Pronunciation Guide

**Vowels** Ngā oropuare
Māori vowels are much the same as many other languages (except English!). Here are the short vowels:

- a as in cup
- e as in egg
- i as in eat
- o as in for
- u as in to

**Macrons** Ngā tohutō
A macron is a line written above a vowel and indicates a long vowel sound. Many people are unsure when to use them, but they make a big difference!

- ā as in car
- ō as in measure
- ā as in car
- ē as in measure
- ū as in roof

**Consonants** Ngā orokati

- p as in pin
- t as in tin
- k as in kick
- m as in man
- n as in nan
- ng as in singer
- wh as in father
- r as a rolling ‘r’ sometimes described as being close to an English ‘d’ or ‘l’ sound

**For example** Hei tauira

He keke māu?
Would you like some cake?

He kēkē māu?
Would you like some armpit?

› Check out our great audio tips to help with your pronunciation of Māori here: www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz/resources

‘Kia ita!’
Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori
MĀORI LANGUAGE COMMISSION

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