

28 February 2022

To whom it may concern  
Radio Spectrum Management  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
Via email: [radio.spectrum@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:radio.spectrum@mbie.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe,

## **Draft Spectrum Management Outlook 2022-2026**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Radio Spectrum Management's draft 5-year Spectrum Management Outlook 2022-2026 (December 2021).

Te Reo Irirangi o Te Arawa Charitable Trust (Trust) understands that the draft's objective is to set direction for radio spectrum management and explore technology and spectrum management trends over the next five years and the implications in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Trust welcomes the opportunity to engage in dialogue on the draft strategic priorities for Radio Spectrum Management prepared by the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE).

Before providing commentary on the discussion points provided and recommendations, the Trust wishes to set out our history and interest in spectrum management.

### **Te Reo Irirangi o Te Arawa**

Te Reo Irirangi o Te Arawa (TRIOTA) has a long history in radio that began in the 1980s alongside Te Arawa Māori Trust Board. Our flag ship station, Radio Te Arawa was established in 1991, bringing te reo ā-iwi and revitalisation efforts alongside our revitalisation plans to the airwaves with engaging and relevant local content for our listeners.

With more than 30 years expertise, we have evolved and matured, and now have 2 stations stretching across Te Arawa rohe from our coastal communities in Maketū to Matatā inland to Rotorua and Reporoa, broadcasting on 6 linear frequencies.

To remain relevant and current, we have moved seamlessly into social and digital media to increase our reach for all ages into the cars, homes, marae and to any location where our members reside in te Ao. This also includes the streaming of live content like our many tribal festivals for example, the Pikiāo Ahurei, Whakaue Whakanuia and our Te Arawa regional events including our Secondary Schools Kapa Haka Competitions and more.

Our digital reach has gained pace over the last couple of years, in particular during Covid 19 where local content and messaging was delivered remotely and where valuable lessons were learnt.

We are committed to kōrero tuku iho through our pūrakau (stories) told in our own way, and Mana Motuhake over them. Digital futures is part of this journey. This also stretches to our data sovereignty goals, in for example, proactively protecting access to matauranga Māori and the storing of information. Increasingly, the cloud environment is seen as part of the solution.

Our digital future is also secure in the knowledge of the tandem growth of our Māori businesses, often in local settings within our Te Arawa rohe, who have the vision and technical capability to bring these pūrakau to life. We support continued connectivity for whānau, marae, hapū, iwi in breaking down barriers to access digital technology and providing improved connectivity and reach to our audiences.

Our journey to 2022 and looking forward to 2040 (which marks 200 years since Te Tiriti of Waitangi was signed), has not been without its challenges.

As you will be aware, lack of equitable funding, infrastructure and frequency allocation/access are some of the challenges we continue to face. For example, Māori reserve frequencies are limited and poor, requiring us to purchase other frequencies commercially to ensure continuity and synchronised transmission to enable reach into our community.

## **Commentary**

You have asked for comments on the gaps that may exist in the draft Spectrum Management work programme 2022-2026 including (1) range of technical advancements and demands (2) prioritisation and (3) other matters.

We make the following observations.

- (a) Relevant to (1) We do not know what Te Reo Irirangi o Te Arawa will look like in the future given technology advances and rapid change in the sector. It will however remain as one of the core tenants of te reo ā-iwi and kōrero tuku iho activities.

In addition, we note the emerging technology around satellites and space and cellular mobile-5G technologies. There is a need to develop technology that is fit for purpose, enduring and reliable, given the recent tsunami in Tonga and destroying of communication channels. Climate change/natural disasters and technology will need to be sustainable given these are on the rise.

The Trust would also like to explore licensing matters in a pragmatic way to eliminate the barriers we have seen in the present system.

- (b) Relevant (2) (3) Fig 1 (p9) outlines Radio Spectrum Management and Allocation.

The Trust notes that Treaty/Partnership sits in the Government outcomes sector (and the work being undertaken by the Māori Spectrum Working Group). However, points of leverage and opportunity also sit in the commercial, technical sectors and from the Trust's perspective we wish to participate in this kōrero.

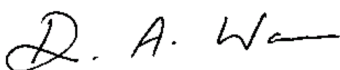
We are also looking for long term opportunities that may exist in mainstream kaupapa that enable our reo ā-iwi aspirations and reach into our communities.

## Recommendations

In closing, the Trust asks that MBIE proactively engage with us as the strategy is confirmed and the actions implemented to support its rollout over the next 5 years.

I look forward to hearing from you and can be contacted on: 021 191 8296

**Naku noa, nā**



**Rawiri Waru**

**Toihau, Te Reo Irirangi o Te Arawa Trust**