



Appendix 4: Development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

**Taupō District Council's
Long-term Plan 2024-34**

Taupō District Council has statutory obligations to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes under:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Local Electoral Act 2001

Generally, the Council's responsibilities within these legislative frameworks entail duties, obligations, and commitments to:

- protect Māori rights and interests within Taupō District
- give effect to the Treaty principles
- enable Māori participation in Council's decision-making processes
- recognise Māori values and perspectives including (but not restricted to) mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge systems), tikanga (Māori customary protocols and practice) and kaitiakitanga (stewardship)
- work with and take into account the feedback of Māori and iwi authorities, ensuring that their input is reflected in Council's strategies, policies, and plans, and on other matters
- contribute to building capacity for Māori to participate in Council's decision-making processes
- work in partnership with iwi and hapū to give effect to Treaty settlement legislation and any provisions that arise from these.

Taupō District Council also has specific obligations to iwi, hapū under the following Te Tiriti o Waitangi Treaty Settlement legislation.

- Ngāti Tūrangitukua Claims Settlement Act 1999
- Ngāti Tūrangitukua Ancillary Claims Deed 1998
- Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010
- Ngāti Manawa Claims Settlement Act 2012
- Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012

- Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014
- Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Act 2018
- Ngāti Rangī Claims Settlement Act 2019

While these legal mandates form the foundation for the broader partnership responsibilities outlined in Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Taupō District Council is committed to actively pursuing collaborative opportunities that extend beyond statutory requirements. An example includes the integration of supplier diversity targets aimed at enhancing the participation of Māori businesses in the Council's procurement procedures. This proactive approach aims to foster positive outcomes for both Māori and the wider community.

The Local Government Act 2002 outlines how councils should engage with Māori as follows:

- The relationship to Māori culture and traditions: The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga must be taken into account when a council is making an important decision involving land or a body of water (applies to actions outside the RMA requirements on councils). (see section 77 (1) (c)).
- Opportunities to contribute: Councils must provide Māori, and all other members of the public, with opportunities to contribute to council decision-making processes. (see section 14 (1)(d))
- Processes to contribute: Councils must develop and maintain processes and opportunities for Māori to contribute to council decision-making process. Councils must also consider ways they can help build Māori capacity to contribute to council decision-making and provide all relevant information to Māori. (see section 81)
- Develop Māori capacity to contribute: The ways in which councils intend to develop Māori capacity to contribute to council decisions, over the 10-year period of the Long-term Plan, must be detailed in their Long-term Plans.

The Resource Management Act 1991 outlines how Councils must:

- take into account Māori values when processing resource consents and formulating plans
- provide for iwi authorities' input in processing resource consents and formulating plans
- work with iwi authorities to ensure Māori participation in resource management decisions and processes of managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources.

Improving Māori participation in Council's decision-making processes

MĀORI WARDS AND MĀORI REPRESENTATION

Informed by an extensive consultation process for the Māori representation and general representation review, Council introduced a Māori ward in 2022 to help improve and enhance Māori participation in Council's decision-making processes. Māori across the district expressed that while achieving tino rangatiratanga and genuine partnership was the ultimate goal, the creation of Māori wards was a positive advancement.

Council has also established Māori representatives on Council committees which further enables Māori participation in Council's decision-making processes.

Our Māori ward councillors and Māori representatives (on Council committees) have made a valuable and positive contribution to Council's decision-making process. They provide a te ao Māori (Māori world view/Māori perspective) lens that may not have been otherwise available.

Taupō District Council will continue to collaborate with iwi/Māori to explore additional avenues to enhance Māori representation.

RELATIONSHIPS AND FORMAL PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT WITH IWI PARTNERS, HAPŪ, MĀORI

In addition to the above, Council has specific agreements with iwi partners and hapū of the district. Some of these originate from Treaty settlements, some from legislative mechanisms such as the mana whakahono ā rohe arrangements under the Resource Management Act, and others in response to Māori land holdings in the district. Some of these arrangements include:

Ngāti Tūrangitukua Treaty of Waitangi settlement

Ngāti Tūrangitukua is a hapū of Ngāti Tūwharetoa. The Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust is the post settlement entity that is responsible for managing the assets that Ngāti Tūrangitukua received under Wai 84 the Tūrangi Township settlement.

