

# STATEMENT ON FOSTERING MĀORI PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

## PURPOSE

This statement outlines the steps Council intends to take to foster Māori capacity to contribute to Council decision-making processes over the period of the Long Term Plan, as required by Schedule 10(5) of the Local Government Act 2002.

## BACKGROUND

Council is committed to further improving the close working relationship between the District's Māori community and itself. The Council recognises the wealth of special values that tangata whenua hold for the places, the resources, the history and the long term sustainability of the District. Council further recognises that its activities and services impinge daily on these values and that in order to make appropriate decisions. Council must consider the values of Māori as a special set of community values. Council consults and engages with Māori on a regular basis. In certain cases, these are ongoing processes required by legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991. Other cases are a way of recognising the spirit of partnership inherent in the Treaty of Waitangi.

## STEPS COUNCIL IS TAKING TO FOSTER MĀORI PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING

As well as Council's personal commitment to providing opportunities for Māori participation in its decision-making processes the Local Government Act 2002 also places a number of obligations and responsibilities on Council in regard to Māori. These include the need to establish and maintain processes to:

- Provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council.
- Consider ways in which we may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council.
- Provide relevant information to Māori for the above purposes.

There are a number of methods used by Māori and local authorities around New Zealand to improve their relationships. The methods set out below are not exhaustive, but represent some of the steps that Council and Iwi and Māori use to include Māori in the decision-making processes:

- a) Committing to regular hui/liason meetings with Iwi and Māori to develop the relationship further and to discuss specific and general issues of relevance to both parties.
- b) Committing to regular hui/liason meetings between the Mayors and Iwi Chairs.
- c) Providing the opportunity for the Mayor and Chief Executive to attend the Kotahitanga hui.
- d) Through hui working with Iwi/Māori to identify how to gain input into issues of relevance to Iwi and Māori, including the opportunity to be involved in relevant working groups.
- e) Providing assistance to Iwi to prepare Iwi Management Plans.
- f) Appointing an elected member as a Māori /Iwi portfolio holder.
- g) In conjunction with Iwi continue providing some future structured training/ familiarisation courses to improve Councillors and staff understanding of Iwi perspectives.
- h) Consulting with Iwi on the formation of the Long Term Plan, the Annual Plan and on relevant changes to the Tasman Resources Management Plan.
- i) Appointing a Council kaumatua to assist the Mayor and Chief Executive.
- j) Appointing a Community Board member to attend the Manawhenua ki Mohua meetings.
- k) Discussing the Council's work programme with Tiakina te Taiao and Manawhenua ki Mohua.
- l) Actively engage with the Iwi Rivers and Freshwater Advisory Committee.