

Background Note

Explanation of the Title: A Near Horizon

Prepared 26 May 2020

A Near Horizon: Seizing the opportunities and managing the risks in transition to net zero: the importance of climate-related financial disclosures

Ko nga pae tata, whakamaua kia tina – For the near horizon and opportunities, seize them!

Choosing the event title *A Near Horizon* had its own journey.

First and foremost, the title was inspired by Mark Carney's speech *A New Horizon* in Brussels in 2019. The speech was compelling and succinct in its focus on the roles of banks, investors and policy makers in adapting to and mitigating climate change. His rhetoric has since been repeated and dispersed around the world, inspiring both hope and decisive action.

Mark Carney suggested the byline 'Seizing the opportunities and managing the risks in the transition to net zero: the importance of climate-related financial disclosures'. For the panellists, speakers, and the various organisations and individuals involved in this event, harnessing and promoting climate-related financial reporting is both the opportunity and the means towards achieving the desired goal, the near horizon: net zero carbon emissions.

The use of the word 'near' came out of discussions with Trevor Moeke, the Principal Advisor Crown Māori at The Treasury in Wellington. By coincidence this aligned nicely with Mark Carney's use of the word 'seize' in the byline.

The title and the whakataukī were specifically prepared for the event, and are a collaboration of different people working towards the same goal.

More about the whakataukī

Trevor explained that 'Ko nga pae tata, whakamaua kia tina' translates to 'for the near horizon and opportunities, seize them!'. It is part of a larger proverb and call to action, which represents our collective voyage, and a reminder that the responsibility for reaching the near horizon belongs to the person in the present. Trevor provided us with the following insights into the whakataukī:

As voyagers; a deep wellspring of knowing in and of the natural world is all important and pervasive. In that deep knowing comes survival, spirit, humanity, futures and prosperity. And, the arts and sciences for intergenerational custodianship. Ours for the environment, and now more than ever, for one another! Hence reach deeply and draw the distant near, and seize the near horizon. Drawn from a deep wellspring within us all and natural world and environment.

About Trevor Moeke

Of Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngāti Awa Iwi tribal descent lines of the Eastern Seaboard of the North Island of NZ, Trevor works as the Principal Advisor Crown Māori at The Treasury in Wellington. He serves Iwi as the chair of the board of the Kahungunu Assets Holding Company Group. He has worked across private and public sector including roles in broadcasting and technology, Treaty settlements, industry, global indigenous and Māori developments.