our Te Arawa hapū and iwi who are tangata whenua, hungatiaki, and significant landowners over our rohe mai i Maketū ki Tongariro including the Rotorua District.
10. We support the proposed changes to the Land Transport Rule with two caveats, and we set out our reasons below.

REASONS FOR SUPPORT

11. On 11 August 2017, Rotorua was announced as the first bilingual city in New Zealand following a commitment gained by Te Arawa from Rotorua Lakes Council to advance Rotorua as a Reorua (Bilingual) city and district. The proposed changes to the Rule help enhance the Rotorua Reorua (Bilingual Rotorua) journey for te reo Māori to be seen, heard and celebrated alongside the English language in our city and district, and indeed, across Te Arawa rohe.
12. Further, we believe that the proposed changes build on the efforts of many Te Arawa (and Aotearoa) Māori language luminaries including the late Hawea Vercoe, former Principal of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Rotoiti, who first championed the use of the word 'Kura' on a school bus.
13. We also believe the proposed changes support and contribute to the outcomes envisaged by Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora – aimed at revitalising te reo Māori, and the obligations and aspirations of its Maihi Karauna (the Crown Māori Language Strategy).
14. We support all the proposed dual language Māori and English signage/ family of signs that the amendment aims to incorporate and see it as a suitable way to display both languages on the network because:
 - We consider the words proposed for use on the signs are brief and therefore easy for motorists and others to read
 - The proposed signs enhance the visibility of the reo Māori and provide a simple reo Māori acquisition opportunity for New Zealanders and international visitors and will highlight that te reo Māori is unique to Aotearoa
 - The process used to translate the signs, i.e. with the help of Te Mātāwai, ensures quality and consistency of reo Māori use
 - The process used to determine size and colour of the signs, i.e. with the help of the NZ Association of Optometrists, ensures visibility and readability
15. This consultation on bilingual signage opens the door to new opportunities for Aotearoa which have been limited by the complexities of the law.

CAVEATS TO SUPPORT

16. Our support of the proposed changes comes with two caveats, as described in points 17 and 18 below.
17. Before being placed on to the transport network, a final check is made with the help of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori to ensure that all signs align with best practice bilingual sign conventions as outlined in [Te Tohu Reorua i te Reo Māori me te Reo Pākehā | He kupu ārahi e kairangi ai ngā tikanga](#).
18. We noted that two signs within the Temporary Warning Signs family of signs use the word 'Hou' however one spelling is with a macron and the other without a macron¹. This is interesting as both

¹ (**Reference:** W1-1.2 New Seal supplementary Proposed Rule reference: clause 2.4(5)(q) – **Hira Hou | New Seal** and W2-1.11 Hazard warning supplementary - New Road layout Proposed Rule reference: clause 2.4(5)(ee) – **Takoto rori hōu | New road layout**).

spellings are correct – depending on where you are from. Which brings to rise our second caveat, and that is to ensure that before being placed on to the transport network, Waka Kotahi still engage with local iwi / mana whenua about the signs to take into account iwi dialect, recognising that:

- ▲ There are different tribal reo Māori dialects across the country.
- ▲ Allowance for dialect variations/reo ā-iwi into the ‘He Tohu Huarahi Māori Bilingual Traffic Signs Programme’ would highlight the important distinctions between rohe and will contribute to the whāinga of Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora as well as maintaining the rangatiratanga of iwi to have their reo seen, heard and spoken in their rohe.
- ▲ Our comments about the importance of reo ā-iwi are made within the context of our involvement with another Maihi Karauna programme, [Aotearoa Reorua](#) led by Te Tari Taiwhenua, that supports and showcases reo ā-iwi in towns and cities and through that supports cultural, social, economic and tourism growth for our towns and cities.

FINAL COMMENTS

19. As stated above, we support the Draft Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices (Bilingual Signs) Amendment 2023 with the caveats outlined in points 17 and 18 above.
20. We congratulate Waka Kotahi on their processes used to land on the suite of reorua signs they have proposed.

Date: 30 June 2023

James Hamiora Chair Te Tatau o Te Arawa	Geoff Rolleston Chair Te Arawa Lakes Trust
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