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26 May 1999

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Wellington Regional Council  
**P O Box 11-646**  
WELLINGTON

ATTENTION: Council Secretary

**Tena koe**

**RE: a c i n g**

Attached is our submission for the Councils Facing the Future document. While this is a submission to the annual plan, the following proposal is a long-term proposal.

We wish to be heard by **the** Council's Policy and Finance Sub-committee when it considers all submissions.

Naku **noa**, naa

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E A Burge".

**E A Burge BRS**  
**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

# PROPOSAL

The concept of a Wairarapa Based Maori Liaison Officer (WMLO) and initial feedback **from** the Wellington Regional Council as to the feasibility and desirability of pursuing such an option has been initiated at a meeting with **WRC** Wairarapa Councilor's and management staff. Further to this the draft proposal (dated November 1998) has been re-drafted to be more specific and provide more detail to create further understanding with the Council in view that it will be forwarded as an annual plan submission.

The WMLO would be responsible for liaison and networking for all resource management issues affecting Wairarapa Maori and the Wellington Regional Council. The role would encompass Iwi, Hapu, Whanau and Trusts.

## Feedback

This paper has been developed following discussions with members of the Wairarapa Maori community and

- Joe Potangaroa Te **Puni** Kokiri
- Andrea Millar Section Leader, Policy and Planning (for November 1998 draft)

## THE PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The purpose of the position will be to foster LIAISON. They will not be able to provide all the answers for the sub-region, however they will facilitate outcomes between the Council and **Mana Whenua\***, thereby ensuring Council obligations are met under the Resource Management Act.

- \* The Resource Management Act refers to Maori as Tangata Whenua however, in the majority of cases, this actually means those Hapu and Whanau who are **Mana Whenua** (and have jurisdiction over the land and sea)
- \* **'Marae'** are simply the central point at which Maori communities or hapu meet; they do not necessarily have jurisdiction outside their boundaries. Many Hapu and Whanau may decide not to be represented by a **Marae-based** structure. Any consultative structure needs to ensure that these people are still captured.

## BACKGROUND

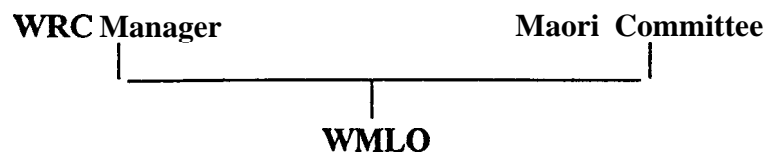
The Wellington Regional Council currently employs an Iwi Liaison Officer (**ILO**), who is based in the Wellington office of the Council. In the past, this position has had a large

degree of input into western region and has played a more limited role in matters relating to Wairarapa Maori.

The constraints on the ability of the ILO to service the whole region, particularly over such a wide geographic area, are apparent. Wairarapa has approximately 75% of the landmass with differing issues – it could be said that the ILO should have 4 days in the Wairarapa and 1 day in Wellington. It is believed that a Wairarapa based person could further enhance the working relationship between the WRC and Maori and achieve better environmental outcomes for our future.

## **PROPOSED WMLO STRUCTURE**

The WMLO, employed by WRC, would be responsible for **co-ordinating** Regional Council Maori consultation for any resource management issues affecting the Wairarapa. This would include Wellington Regional Plan and policy development, and resource consent applications etc. The WMLO would also play a strong role in contributing to operational functions and would adopt educational functions Council-wide.



The above structure will be continually monitored and evaluated by both the Maori Committee and a nominated WRC Manager. Regular meetings would be held between the WMLO, WRC management and the Maori Committee to ensure information was flowing between all parties.

