

**Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki**  
**Hearing brief for Greater Wellington Regional Council for Regional Policy**  
**Statement, Hearing Stream Four on Urban Development**  
**Week 2/10/23**

This presentation is made today by Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki on behalf of our members in relation to the Greater Wellington Regional Council Regional Policy Statment Hearing Stream Four - Urban Development. Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki submitted twice in 2022 recommending changes to the Regional Policy Statement. We wrote in December in support of two other iwi submissions (Ngati Toa Rangatira and Atiawa ki Whakarongotai). We wrote in opposition to one submission that challenged the rights of mana whenua which we uphold are rights delegated to us through the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We have accepted this occasion to present to the Hearing Panel and reinforce our earlier perspectives. We appreciate the opportunity to voice recommendations that have been made on the topic of Urban Development from our hapū members. In principle Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki supports the overall intent of the Regional Policy Statement Change 1 however the potential of massive urban growth in our rohe/region has major consequences and significant concerns.

Urban development in our rohe needs to be planned and delivered in a way that recognises the rangatiratanga of Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga and the five hapū of Ōtaki (Ngati MaiŌtaki, Ngati Pare, Ngati Kapumanawawhiti, Ngati Koroki, and Ngati Huia ki Katihiku). We endeavour to ensure that the Greater Wellington Regional Council as Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners works closely with mana whenua to collaboratively protect the health of our lands, waterways, forests, native species and communities within our rohe as urban development occurs. In addition, we request that where ever possible the Regional Council restores native indigenous ecosystems, natural landscapes and waterways. This policy will have consequences on our waterways and therefore must be consistent with the hierarchy of obligations of Te Mana o te Wai, and ensure that the primary life supporting values of rivers, and secondary values of human rights in relation to water are provided for, before other tertiary economic and social values. We are currently engaged in the Whaitua Kapiti process operating in a Tiriti Model approach. Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki advocates for the sustainable development and better use of resources during all new proposed urban development and that philosophy should be encouraged by the regional council and included into policies and plans such as the theme of these discussions today.

Earlier this year Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki made submissions independently and along with an ART<sup>1</sup> Confederation submission to the Kāpiti Coast Distict Council District Plan Change that included the topics of urban development, intensification and papakāinga. Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki would like to reiterate the recommendations we made during that district level process. Like in the Hearing Stream 3 on climate change we ask again for greater consistency in Regional Council and District Council policies that is informed by our matauranga Maori and expertise. Currently the limited capacity we have as a mana whenua organisation is further stretched and complicated by interrelated, overlapping, out of sync policy development processes (in our case) within the two Councils<sup>2</sup>. As a mandated iwi entity we reveal that we have major obligations to include our members in the development and revision of policies and plans that affect them. It is a common complaint that draft policy feedback and tight turn arounds make it difficult if not impossible for our members to contribute. As mana whenua we hold a great deal of intergenerational knowledge especially about our taiao, passed down to us by elders. We refer to it as 'kōrero tuku iho' and our members would like the opportunity to provide valuable

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<sup>1</sup> Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

<sup>2</sup> Greater Wellington Regional Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council.







