

Tami Woods

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To whom it may concern

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We would like to congratulate the Regional Council on the alignment it has in the Regional Policy Statement between sustainable activity and mauri. Even though many of its references to mauri are modified by tangata whenua's considerations, the optimistic view could be that this acknowledgement is recognizing the place of Maori and its importance to the region. Of course the pessimistic view is that while tangata whenua hold mauri to be important, recognition comes before adoption or empowerment. Reality often places the truth somewhere in between.

When analyzing the document we, as readers can only rely on what is in front of us. Only 3 of the 69 Policies refer to mauri directly. Two of these policies are places that we would expect to find Maori considerations, viz. Policy 47: Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi – consideration

Policy 48: Avoiding adverse effects on matters of significance to tangata whenua – consideration. The pessimistic view seems to be proven, until we understand that the other policy is, Policy 15: Promoting discharges to land – regional plans where it states in the explanation of that policy "Well managed land-based discharges can avoid adverse effects on water bodies, including degradation of the *mauri of water bodies*." Mauri is a part of the implied benefit of this policy. It might be that this is mentioned with respect to mutual benefits and when mauri is the benefit by itself Council might be less inclined to mention it. **Kahungunu ki Wairarapa would however like to see that other policies where mauri is a part of the mutual benefits that mauri is explicitly listed.**

Further concerns Council might have with respect to mauri could be around the measurement of mauri, as they measure a baseline, monitor developments, set goals in an area outside its skill set. Perhaps this is the reason why only method 37 speaks about mauri. "Method 37: Iwi authorities prepare planning documents" is an outline of what should be in iwi plans if they "wish to do so." Kahungunu ki Wairarapa wishes to do so, ie prepare an iwi plan, because it is difficult to envisage an Integrated Management Plan without tangata whenua input. We look forward to being a part of a whole catchment integrated management plan like the one being trialed in Motueka at the moment. We note that at the bottom of method 37, Greater Wellington Regional Council has offered itself to implement the methods iwi propose in its plans. **Kahungunu ki Wairarapa recommends that Greater Wellington Regional Council widen the scope of its methodologies to include Kaupapa Maori methods amongst its staff.** This would build on its instruction from Gail Tipa and Caleb Royal. There are other Kaupapa Maori methods being used around the country that we would encourage the Council's staff to use too.

Kahungunu ki Wairarapa envisages the day when the modifier 'tangata whenua' is no longer needed because mauri is a concept that enhances the whole of the region, as policy 15 implies.

Yours truly

Rawiri Smith

7/07/2009