

Long-Term Insights Briefing

Summary of public consultation from 30 September to 31
October 2024



This document provides a summary of submissions on the topic and scope of Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand's Long-Term Insights Briefing (LTIB). Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide a submission. Your input will help to build and strengthen the briefing.

Summary

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (Toitū Te Whenua) is producing its next Long-Term Insights Briefing (LTIB). Between 30 September and 31 October 2024, we consulted on the proposed topic:

"Pathways to resilience: Long-Term Crown land stewardship"

The consultation document can be found [here](#).

Following consultation, the proposed topic of the LTIB has been confirmed. The scope has been updated to focus on how Toitū Te Whenua ensures that its approach to the stewardship of Crown land is resilient to shocks and emerging challenges between now and 2050.

We received 18 submissions during the consultation period. Of these, 14 submissions were strongly supportive of the proposed topic and made positive suggestions for areas to cover. One submission opposed the topic, and three expressed no stance.

Most submitters identified climate change, changing land use practices, and advances in technology, and population growth as the trends most likely to affect Toitū Te Whenua's future management of Crown land. Submitters further identified biodiversity loss, the growth of the green economy, and mātauranga Māori as additional major trends for consideration.

Themes from responders included:

- the need for a future-focused approach to land management
- the role of good property data in effective land management
- the importance of including, and giving influence to, Māori perspectives and knowledge in land management
- a preference to see the LTIB consider environmental matters beyond climate change
- a belief in the economic potential of Crown land, including for sustainable tourism and primary production
- a need to consider overlapping layers of land regulation and a desire to see this streamlined.

What is a Long-Term Insights Briefing?

An LTIB explores the medium and long-term trends, risks and opportunities facing Aotearoa New Zealand and potential options for responding to them. It aims to stimulate debate and, by looking to the long-term, tries to ensure we are ready to make decisions that achieve our vision. Consulting on the topic allows public feedback and ensures that briefings are relevant and focused on what matters for Aotearoa New Zealand. This public feedback is considered when departments make the final decision on the topic for their LTIBs.

Our Long-Term Insights Briefing

Our topic reflects the importance Toitū Te Whenua places on its obligations to act as a good steward of the land in the long-term public interest. We hold land for a diverse range of strategic purposes, and it supports a wide range of uses.

Looking after this land will become more challenging in coming years because of climate change, the rapid pace of technological change, and increasing competition between alternative land uses. The uncertainty and complexity arising from these changes will continue to have an impact on the land and the way we look after it. It is important that Toitū Te Whenua position itself to navigate this uncertainty to protect the public assets in its care and deliver on its strategic goals.

We are keeping the proposed topic for the Long-Term Insights Briefing and have amended the scope slightly

The topic we proposed for the LTIB was:

'Pathways to resilience: Long-term Crown land stewardship'.

The [consultation document](#) has a detailed description of the proposed topic.

We have decided to retain the proposed topic for our LTIB. Most submissions supported the proposed topic. Only one submitter opposed the topic.

Submissions analysis has revealed trends, risks and opportunities, affecting the Crown land Toitū Te Whenua manages. The detail provided in submissions means that the topic is in line with the statutory purpose of the LTIB – specifically, bringing information into the public domain and supporting national conversations on challenges and opportunities facing New Zealand over the medium- to long-term.

Considering feedback, the scope has been updated to specify the time period under consideration. The LTIB will now focus on how Toitū Te Whenua can ensure that its stewardship of Crown land is resilient to shocks and emerging challenges between now and 2050.

Methodology of submission analysis

The consultation document posed questions which were used to structure submission analysis. The questions were used to help submitters focus their thoughts and encourage comments on specific points of interest.

These questions were:

1. Is our proposed topic valuable and worth exploring?
2. Is the scope useful, relevant and clearly defined?
3. Are there any additional global or national trends that we should consider?
4. Are there any topics Toitū Te Whenua should consider for future briefings?
5. Is there anything else you would like to share with us on this subject?

The project team reviewed all submissions to identify and collate themes using qualitative analysis. This analysis was grouped under the five questions asked in the consultation document.

Who we heard from

We received 18 submissions during the consultation period:

- 9 individuals / no organisation specified
- 1 iwi
- 1 non-governmental organisations
- 2 industry groups and representatives' bodies
- 2 private companies
- 2 conservation boards
- 1 crown entity

What we heard from submissions

Most submitters strongly support the topic

Fourteen submissions expressed support towards the topic. One submission expressed opposition. Three submissions did not specifically state their support or opposition to the proposed topic but emphasised the public value of the land and the importance that Toitū Te Whenua be positioned to act as an efficient and effective steward.