The Ngāti Tūrangitukua Claims Settlement Act 1999 established commitments on the Crown and Council arising from breaches by the Crown in the 1950s and 1960s for the creation of the Tūrangi township. For Council, these commitments include working with Ngāti Tūrangitukua to establish processes to preserve its wāhi tapu sites and related information, appointment of hearing commissioners and a co-management process for reserves in the Tūrangi area.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement with Ngāti Tūrangitukua

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe is a tool provided for under the Resource Management Act designed to enable tangata whenua and local authorities to discuss and record how they will work together on resource management matters including joint decision-making. This was the starting point that enabled Council and Ngāti Tūrangitukua to negotiate a much bolder partnership agreement in 2022. Recognised nationally at the Taituarā Excellence awards, the Mana Whakahono [signed in 2022] covers matters wider than the Resource Management Act and the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Settlement Act including the establishment of the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee made up of equal membership from Council and Ngāti Tūrangitukua, responsible for overseeing the implementation of a wide range of Resource Management Act, Local Government Act, Reserves Act and other matters within the Ngāti Tūrangitukua rohe.

Te Kōpu ā Kānapanapa, Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki

Te Kōpu ā Kānapanapa was established under the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Act 2018 as a joint committee of Waikato Regional Council and Taupō District Council, with representatives from Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Waikato Regional Council and Taupō District Council. One of Te Kōpu ā Kānapanapa's functions was to prepare a plan, Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki.

Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki's purpose is to:

- promote the sustainable and integrated management of the Taupō Catchment environment for the benefit of Ngāti Tūwharetoa and all people in the Taupō Catchment (including future generations); and
- provide for the relationship of Ngāti Tūwharetoa and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, geothermal resources, wāhi tapu, and other taonga; and
- respect Ngāti Tūwharetoa tikanga in the management of the Taupō Catchment.

Council is working with Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the Waikato Regional Council to implement Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki in a co-designed manner which aims at incorporating feedback from hapū to ensure sustainable outcomes for the environment and all constituents of the district. Council has a statutory obligation to recognise and provide for Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki when preparing planning documents.

Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki outlines three crucial Pou related to the management of a healthy Taupō catchment. These three Pou have several objectives and desired outcomes associated with each of them that represent Ngāti Tūwharetoa tikanga.

Through the development of this Long-term plan, Council was required to recognise and provide for the vision, objectives, values and desired outcomes in Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki. Council staff considered Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki when developing their work programmes. These were full work programmes which were then subsequently reduced in scope and scale reflecting the current economic conditions.

We consulted our community on the proposed work plan and the final projects have been agreed upon. The Taupō District Long-term Plan is helping to deliver on Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki through a number of capital and operational projects including:

District Plan Review

Through the District Plan change 38 Council has already sought to place the Pou of Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki as strategic directions. Once this becomes operative future chapters, plan changes and resource consents will be required to give consideration to the vision, objectives, and values in Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki.

Additionally, to support the Pou we are working on the development of a Māori Purpose Zone plan change, further residential plan changes, and an open space zone which will all support the newly embedded vision, values and objectives from Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki.

Wastewater Projects

As part of our obligations under Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki Council is working on a number of wastewater projects that seek to improve the quality of wastewater discharges from both an environmental and cultural perspective. In particular, Council has committed to working with Iwi and Hapū on both the Taupō Northern Wastewater solution and the current Tūrangī Wastewater discharge. The steering groups associated with these projects are helping to support the objectives of Mana Whakahaere, Kaitiakitanga, Te Oranga me ngā Hua o te Taiao, and Kia Whakarite.

