

KĀINGA STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

A plan to improve housing outcomes for Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau

Newsletter: September 2019

- **Change on the horizon?** New Minister, new ministry, new Māori Housing Unit, the reset, Kāinga Ora, new powers
 - **Spirit of Service Awards:** Board a finalist in State Services Leadership in Governance Award
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| Change on the horizon?

New Minister, new ministry, new Māori Housing Unit, the reset, Kāinga Ora, new powers...

What's up?

The purpose of the Kāinga strategic action plan was to create conditions for change, with a view to improving housing outcomes for Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau... *September 2019 is a good time to look forward and back. We remain in almost total flux: change has been the only constant in housing programmes and approaches for 18 months...*

This discussion sets out some of the factors of change we are still facing.

The details

The 'new' [Ministry of Housing and Urban Development](#) formed on 1 October 2018. Kāinga Ora – the UDA – will be formed on 1 October 2019. Its powers, however, are yet to be legislated. Indeed the legislation providing for the establishment of the UDA itself has not passed its second reading.

The Environment Select Committee [report](#) (Sept 2019) on the Kāinga Ora Bill is now available, with the second reading in Parliament to come. At first glance, it offers little in terms of modifications around Māori outcomes and clarifying Treaty of Waitangi obligations – the key drivers of the [Board's submission](#). We are also still working on the summary of submissions discussed earlier.

The new Ministry has its permanent [DCE - Tumuaki Te Kahui Kāinga Ora](#) on board leading the new *Kahui Kāinga Ora Māori Housing Unit*. The unit's work programme is hopefully a high priority.

A new Minister of Housing was sworn-in in June, as well as a new Associate Minister with [responsibility for social housing and addressing homelessness](#). This structural change created a new and meaningful delineation between the role of the Housing Minister being focused on housing development and KiwiBuild, and Associate Minister Faafoi being focused on social housing. Mixing those things together has always been problematic. There is clarity now that if we want to talk KiwiBuild we should address Minister Woods, and if we want to talk social housing and HNZ, and those things in the context of Kāinga Ora, we need to talk to Associate Minister Faafoi.

Minister Mahuta's housing delegations remains unchanged which seemed (in June) to suggest those delegations are flying under the radar. That can be good when everything is in a state of flux. But the idea that key Māori outcomes delegations are flying under the radar would be troubling.

The KiwiBuild reset hailed some *new directions* and opportunities but where they will land and more importantly what the Minister has planned remains somewhat obscure. We are waiting for more info, more signals.

As an example, the [shared ownership and shared equity announced in the reset](#) could be delivered by HNZ and/or Kāinga Ora (meaning the additional funding basically remains in government control), or it could be delivered through partnership with the wider sector of community housing providers. One approach means more muscle for existing government agencies and operators and a perception of lower risk and higher control.

The other approach relies heavily of proven experienced efficient community providers with the products and approaches to focus on supporting families into better circumstances. This approach helps grow the sector; a sector that delivers whānau and economic outcomes for Māori.

And we are on the look-out for Kāinga Ora Bill #2 – a companion Bill widely thought to be about the UDA's powers. These powers will impact and cut across existing planning roles and regulations especially in the local government arena – this is an area where significant efficiencies can be achieved. Local government submissions on the first Bill can be found [here](#).

Local government elections: Capping off this state of flux are the local government elections. The impact of this is that Council committees for this term are winding up with many decisions being held back until the new Governing Body is in place later this year, with an additional wait period likely to be enforced by the Christmas hiatus.

| Spirit of Service Awards

Board a finalist in State Services Leadership in Governance Award

The Independent Māori Statutory Board is a [finalist](#) in the State Services Commission [Spirit of Service Awards](#) to be announced on September 12 in Wellington.

The Leadership in Governance nomination recognises the Board's committed and independent leadership in housing advocacy. Quality Affordable Housing for Māori is a strategic priority for the Board, drawn from the [Issues of Significance to Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau](#) which sits at the heart of the Board's statutory role.

In setting the foundation for this work, the Board had position papers in place in 2016 on the key outcomes of *Quality Affordable Housing For Māori* and *Homelessness*, enabling the Board to move quickly when new opportunities emerged.

Over the last three years the Board's governance leadership in housing has included convening the [Auckland Māori Housing Summit](#) (2018 & 2019) and the development, launch, and promotion of the [Kāinga Strategic Action Plan](#), a project the Board independently resourced, promoted and launched.

The Board continuously advocates for improved process and outcomes for Māori through Auckland Council and is actively seeking endorsement of the Kāinga plan by Council's Planning Committee as a formal step in contributing to Council housing approaches and activity. The Board is also involved in a number of initiatives relating specifically to homelessness.