

# KĀINGA STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

a plan to improve housing outcomes for Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau

NEWSLETTER June 2019:

## Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities Bill – Kiwi-inc Urban Development Authority

- Submissions on the bill currently open
- Relevant Summit 2019 intel
- Kāinga Ora Bill: partnership and the ZERO social housing wait-list
- Community providers in the mix, and creating thriving master-planned communities

**11 July - Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities Bill submissions close.** Link [here](#) for details.

Tēnā koutou

This newsletter is focused on the Kāinga Ora Bill, implications for Māori, and some ways it reflects and provides for Māori outcomes. The issues raised are discussed at more length in an issues paper now available on the website.

The Kāinga plan sets out six Key Targeted Directions, and the summarised table below uses those to highlight some reasons why this bill is critical to improving housing outcomes for Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau. The sections following the table discuss the bill in more detail.

**Table:** Kāinga plan Key Targeted Directions: intersections with the Kāinga Ora Bill

Key Targeted Directions	Kāinga Ora Bill: relevance and issues
1. Reflecting Te Tiriti and expressing partnership with ngā iwi and hapū and Māori	The Kāinga Ora UDA entity will be a major decision-making. <b>How will decision making reflect Treaty partnership, and ensure Māori outcomes?</b> The entity will have Treaty compliance obligations. <b>How will that compare to other statutes?</b> The Kāinga Ora entity will be governed by a Board. <b>Who? and how will appointments reflect the Treaty?</b>
2. Whānau focused strategies, navigators and brokers promoting kāinga outcomes	The Kāinga Ora UDA entity will be the government's housing developer and social landlord. <b>How will the entity balance these demands? and how can we influence that balance?</b> It will be subject to HNZ's <u>social objectives</u> – <b>how will they mesh with Kāinga Ora's development role?</b>
3. End homelessness as a critical kāinga outcome	The Kāinga plan highlights the <u>human right to housing</u> . <b>How does the bill express New Zealand's human right to adequate housing obligation, and reflect that right?</b> <b>How will the bill support us to end homelessness &amp; achieve a zero social housing wait-list?</b>
4. Skilled professionals with expertise in facilitating & achieving Māori outcomes	The entity will encompass much of what we now see as government touch points in housing: HNZ, HLC, Min. Housing and Urban Development. It is a large-scale institutional aggregation of services with depth and reach from cabinet to communities and whānau. <b>How will this new scale be leveraged to support development of experts in housing outcomes for Māori?</b>
5. Tailored housing and finance products meeting the needs of Māori whānau	A partnering and place-based approach to local urban spaces and communities, the call for a Māori community housing provider of scale to support housing outcomes, and the scale of development ahead in Auckland: <b>How will Kāinga Ora approach partnership with development ready community organisations? What tools will support a Māori housing provider of scale?</b>
6. More Council/Crown land for kāinga	The council - Crown interface is a key institutional dynamic targeted by a UDA. <b>How will Kāinga Ora optimise council's contribution to housing, especially for Māori, through a kāinga lens?</b>

## The Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities Bill – what we heard at the Auckland Māori Housing Summit 2019

### *The Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities UDA entity*

Hon. Phil Twyford, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, attended Summit 19 and discussed on-going government planning and execution of its housing programme, and generously responded to 'Q + A' from the audience.

This section illustrates the Minister's plans for the Urban Development Authority - 'Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities' through quotes from the summit:

*"We have to find solutions that are enduring and sustainable. No one knows better than Māori that enduring solutions have to be worked through carefully and patiently in partnership."*

*"[The new authority] is the Government's delivery agency. It will be the organisation that partners with others... and Māori will be vital partners ... because Māori fundamentally understand that a house is more than bricks and mortar."*

*"[W]e will ensure that the Authority is structured so that Māori can continue to participate ... in local place-making and urban development."*

*"The KiwiBuild land for housing programme ... recognises the importance of iwi partnerships in delivering this programme and currently has 11 agreements in partnership with iwi."*

### *Homelessness and the **ZERO social housing wait-list***

Minister Twyford also said *"[w]e know that Māori are five times more likely to be homeless than other New Zealanders and that is unacceptable to our Government."*

The Kāinga plan was developed with some key baseline expectations in mind, including that the government activates its development capacity and capability to the fullest extent with a view to achieving a **ZERO social housing wait-list**. (Related paper [here](#)). Unless that is the target, it won't be achieved. Without it as the target we risk remaining apathetic about the wellbeing of those on the wait-list now and in the future.

