

Dr Tāniora Maxwell



E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā kāwai whakapapa, tēnā rā koutou katoa. Ko Tāniora Maxwell
tōku ingoa.

He uri tēnei nō Ngāi Tai, Te Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Whātua anō hoki.

Dr Tāniora Maxwell (Ngāi Tai, Te Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Whātua) is a kaupapa Māori researcher and policy analyst whose work centres the rights, knowledge systems, and lived realities of Māori communities.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Indigenous Studies (Law and Policy) from Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, a Master of Science (Hons) from Massey University, and a Master of Arts (Hons) in Museums and Cultural Heritage from The University of Auckland. This interdisciplinary foundation positions him at the intersection of Indigenous law, policy, and cultural knowledge, bringing both scholarly rigour and deep community grounding to his research practice.

Tāniora has led and contributed to significant research programmes across climate adaptation, taonga Māori repatriation, and iwi wellbeing, consistently applying kaupapa Māori methodologies that centre whānau, hapū, and iwi as knowledge holders. His research does not simply document; it interrogates the structural forces that shape Māori experiences and produces findings that are actionable at a governance and policy level.

As Head of Governance, Research and Policy at T.I.I.N.A. and Principal Researcher on the KAHI marae emergency preparedness project, he brings end-to-end research leadership from methodology design and community engagement through to synthesis and recommendation. He has a proven ability to work across iwi, government, and institutional contexts, and to translate complex findings into frameworks that drive meaningful, lasting change.