

**Report**            **05.661**  
**Date**             22 November 2005  
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**Committee**      **Ara Tahī**  
**Author**          **Graham Cameron Policy Advisor-Maori**

## **Hui-a-Ara Tahī report**

### **1. Purpose**

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

The Hui-a-Ara Tahī held on October 31 to November 1 at Stella Maris conference centre, Seatoun was attended by representatives of all iwi authorities that Greater Wellington has a relationship with.

The iwi representatives worked to five objectives for the hui:

- To address issues around tikanga, and cultural training
- To further clarify how Ara Tahī works with Council
- To develop a vision for Ara Tahī
- To ensure the welfare of people is considered in Council policy structures
- To formally develop policies and procedures to guide Ara Tahī

### **4. Comment**

#### **4.1 Self-assessment**

There was broad agreement in a self-assessment of Ara Tahī that the group is at a point where change is possible and required. The images used by representatives included a crossroads and a doorway to possibilities. There was

agreement there is untapped potential both in the current group and the relationship with Greater Wellington.

The iwi representatives of Ara Tahi considers its strengths to be that over ten years of relationship, they have valued and protected tikanga Māori and kaupapa Māori, growing into a mature acknowledgement of the mana of each iwi involved. This has built a deep sense of whanaungatanga between each party who has been involved. The mix of people, from officers through to kaumātua has seen a variety of talents, skills and experiences available and utilised. In particular, the presence of kaumātua has provided guidance and support to Ara Tahi, such that Ara Tahi is now a role model for other organisations and iwi to follow.

## 4.2 Vision

The vision articulated by iwi representatives is encapsulated in the whakatauki:

Hutia te rito o te harakeke,  
Kei whea to kōmako e kō  
Whakataerangitia  
Rere ki uta, rere ki tai  
Ūia mai ki a au  
He aha te mea nui o te ao  
Māku e kī atu  
He tāngata he tāngata he tāngata.

When the heart is torn from the flax bush  
Where will the bellbird sing?  
Proclaim it to the land, proclaim it to the sea,  
You ask me  
What is the greatest thing in the world?  
My reply is  
People, people, people.

The intention of the iwi representatives of Ara Tahi is to incarnate this whakatauki by seeking to contribute to a united community of all peoples in the Wellington region by:

- achieving ngā moemoea o ngā tīpuna (the dreams of the ancestors) through taking opportunities presented within and outside of Greater Wellington;
- having the clarity of purpose, control of conduct, and capacity to engage well with Greater Wellington;
- seeking a greater share of the decision-making power in the region, with the intent of achieving an equal sitting; and
- facilitating meaningful access to and information from Greater Wellington for whānau and hapū.

## **4.3 Strategic priorities 2005-07**

### **4.3.1 Policy and strategic development**

Greater Wellington and the iwi representatives of Ara Tahi will jointly develop:

- specific business areas where iwi can seek to engage with Greater Wellington in a meaningful and effective way;
- procedures and policies to guide Ara Tahi in decision making;
- policies and processes to determine how effective representation of pan-tribal views can be made and fed back to Ara Tahi; and
- a resource (including a powerpoint presentation) to raise Ara Tahi's profile internally and externally.

### **4.3.2 Guidance, advice and support**

The iwi representatives of Ara Tahi will seek to:

- work in collaboration with Greater Wellington to identify specific areas in which the council requires guidance and advice;
- provide guidance and advice to Greater Wellington on cultural matters;
- utilise technical workshops as a means to discuss kaupapa Māori; and
- encourage Greater Wellington councillors and staff to engage with Ara Tahi.

### **4.3.3 Participation in Greater Wellington's work**

Ara Tahi will seek to:

- contribute to discussions in relation to the Wellington Regional Strategy;
- attend and participate in the Strategic Partners Forum;
- better engage with the Regional Land Transport Committee on the Western Corridor and other transport issues;
- be represented on other committees (for example the Environment Committee);
- report back from external boards and committees assisted by Greater Wellington officers;
- assist Greater Wellington to confidently and consistently communicate and engage with Ara Tahi on matters of importance to iwi and Māori; and

- assist Greater Wellington to understand and plan for the time it takes for Ara Tahi to respond in a timely way to requests.

#### 4.3.4 Development and Training

Greater Wellington and the iwi representatives of Ara Tahi will jointly:

- invite Māori experts to speak to Greater Wellington councillors and senior management staff on Māori issues;
- engage the services of prominent Māori researcher(s) to carry out work for Ara Tahi;
- set up workshops to assist iwi with project development and project management; and
- consider possible training options to increase councillor and staff cultural awareness.

#### 4.4 Actions from the Hui-a-Ara Tahi

These recommendations were put forward and moved at the Hui a Ara Tahi:

*Recommendation 1:* That the kawa adopted by Ara Tahi and Greater Wellington reflects that of the (iwi) rohe the event is in.

*Recommendation 2:* That cultural training be a priority for councillors, senior management and all new staff beginning immediately, initially in understanding iwi history and current strategic directions and priorities.

*Recommendation 3:* That an iwi technical workshop is held on the recent amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991;

*Recommendation 4:* A PowerPoint presentation be developed for and about Ara Tahi for communication purposes, including the history of Ara Tahi, where Ara Tahi is now and where it is going; and

*Recommendation 5:* That presentations by Ara Tahi-recommended Māori experts be undertaken annually to Ara Tahi, Councillors and staff.

### 5. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report;***
2. ***Notes the content of the report;***
3. ***Agrees to the Vision (4.2) for Ara Tahi;***
4. ***Agrees to the Strategic Priorities (4.3) for Ara Tahi;***

5. *Presents the Hui-a-Ara Tahī report and Ara Tahī powerpoint presentation to the Greater Wellington Regional Council by 30 June 2006.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

**Graham Cameron**  
Policy Advisor-Maori

**Jack Rikihana**  
Chairperson – Ara Tahī

**Attachment 1:**