### **. Maori Committee**

- Comprising of 5 expert **Mana Whenua** individuals plus WRC representation<sup>1</sup>
- Natural selection process through consultation
- To provide support, advice and ‘cultural back up’ to the WMLO and WRC
- Final points to be clarified ie; powers, structure, meetings etc

Areas of expertise for the Maori Committee would include:

Tikanga and Te Reo

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<sup>1</sup> This could include representation from the South, Central, North and Coastal areas of the Wairarapa

Land use issues  
Environmental issues and management  
Policy development

. Strategic Planning

The WMLO, in conjunction with WRC, the Maori Committee and other Maori, would produce a yearly strategic plan covering key 'milestone' projects which are to be initiated and/or completed. This is intended to show progress (and solving) of outstanding issues, it can also be used for accountability and responsibility measures to ensure benefits to both parties. An example of a years work plan is attached in the appendix.

• Resource Consent Annlications

The existing consultation protocol for non-notified consents, whereby contact is made solely with Iwi Authorities would continue, however contact would also be made directly with those concerned or affected by a proposal i.e. Hapu, trustees, whanau and individuals. This process would ensure that the correct people are notified of applications.

This process would also be adopted for notified consents, in addition to the WMLO providing general comments in the form of an officer's report. Assistance to Maori, applicants and WRC in these areas would be of benefit to all parties concerned.

▪ Wellington Regional Plan Development

Co-ordination and assisting the involvement of Maori in the development of Regional Plans. The WMLO would also monitor and evaluate (in conjunction with Maori), the effectiveness of WRC plans and policies in terms of outcomes for Maori.

▪ Development of Maori Management Plans

The WMLO would provide advice and information for the development of Wairarapa Maori (whanau/hapu/Iwi) Management Plan(s). On completion of these plans the WMLO would also monitor and evaluate their effectiveness.

. Education of WRC staff and Maoti community

The WMLO would be responsible for providing on-going education and support to WRC staff on the Treaty of Waitangi and specific provisions of the Resource Management Act regarding Maori.

Similarly, they would play a role in advising Maori of **Council** functions and limitations and would provide feedback as to appropriate points of contact or avenues for discussion,

The WMLO would play a key role in providing information to both Maori and Council on regional and national issues, which may effect Maori. A newsletter could be sent out as a means of informing people of regional and national issues.

## **ADVANTAGES OF WMLO STRUCTURE**

- *The geographical location of the WMLO enables both the Maori community and the Council to be more accessible to each other, thereby allowing a more efficient and open relationship and processes.*
- *The WMLO will be better able to service the needs of the community. Within the greater Wellington region, situations vary between the two divisions of Council and also between the various Iwi. Similarly, there are different issues facing the largely urban, Western region to those facing the largely rural, Wairarapa community.*
- *By contacting those directly affected by proposals, rather than solely the Iwi Authority, the Council will be ensuring that the correct people are kept informed and have the ability to input into the consent and planning process.*
- *Iwi organisational differences will be set aside from the WMLO resource management structure.*
- *The Iwi Authorities will continue to give advice to their people and provide an over-arching, "watch-dog" facility. They are a convenient point of contact and are likely to be administratively better able to provide records and other more general advice and have staff with a greater knowledge of the RMA.*
- *A WMLO would in all likelihood, have specific local knowledge, which would be enhanced over time with knowledge from the Maori community and Regional Council activities/duties.*
- *Meetings with other Maori Liaison Officers could stimulate new ideas, but could also act as a means of self-assessment. By similar means, peer assessment could occur by creating a small network.*

## **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE/ABILITIES OF THE WMLO**

- Resource management working experience and knowledge. Specifically this would include; policy and planning and resource consent work.
- General environmental experience and knowledge.
- An in-depth knowledge of Wairarapa present and historical lands, places and people.
- An ability *to* access additional information from people.
- An in-depth knowledge of Wairarapa present and historical whakapapa i.e. mokopuna, whanau and hapu.
- An ability to build effective *working* relations with a range of people and organisations (e.g. Maori Land **Court, DoC**, Iwi Resource Management and Research staff, Historic Places Trust, Fish and Game Council).

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

While this position may initially start off as one full-time position, it is envisaged that it could grow into a 'unit'. **This** unit would provide services such as support, facilitation and advice to WRC, Wairarapa Maori community, and expanding to include the three District Councils within Wairarapa. This process would ensure consistency across our region.

Prepared by Liz Burge  
16 November 1998  
Revised 28 April 1999