Community housing providers, as well as iwi, must be in the mix with Kāinga Ora. The sector's expertise lies in the empowerment of whānau and support toward home ownership or other forms of stable tenure, and the sector has a strong track record working with and for Māori whānau. They are also a source of real expertise in community building.

### *Community building and development*

Creating thriving master-planned communities is another theme running through housing.

This could be the most critical standard for Māori and communities to focus on in terms of holding the government to account and monitoring the outputs of entities like HLC and HNZ today, and Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities in the future.

For more quotes and commentary see the [Kāinga Ora Bill issues paper](#).

## Kāinga Strategic Action Plan and Māori outcomes – actions and directions regarding Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities (summary)

**The Kāinga Strategic Action Plan** includes a range of actions intersecting with the Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities UDA proposed structure and responsibilities.

The bill tables a new approach to setting out obligations to Māori and the Treaty, dispensing with the common section 4 statement of Treaty of Waitangi application.

It sets out a responsibility on the Kāinga Ora Board to ensure that the Kāinga Ora entity *has systems and processes in place to ensure Kāinga Ora has:*

*“... the capability and capacity to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.”*

This breaks with tradition regarding the way previous statutes have provided for Treaty compliance – such as section 4 of the Conservation Act.

For those interested in the long-run in Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities upholding the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles - the question is *who will we hold accountable if there is a failure?* This new approach needs to be tested.

## Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities – scope and impacts

**Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities** will have significant implications and impacts for communities, many of them positive.

There is much talk about ‘community’ but the science of **community building and community development is uncertain**, and communities need to be ready to engage and make sure Kāinga Ora *hears and knows* what communities want.

This entity will be an operating landlord and there are some risks in combining the development and rental management/landlord functions in one entity. One risk is that the property management role boils down to managing the existing and available stock, and does not extend to advocating for the right amount of stock to meet demand. **It might be time we recognised a need for someone to fill that role in New Zealand.**

The new Urban Development Authority will also have powers that cut across local government jurisdictions. Many iwi enjoy far stronger relationships with government than with local councils, so the Kāinga Ora Bill may place those powers in an arena where Māori have more, not less, influence.

The authority will have powers of compulsory acquisition but the bill is pretty clear that UDA activity will not interfere with Māori interests in land. This may provide a bargaining chip for iwi: iwi land *must* be gained through negotiation, not compulsory acquisition.

## The right to adequate housing –The Shift Aotearoa conference and the expression of rights in the bill

The Kāinga plan was developed with some key baseline expectations in mind, including that the government activates its development capacity and capability to the fullest extent with a view to achieving a **ZERO social housing wait-list.**

At [The Shift Aotearoa](#) (Community Housing Aotearoa conference, June 2019) it was clear that in order for the human right to adequate housing to be put into action, it needs to be expressed explicitly in key government documents – legislation, cabinet papers, National Policy Statements, and the strategic intentions of Ministries [inter alia].

Bills like the Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities Bill represent fleeting and infrequent opportunities to express, embed, and give life to the Treaty and the human right to housing – through the binding and agenda setting documents government uses to get business done.

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### What's next? *A snap-shot of work ahead for the Kāinga project*

- Finalising project priorities for July 1 to December 31 2019
  - Drafting and finalising submission on the Kāinga Ora-Homes and Communities Bill
    - **[Submissions close 11 July]**
  - Participating further in development of Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Māori outcomes work programme
  - Work with Te Matapihi and Community Housing Aotearoa to build proposition for:
    - a Māori Housing Provider of scale in Auckland and
    - learning opportunities to grow expertise
  - Further newsletters to be circulated soon on
    - Summit 19 – further info and intel (on-going reporting)
    - Auckland Council and Panuku – avenues and opportunities
    - Auckland's Climate Emergency
- [\[More detail on matters in this summary paper available here\]](#)