

Report 01.577

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Report to: Wellington Regional Council
From: Councillors Stuart Macaskill and Ian Buchanan

Ara Tahī Meeting – 1 August 2001

1. Purpose

To report to Council the proceedings at the meeting of Ara Tahī held on 1 August 2001.

2. Background & Comment

The Council's representatives, Councillors Macaskill and Buchanan, attended the meeting. Councillors Gibson, Shaw, Shields and Turver also attended.

2.1 *Progress Report from Maori Policy Advisor, Wairarapa*

Jason Kerehi provided an overview of a number of projects where the Council is collaborating with Iwi. He also noted the high level of interest shown by Wairarapa staff in Maori language training. Ara Tahī members expressed their appreciation for Jason Kerehi's work and the support of the Regional Council.

The meeting agreed that an Ara Tahī test web page is to be developed for viewing prior to the next Ara Tahī meeting in October, with individual Iwi pages to be added at a later date.

2.2 *Progress Report from Maori Policy Advisor, Wellington*

Keriana Wilcox reported that Wellington staff have also reacted enthusiastically to the opportunity to learn about tikanga and te reo.

In response to a question from Councillor Turver, the meeting agreed that workshops were useful but noted that the agendas were too full. It was agreed that future workshops would take such comments into account.

Ara Tahī members voiced their concern over recent negative publicity over some Iwi

projects that had been supported by the Council. Councillor Macaskill noted these concerns and indicated that the Council had also received considerable negative reaction to such publicity. It was suggested that it might be useful to highlight, via Elements, the good work that was being achieved through the Council's collaboration with Ara Tahi.

2.3 ***Regional Monitoring Strategy***

The meeting was briefed on the Council's desire to consult Ara Tahi members on the Strategy.

2.4 ***Draft Riparian Management Strategy***

Kirsten Forsyth reported on this item and indicated a desire to hear the views of Ara Tahi members on the Strategy. It was noted that the Iwi capacity funding would cover the cost of such consultation.

2.5 Local Government Act Review

John Allard gave an overview of the main proposals of the Department of Internal Affairs review of the Local Government Act 1974. Councillor Shields commented on the work of *Local Government New Zealand Maori Advisory Committee Nga Matakokiri Maori* in relating to the role/place of the Treaty of Waitangi in the new legislation.

It was explained that the Government's view is that Local Government is distinct from the Crown and therefore Treaty principles do not apply. Local Government New Zealand believes that there should be clarity over whether a reference to the Treaty of Waitangi should be included in the new legislation. However, if reference to the Treaty were to be included, it is unclear how it would be incorporated. Some members of Nga Matakokiri Maori felt that if the Treaty were to be incorporated, the duties arising should be detailed and prescriptive. Such an approach would conflict with the aims of the new legislation as moving towards a broader and more empowering statutory framework.

John Allard noted that the Council would have its draft submission on the review ready for the Council's consideration on 7 August. Iwi responses to that submission would be welcomed on 15 August. It was noted that this submission would be separate from submissions that would arise from the Governments' own consultation with Iwi on this issue.

2.6 General Matters

The meeting was informed of a request by the Te Ati Awa Trust to join Ara Tahi. It was agreed that this request would be dealt with in terms of the protocols established by the Charter of Understanding.

3. Recommendation

That the Report be received and the information noted

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman

IAN BUCHANAN
Chairman, Environment