

## Ngāti Maniapoto Marae PACT Trust | Mahi Ngātahi Wānanga

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

*Organizations in attendance: Waihanga Ara Rau, Hanga-Aro-Rau, Ringa Hora, Muka Tangata, Toi Mai, Waitomo District Council, Solar Sense Ltd. Aotahi, Ministry of Education Waikato, Ministry of Social Development Connected, Tertiary Education Commission, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, Maniapoto Training Agency, Ngāti Maniapoto Marae PACT Trust.*

**E hara i te mea, he kotahi tangata nāna i whakairo tō po!**

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The Mahi Ngātahi wānanga has been a significant opportunity to establish and deepen relationships, align on shared priorities, and explore how we can collectively support Ngāti Maniapoto Marae PACT Trust (NMMPT) aspirations. This platform allowed NMMPT to share their vision and progress toward mana motuhake, focusing on education, employment, and workforce development opportunities in alignment with NMMPT's key projects, including:

- ✓ **Renewable Energy Sovereignty** – Develop solar and hydro to help reduce energy hardship in whānau households and build capacity in sustainable energy investments.
- ✓ **Harvest to Home** – Establishing a full supply chain from forest to construction, to provide affordable homes for the community.
- ✓ **Kai and Wai Sovereignty** – Strengthening food and water sovereignty for long-term sustainability.

Through these discussions and workshops, insights into the challenges and opportunities NMMPT faces, identified areas where agencies can provide tangible support, and explore pathways for meaningful collaboration.

Key themes have emerged that highlight key considerations of all stakeholders represented at the 'Mahi Ngātahi' wānanga. These insights reaffirm the importance of collective action, strategic training initiatives, sustainable economic opportunities, and innovation-led solutions as critical enablers of long-term success.

**Collaboration & Engagement:** A strong preference has emerged for whānau-centric approaches that empower communities rather than relying solely on institutional-led strategies. Meaningful partnerships and collective decision-making are essential for ensuring all stakeholders have a voice in shaping the future.

- Whānau-led decision-making is prioritized over top-down institutional strategies.
- Inclusive engagement is crucial, ensuring all voices are heard.
- Transparent communication and planning are key to maintain trust and achieving shared goals.

**Training & Workforce Development:** A recurring theme is the need for clear and structured training pathways, particularly for rangatahi. Workforce development must align with industry requirements and provide real employment opportunities

- NZQA-accredited training is essential for equipping the workforce with relevant skills.
- Industry involvement in training initiatives ensures seamless pathways to employment.
- Māori-led workforce strategies provide targeted support for rangatahi and career progression.

**Economic & Industry Opportunities:** There is a strong desire to leverage regional and national economic opportunities that align with Māori values and aspirations. Key projects like "Renewable Energy Sovereignty" and "Harvest to Homes" offer pathways to sustainable industry growth.

- Forestry-to-construction initiatives provide long-term employment and economic resilience
- Renewable energy projects are a priority, with a call for increased local and regional council support
- Sustainable and ergonomic work environments are needed to ensure worker well-being.

**Sustainability & Innovation:** Energy resilience, green solutions, and innovation-led approaches are critical to long-term success. These solutions must align with tikanga Māori values to ensure cultural and environmental sustainability.

- Recognition of energy resilience as key to economic and environmental sustainability.
- Strong advocacy for the adoption of green energy solutions and sustainable materials.
- Interest in exploring new technologies that align with tikanga Māori values.

## Key Themes & Findings

From the survey data, we have identified four central themes that align with the three projects led by NMMPT. These insights will help guide future initiatives and ensure alignment with all.

