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**Report 01.646**

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Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee  
from Jason Kerehi, Maori Policy Advisor

**Progress report on Iwi Projects in the Wairarapa**

**1. Purpose**

To inform the committee of Iwi projects initiated with local Iwi/Maori in the Wairarapa since the establishment of the Maori Policy Advisor, Wairarapa position in January 2001.

**2. Background**

In recent times Wellington Regional Council has undertaken a number of initiatives to strengthen its relationship with Iwi. Both the Council and Iwi want the relationship to be mutually beneficial.

As part of this approach, Council has made funds available for Iwi initiated projects which protect heritage, improve the environment and allow Iwi to better deal with their Resource Management Act obligations.

**3. Comment**

Below are progress reports of Iwi Projects initiated in the Wairarapa for the financial year ended 30 June 2001.

**3.1 Taueru Urupa**

**Description:** This project protects and identifies an existing urupa. It also includes planting of natives and the provision of a monument that recognises the cultural and heritage significance of the urupa and its environs.

The proposal has been put forward by the Taueru Marae Committee and is supported by Rangitaane o Wairarapa.

**Status:** Project has been approved and terms agreed.

The fence has been erected and will be painted by volunteers in October.

Committee volunteers and Council staff undertook the planting on 18 August 2001.

The urupa committee is currently drafting an inscription for the plaque and a plinth will be chosen soon. Completion of the project will be achieved in December with the placing of the finished monument in the urupa.

### 3.2 Punaruku Wetlands Project

**Description:** This project involves enhancing a notable wetland in the Ngawi area to attract natural wildlife back. The applicants wanted to re-open a body of water, add to native plantings and address pest control.

The proposal is from the Kawakawa Trust in partnership with the Ngawi Residents Association, and the project is supported by Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

**Status:** The project was on hold pending a report and recommendations from the Council's wetland officer on possible effects on ecosystems in the lagoon.

The applicants have now received this report and we are in the process of redeveloping the project in line with the report's recommendations. The report recommends that no machinery be used to extract weeds in the waterway as it may cause adverse affects on aquatic ecosystems.

The project will now involve native plantings along the lagoon fringes to alleviate nutrients getting into the water, and the development of a stock proof fence.

A copy of the wetland officer's report is available from the Maori Policy Advisor if requested.

### 3.3 Hurunuiorangi Urupa

**Description:** This project involves planting for beautification and stock proof fencing of two urupa in Gladstone.

The proposal is from the Hurunuiorangi Marae Committee and is supported by Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

**Status:** Project was approved and terms agreed. The applicants wanted to beautify and provide shelter to both urupa. It was agreed that this would best be achieved through stock fencing and perimeter planting.

All components of this project have been completed and a letter of thanks was received from the Marae committee dated 10 August 2001. Of copy of this letter is included as Appendix A.

Project completed.

#### **4. Communication**

I have attended Maori forum including the Kaumatua Council and South Wairarapa District Council Maori Standing Committee and presented Iwi Project criteria. I have also liased directly with both Iwi to help them develop projects. These Iwi projects have not been communicated to the general public at present.

#### **5. Conclusion**

There has been a good reception to the Iwi projects from both the recipients and other community groups. Local Maori are very grateful for the opportunity to help protect and improve their lands and significant sites. Some groups have commented that they have been seeking financial assistance for projects like these for almost 30 years.

Although this report refers to only three Iwi projects, much work has been done with both Wairarapa Iwi to progress projects in the current financial year. It is expected that Iwi will have a greater involvement in the development and management of this year's projects.

#### **6. Recommendation**

*That the report be received and the contents noted.*

Report prepared by

Approved for submission by

Jason Kerehi  
Maori Policy Advisor

Steve Blakemore  
Manager, Planning & Resources