Many submissions highlighted the importance of stewardship to achieve environmental outcomes, including addressing climate change impacts, supporting biodiversity, and ensuring that land use practices are environmentally sustainable.

Several submissions highlighted Toitū Te Whenua obligations under te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi. They also emphasised the need to respect and integrate Māori perspectives and knowledge in land management and establish partnerships with iwi and hapū.

Several submissions highlighted the need for a forward-looking approach to land management, balancing competing needs, and incorporating technological advancements.

The single opposing submission expressed concern around any possible future relinquishment of Crown authority over land in favour of iwi and hapū Māori, linked to the New Zealand Government's 2019 report - *He Puapua* - on measures to achieve the goals set out by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Most submitters consider the scope useful, relevant and clearly defined

Fewer submitters provided feedback on the proposed scope of the LTIB. Of those who did, a majority considered the scope to clearly defined, covering three areas: examining the current state, exploring key opportunities and threats, and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Several submitters found the scope poorly defined and ambiguous. One suggested that specifying a future time period for investigation would help focus Toitū Te Whenua research and meaningful conclusions and would support accountability.

Several submissions called on Toitū Te Whenua to broaden the scope's focus on environmental issues beyond a narrow focus on climate change. These submitters suggested including other interconnected environmental matters such as biodiversity loss, non-natural contamination, and natural character loss.

Most submitters endorse the key drivers Toitū Te Whenua had identified and suggested others

In the consultation document, Toitū Te Whenua had identified four key global and national trends it considers particularly relevant to future proofing its stewardship of Crown land: climate change; changing land use activities; advances in technology; and population growth.

Submitters generally endorsed Toitū Te Whenua assessment. Of the four trends, most submitters considered 'changing land use' as having greatest importance; followed by climate change, technology and population growth.

Regarding climate change, several submitters suggested that Toitū Te Whenua should take a broad view around environmental issues, taking into account biodiversity loss, environmental hazards and solutions, pest management, education and nature-based solutions.

Regarding population growth, some submitters suggested Toitū Te Whenua examine changes to population demographics, including the implications of an aging population or a majority migrant population on land use needs and carbon emissions profile.

In addition, submitters proposed several additional global or national trends for consideration:

- *Political and legislative environment:* navigating the intricate regulatory environment including local, regional, and national environmental laws can be challenging and resource-intensive for businesses and communities.
- *Te Ao Māori perspectives:* integrating mātauranga Māori and values into land management is increasingly recognised as crucial for sustainable development. This approach emphasises the cultural and spiritual significance of the land, promoting stewardship that respects both ecological health and indigenous heritage.
- *The green economy:* emerging opportunities to diversify Crown land use (including Crown pastoral land) to meet growing global demand in areas such as eco-tourism, sustainable food and fibre production and renewable energy.
- *Data management:* comprehensive data is essential for informed decision-making and for understanding the extent of Crown land, its current condition, and the effects of alternative land use on ecosystems and human well-being.

Topics for future briefings

Submitters suggested the following topics Toitū Te Whenua could consider as part of its future LTIBs:

- How we can keep pace with the changing context of pastoral farming
- How we can protect land with ecological value
- How we can integrate mātauranga Māori into regulation of Crown land
- How we can develop long-term land management capability and reduce dependency on external consultants

Other things to consider

Broader suggestions for things to consider emerged through consultation.

- Submitters said that we should consider the long-term negative environmental impacts of mining on Crown land.
- We were told that gaps in Crown land records are a significant barrier to improving public or commercial access. Often it is unclear which agency holds stewardship responsibility for a given parcel of land.

- It was suggested that investigation of new technologies should not distract from doing the basics well including investing in staff capability, stakeholder relationships and Crown land records management.
- It was suggested that Crown pastoral land should be treated as distinct from other types of land considered in the LTIB, considering the contractual relationship between Toitū Te Whenua and lessees and the importance of lessee financial sustainability to the delivery of environmental initiatives.

Next steps

Toitū Te Whenua is currently using the submissions to help inform drafting of the LTIB. Consultation on the draft LTIB will take place in mid-2025, before the document is finalised. Once finalised the document will be presented to Parliament.