Renewable Energy		Harvest to Home
<b>Insights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition of energy resilience as key to economic and environmental sustainability.</li> <li>Strong advocacy for the adoption of green energy solutions and sustainable materials.</li> <li>Interest in exploring new technologies that align with tikanga Māori values.</li> <li>Realisation of how bad our energy problems are and could be in the future, which makes me want to contribute to finding solutions.</li> <li>I want to explore how we can help our whanau and hapu become self-sufficient energy wise and I love the mahi the Marae PACT Trust are doing to support whānau and hapū.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong interest in projects such as "Harvest to Homes."</li> <li>Need for clear supply chain integration from forest to construction.</li> <li>Call for ergonomic and sustainable work environments.</li> </ul>
<b>Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the training and ensuring the right accreditation, assessment and moderation processes are set up.</li> <li>TEC would be almost the last step in a long line of work that needs to come first. (As mentioned above about the lead-times for qualifications process). In the meantime, it is helpful for us to be aware when there is a significant opportunity or demand for learners in the region.</li> <li>Opportunity to develop NZQA products to support training and also possibly workforce development by connecting others, sharing insights and providing advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BACTS L2 in 2025, potential of Carpentry L3 and/or Civil Infrastructure L2 in 2026.</li> <li>Gathering of qualification pathways for the solid wood processing and providers to deliver. NMMPT are extremely ambitious to build their own Mill and have this fully operational within the next 3 to 4 years (at least). However, discovering the broad phases to each project was a glimpse that NMMPT are certainly on the road to making this happen.</li> <li>Need to be mindful of multiple skills/programme needs.</li> <li>No formal training or clear learner pathways for our whānau Māori</li> </ul>
<b>Industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to co-develop and collaborate with Ngāti Maniapoto iwi/hapū to develop credentials that support learners into the renewable energy space and gain a qualified electrician practicing licence to specialise in solar installation and maintenance.</li> <li>The energy resilience project and defining a clear way that Council can support the consenting processes for solar and small hydro</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mill build and operations. Creating an ergonomic design layout to complement processing to build operations.</li> <li>Hanga-Aro-Rau WDC contributions rest more in the forest to home project that was discussed at the other table. Our current remit supports the wood manufacturing and solid timber industries connected with their aspirations around sawmilling.</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In particular for disengaged and/ or non-enrolled young people within the wider Waitomo area. Exposure activity will be key and may provide the opportunity to connected back into an education to employment pathway.</li> <li>Contacts made, Positive future for rangatahi, working together to support whanau and rangatahi</li> <li>Opportunity to do things differently</li> <li>Creating the right environment to build onsite, transitioning from training, to creating a multiskilled pathway for akonga.</li> <li>On a personal level, the whanau in homes pathway.</li> <li>Skill base and passion of participants.</li> <li>Understanding the breadth and depth of work that NMMPT does, beyond being a PTE, which is just one arm of the work for the wider organization.</li> </ul>	

The insights gathered through surveys and workshops highlight a clear path forward for Ngāti Maniapoto Marae PACT Trust (NMMPT) and its partners.

To translate these priorities into meaningful actions, a set of strategic next steps has been identified.

### **Actions & Next Steps:**

1. Establish work groups to drive sector-specific initiatives and ensure a coordinated approach for each project.
2. Facilitate engagement with government, industry and funders to secure long-term investment.
3. Foster collaboration between key stakeholders and partners to integrate Māori-led, NMMPT-led solutions.
4. Explore funding mechanisms and investment partnerships for sustainable projects.
5. Strengthen relationships with regional and national economic agencies to align with broader development goals.
6. Enhance education-to-employment pathways through stronger employer engagement.
7. Develop training programmes that integrate NZQA-aligned qualifications with real-world industry experience.
8. Support Māori workforce participation and progression into leadership roles.

**Call to Action:** The success of the next steps depends on collective leadership, shared resources and active participation.

We encourage:

- Key stakeholders to join working groups to contribute expertise.
- Agencies to explore investment opportunities that align with NMMPT aspirations.
- Industry to support workforce development efforts and create sustainable pathways.

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By working together, we can unlock new opportunities, drive systemic change, and ensure a prosperous future for Ngāti Maniapoto whānau and the wider community.