



Report 04.202
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Committee Ara Tahī
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Feedback from joint workshop

1. Purpose

To provide feedback from the joint workshop held on 7 April 2004 at Raukawa marae in Otaki.

2. Background

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss developing a process that will enable Greater Wellington to meet the requirements for Māori in the Local Government Act 2002.

The workshop focused on sections 81(1) and 82(2) of the Local Government Act (the Act) which state:

81(1) A local authority must—

establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority and

consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and

provide relevant information to Māori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).

82(2) A local authority must ensure that it has in place processes for consulting with Māori in accordance with subsection (1)

Although there was still some dissatisfaction with the use of the term Māori in the Act, everyone acknowledged the need to develop methods to accommodate the inclusion of Māori.

3. Key findings

After an overview and background, participants broke into groups to brainstorm how we could respond to the requirements of the Act. Each group contained council staff, councillors and iwi representatives. The groups then reported back on their discussion. The main point from the workshop groups are summarised below.

3.1.1 Existing relationships

There are strong relationships between tangata whenua of the Region and Greater Wellington. These relationships have developed significantly since the signing of the Charter of Understanding in 1993. Processes that assist Greater Wellington and iwi to facilitate this relationship include the Charter of Understanding, Ara Tahi forum and the inclusion of iwi in the resource consent process.

All participants acknowledged that these are special relationships and it is important to recognise the significance of the councils relationship with tangata whenua with regard to existing requirements in council processes e.g. Resource Management Act obligations to consult with tangata whenua.

3.1.2 Existing opportunities

All groups acknowledged that there are already opportunities available for other Māori to contribute to decision-making processes of Council. These existing processes include submissions to Council, the opportunity to comment through community outcomes in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) and approaching the Council directly.

A common view was for Greater Wellington to ‘encourage’ other Māori to go through tangata whenua if they want to be involved with Council processes. This would be more in line with ‘tikanga’ because it acknowledges and respects the significance of tangata whenua and mana whenua in te Ao Māori (the Māori world).

3.1.3 Building capacity

The Council is currently assisting tangata whenua to build capacity to contribute to decision-making, for example, through iwi technical workshops and capacity funding.

However, Greater Wellington does not have formal ways to assist other Māori to build capacity. At the workshop, information provision and education were the only suggestions made in relation to capacity building for other Māori.

The Regional Policy Statement and State of the Environment report have requirements for Greater Wellington to assess and evaluate relationships with iwi, and identify how we take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Greater Wellington is currently reviewing the State of the Environment report and this process may highlight areas where Greater

Wellington can improve capacity for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes.

4. Where to from here?

Possible options for establishing and maintaining processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council are discussed below.

4.1.1 Do nothing new

The Council may decide to do nothing new, as suggested by one of the groups at the workshop. This means that other Māori groups or individuals would use the existing Council processes for participation.

4.1.2 Encourage Māori to approach Iwi

This approach would allow tikanga to be observed and provide an opportunity for tangata whenua to advocate for other Māori in Council business. The opportunity for other groups and individuals to approach the Council directly through existing processes would remain.

4.1.3 Provide time for other Māori at Ara Tahi

This would involve allocating time at Ara Tahi for discussion with other Māori. Ara Tahi could then discuss any issues that come up and decide whether or not to forward a paper, item or recommendation to the Council.

4.1.4 Reassess representation on Council committees

The Council could reconsider providing opportunities for Ara Tahi members to sit on Council committees. It is likely that Ara Tahi would nominate representative(s) to the committee(s) if this process was established.

4.1.5 Database of Māori groups

Establishing a database of Māori groups and organisations will ensure that Māori are kept informed and provided with opportunities to contribute. The database will be established by building on existing information from other central and local government organisations.

4.1.6 Access to information

Once a database of Māori groups is established, the Council will be able to provide the groups with information about Council processes, events, programmes and opportunities to contribute (whether existing or new).

5. Conclusion

The Charter of Understanding ensures that the relationship between Greater Wellington and iwi is recognised and enhanced. Currently no formal processes exist to enhance the capacity and involvement of other Māori in decision-making processes (other than the normal processes of Council).

The workshop provided some good ideas about the involvement of other Māori. Staff will investigate the options presented in section 4 of this report (where to from here) in more detail and report the findings to the next meeting of Ara Tahi. The report will also recommend some next steps.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that Ara Tahi:

- 1. receives the report; and*
- 2. notes the contents.*

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