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Report to Wellington Regional Council
from Councillors Margaret Shields and Ian Buchanan

Ara Tahī Meeting – 16 October 2002

1. Purpose

To report to Council the proceedings of the meeting of Ara Tahī held on 16 October 2002.

2. Background and Comment

2.1 Incident Response Report

A report on incident responses undertaken by Council staff over the last two months was presented to the meeting.

2.1.1 A pro-active approach to pollution control

Howard Markland who recently started work at the Council as the Pollution Control Co-ordinator discussed some of the new initiatives for the pollution control team, including:

- developing protocols for assessing the level of significance of incidents; and
- moving towards taking a more pro-active role in the future.

Pro-active initiatives will involve developing an auditing programme for organisations and working with them to reduce environmental damage.

2.1.2 Incident response report for Ara Tahī

Members of Ara Tahī agreed that pollution incidents and responses only need be reported to Ara Tahī annually, instead of every two months. Small matters are often discussed at length, taking up a disproportionate amount of the meeting time. Members requested that a copy of the weekly incident report be distributed to all members of Ara Tahī weekly. Individual members can discuss any questions or issues that arise with Howard Markland in the first instance, and where appropriate, specific issues can be raised at the following Ara Tahī meeting.

2.1.3 *Ara Tahi involvement with pollution control efforts*

Howard Markland commented that it would be helpful if Ara Tahi notified the pollution control team of any pollution problems they are aware of. He also suggested that Ara Tahi advise how they would like to participate in projects of importance and get involved in pro-active pollution control initiatives by identifying themes for investigation.

Margaret Shields suggested that members of Ara Tahi may also want to be involved in visiting some of the “Friends” groups that have been set up to protect particular areas of the environment.

2.2 **Ara Tahi Involvement in the Preparation of the Council’s Next Ten Year Plan**

A report, requesting that members of Ara Tahi confirm whether or not they wish to be involved in the development of the Council’s Ten Year Plan and asking how they would like to participate, was presented to Ara Tahi.

Members agreed that it would be good to be involved in the planning process and commented that there may be some Iwi issues that could be addressed in the plan.

Margaret Shields suggested members of Ara Tahi may be interested in the meeting on 15 November, which provides an update on Transmission Gully.

2.3 **Progress Report from Maori Policy Advisors, Wellington and Wairarapa**

Jason Kerehi noted the positive feedback he received from Hapu and Iwi representatives on the Councillor Walkover. Ian Buchanan commented that he thought it had been successful and provided a pathway to building relationships.

Members of Ara Tahi recently attended the technical workshop on emergency management. The workshop stressed the importance of being prepared for emergencies. Members of Ara Tahi will take this key message back to their respective Iwi.

Oral updates on the following projects were received:

2.3.1 *Inventory of Maori heritage sites and values – Wellington Tenth Trust*

Wellington Tenth Trust are continuing to work with GIS experts from Massey University. This part of the project is likely to be completed by Christmas 2002.

2.3.2 *Hamua sites of significance – Rangitane O Wairarapa*

Jason Kerehi advised that 120 sites have now been authenticated.

2.3.3 *Homewood wetland – Ngati Kahungunu*

The fencing around the wetland has been completed and the earthmoving equipment will soon be arriving to start on the next stage of the project. This includes filling a drain and removing willow trees.

2.3.4 *Okautete Marae – Ngati Kahungunu*

Owen Perry has requested additional funding to add mulch and edging to the plantings at the Marae. All other aspects of the planting project have been completed.

2.4 **Wetland planting**

Keriana Wilcox informed Ara Tahi of a recent pa harakeke planting day in Moores Valley, Wainuiomata. This initiative is being run through the Council's Environment Education section and involves local Iwi, Pukeatua school, council staff and members of the public. Now that the wetland planting at is finished, the wetland has been reopened to the public.

2.5 **Administrative Capacity Funding**

A report summarising the administrative funds available to members of Ara Tahi, what the funds can be used for and the feedback received from Iwi and Council staff, was presented to the meeting. Overall, Iwi have found the Putea fund very useful and have made a number of positive comments.

However, some concerns were expressed by Iwi and Council officers in relation to reporting, communication, management responsibilities for contracts and consistency of contracts. In response, the report suggests a series of action points to mitigate those issues. Ara Tahi approved the five action points, which include 6 monthly written reports to Ara Tahi, a standard template for reports and a record of the number of hui with Council staff to monitor the need for further funding. Jack Rikihana commented that the action points provide a pathway for the future while allowing members to express their needs.

Jack Rikihana commented that resource consent contracts are a much bigger job now and this requires reassessment of the resource consent Putea. Tom Paku advised he had similar issues and had discussed these with Jason Kerehi and Steve Blakemore to address the shortfalls for resource consents.

3. **General Business**

Victoria Owen asked members of Ara Tahi to start thinking of how they can have input into the Parks and Reserves Plans.

4. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the contents noted.