Stormwater Improvement Devices

Council planning for the installation of additional downstream defenders across the district to help support the reduction in environmental impacts of stormwater discharges. These defenders are an important way to support the health of the Taupō catchment by minimising waste that enters the waters of the catchment.

Foreshore Erosion Work

Council in conjunction with Waikato Regional Council is working on several foreshore erosion projects through the Long-term plan. These proposed projects include a groyne field in Taupō to help reduce erosion near the Tapuaeharuru cliffs and erosion works in Kuratau. These projects will require Iwi and Hapū partnership to ensure that the proposed solutions support the Pou of Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki.

The full Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki text is available here:
<https://subsite.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/WRC/TeKaupapaKaitiakiTaupoCatchmentPlanFull.pdf>

Joint Management Agreement with Ngāti Tūwharetoa

This agreement was developed to enable Council and representatives of Ngāti Tūwharetoa to work together to form a better relationship

and understanding on resource management matters relating to Māori land. The agreement relates to Māori multiple-owned and Māori freehold land within the district and enables Māori landowners to have their resource consent applications heard and decided by a mixed representation of Council and Ngāti Tūwharetoa commissioners. Councillors and appropriately qualified persons on behalf of Ngāti Tūwharetoa can hear resource consent applications and private plan changes. When signed in 2009, the agreement was the first of its kind.

Joint Management Agreements with Ngāti Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Trust

The Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act requires Council to form joint management committees with river iwi within the Taupō District and enter into agreements for the co-management of the Waikato River. Joint committees were formed, and joint management agreements were entered into with both Raukawa (2013) and Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (2017). These committees meet at least once a year and processes outlined in the agreements are implemented.

Waipāhīhī C75 Māori Reservation Trust

The Waipāhīhī Foreshore Māori Reservation Trust consists of delegated representatives from Waipāhīhī Marae for the two hapū of Ngāti Hinerau and Ngāti Hineure, alongside two elected member representatives of the Taupō District Council. The Trust administers and manages the 1.93 hectares of foreshore area from north of the Two Mile Bay sailing centre to the Sea Scouts den. The area has sites of significance for the hapū including the Taharepa Bath adjacent to the northern boundary and the Ōnekeneke Stream. The reserve is a Māori reservation under s 439 of the Māori Affairs Act and manages the reserve as vested in the trustees. The reserve is set aside for the benefit of the beneficial owners (Ngāti Hinerau, Ngāti Hineure) as well as the public.

Tutemohuta Reservation Trust

The Trust is responsible for decision-making for the Tutemohuta Hall and Reserve at Waitahanui. Trustees are appointed by the Māori Land Court and include two representatives of Council, three for the Tauhara Middle 14 Trust and one community representative. The land was gifted to the community by Tauhara Middle 14 Trust for use as a reserve and a hall.

Rangitāiki River Forum

The Rangitāiki River Forum was established in May 2012 under the Ngāti Manawa Claims Settlement Act 2012 and the Ngāti Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012. The forum is a joint committee of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Whakatāne District Council, for the protection and enhancement of the environmental, cultural, and spiritual health and wellbeing of the Rangitāiki River and its resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The Taupō District Council has a member on the forum.

Joint Management Agreement - Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board

Council is currently working with the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board to co-draft a Joint Management agreement under the Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010.

Kohineheke Settlement

The council administers land which is part of an ancillary settlement claim between the Crown and descendants of the original owners. This claim is in the implementation phase; to vest to the descendants of the original owners. This involves creating a mutually beneficial relationship, with specific details and parameters co-designed and defined in a new partnership mechanism.

Overall, We feel we've made some good strides in how we work alongside and partner with Māori in our work approach on agreed projects and activities. We're committed to continuing this approach across our mahi going forward. The words of Taa Hēmi Henare aptly describes our commitment and approach in this space:

*'Kua tawhiti kē to haerenga mai,
kia kore e haere tonu.
He tino nui rawa ou mahi,
kia kore e mahi nui tonu'.*

*'We have come too far to
not go further.
We have done too much
to not do more'*