



Report **06.128**
Date 11 April 2006
File X/16/07/01

Committee **Ara Tahī**
Author **Jason Kerehi Maori Policy Advisor**

Iwi Representation to the Environment Committee

1. Purpose

To consider iwi representation on Greater Wellington's Environment Committee.

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

There has been always been a synergy between the Environment Committee and Ara Tahī. Environment matters were (and remain) the focus of Council/iwi discussion at Ara Tahī and only after the review of the Charter in 2000 did Ara Tahī's discussions widen to include all of the Council's functions. In addition, the Chairperson of the Environment Committee has remained one of Council's two elected representatives on Ara Tahī, enabling a clear line of communication between both committees.

In the past, Council has offered to have iwi representation on the Environment Committee. However, at the time some iwi commented that it would be very difficult for one person to provide a pan-tribal response on any committee – and so such representation never eventuated.

More recently, however, Ara Tahī has agreed on collective iwi representation to the Regional Land Transport Committee and the Wellington Regional Strategy. An informal process has developed where the iwi representative reports back to Ara Tahī on matters pertaining to that external committee. On some occasions Ara Tahī will be canvassed for a mutual opinion on a specific matter. This opinion is then related back to the external committee via the iwi representative. However, Ara Tahī iwi insist that these committees consult directly with individual iwi on issues pertaining to their respective rohe.

4. Discussion

At the inaugural Hui a Ara Tahi in November 2005 a recommendation was passed that an iwi representative be appointed to the Environment Committee and that the representative would then report back to Ara Tahi.

Under the terms of reference for Council and Standing Committees, a standing committee may *recommend for consideration by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee, where appropriate, appointment of persons who are not regional councillors and who have a knowledge that would assist the work of the Committee.* Ara Tahi, therefore, needs to select a representative and request the Environment Committee to consider that this Ara Tahi representative become a member of that Committee. The Environment Committee, in turn, will consider the matter and, if in agreement, make a recommendation to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

The Ara Tahi representative will be able to enter into all discussions and debate at the Environment Committee, but will not have voting rights.

5. Communication

Any communication on this matter should await the decision of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Selects a representative for membership of the Environment Committee*
4. *Requests the Environment Committee to consider appointing that representative to the Environment Committee.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Jason Kerehi
Maori Policy Advisor

Jane Bradbury
Divisional Manager,
Corporate and Strategy

Jack Rikihana
Chair,
Ara Tahi