

Tēnā koutou e te pae,

I am making this submission as a passionate New Zealander. I have enjoyed the benefits of friendship with many wonderful recent immigrants yet am equally passionate about the New Zealand Government honouring its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi.

- First, the Treaty absolutely has ongoing relevance to immigration.
- Thus, in my view, the most crucial gap in the current immigration infrastructure is the absence of meaningful input by Māori/iwi/tangata whenua, particularly at the decision making and policy setting levels.
- That current structures have allowed decision making and policy to favour Pākehā interests and frameworks and downplayed or erased those of Māori, not only contravenes the spirit and principles of the Treaty of Waitangi but has left New Zealand a poorer more fractured country.
- Moreover, that nothing has happened despite being aware of the immigration Treaty claim (1991) is a serious failure of government. Indeed, the fact that New Zealand's nature has changed dramatically in the last 30 years is a slap in the face for the government's commitment to Treaty based partnership with Māori.
- Treasury's **He Ara Waiora** is relevant and useful framework for New Zealand immigration policy design. The framework and Te Ao Māori is not anti-business, however it places the environment, mana and wellbeing at the centre of policy discussions. I have the following caveat's, nonetheless:
 - The He Ara Waiora framework must be used on its own. That is, it must not be undermined by reference to a western or Pākehā centric framework.
 - It must be supported by meaningful Māori input to ensure it is applied adequately to policy and implemented in immigration BAU.
- I propose the following:
 - Representatives of iwi/Māori are provided with a forum for meaningful input in the decision making and policy setting processes for immigration.
 - Immigration New Zealand establishes a Te Ao Māori advisory committee to guide it in the application of its Treaty obligations in the way it works at multiple levels.
 - That Immigration develops a strategy to move towards reflecting Māori tikanga and language in its work.

Thank you for reading this submission

Dr. Roger Lewis