

FOSTERING MĀORI
PARTICIPATION IN
COUNCIL DECISION-
MAKING THROUGH
NGĀ IWIO TE
TAUIHU / COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP



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KAUPAPA (PURPOSE)

This document outlines the actions Council intends to implement to support iwi/Māori participation in the Council decision-making processes over the period of Tasman's 10-Year Plan 2024–2034 and to improve the way Council kaimahi (staff) and elected members work together with iwi/Māori.

KŌRERO O MUA (BACKGROUND)

The valued relationship between Local Government and iwi is supported by a national level Memorandum of Understanding between Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and the Iwi Chairs Forum, signed in 2015.

Councils operate under several statutory regimes that require interaction and a relationship with iwi/Māori. To uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, the Council needs to better understand the values, aspirations, and interests of iwi/Māori in Tasman District. A legislative platform to enable respectful engagement and joint decision-making is provided by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and other legislation, including that governing reserves, coastal management, flood management and transport.

As well as our statutory obligations, the Council aspires to be a trusted partner, making good community decisions in collaboration with iwi/Māori across Te Tauihu o Te Waka-a-Māui.

Tasman District is home to nine iwi (see **Figure 1 on pages 236 and 237**). Two marae are located within the rohe: Te Āwhina and Onetahua marae.

MANA KI TE MAHI (LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS)

The Local Government Act (LGA) outlines the following principles and requirements for local authorities, aimed at facilitating the participation of iwi/Māori in decision-making processes:

1. Development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes – the Long Term plan must set out any steps that the local authority intends to take, having undertaken the consideration required by section 81(1) (b) LGA, to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority over the period covered by that plan (Schedule 10(8) LGA).
2. A local authority must establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to their decision-making processes; consider ways to foster the development of Māori capacity; and provide relevant information to Māori for both purposes (s81(1) LGA).
3. Consultation with Māori – a local authority must ensure that it has in place processes for consulting with Māori that are in accordance with the principles of consultation as set out by section 82(1) LGA.
4. Local authority decision-making – where, in the course of the decision-making process, a significant decision relates to land or a body of water, the local authority must take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and their traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga (s77(1)(c) LGA).

Statutory responsibilities the Council enacts under the various Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi Settlements across the nine iwi in the Tasman District derive from the:

- Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu, and Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-A-Māui Claims Settlement Act 2014
- Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāti Kuia, and Rangitāne o Wairau Claims Settlement Act 2014
- Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014, and
- Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

These Settlement Acts outline each area of interest – including statutory acknowledgements over land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga – for each of the nine iwi. Deeds of Settlement also include various enactments:

FOSTERING MĀORI PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING THROUGH NGĀ IWI O TE TAUHU / COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

Figure 1: The nine iwi of Tasman District and their waka

Iwi	Te Ātiawa	Ngāti Tama	Ngāti Rārua	Ngāti Koata	
Waka	Tokomaru		Tainui		
Full name of iwi/hapū	Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui	Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua	Ngāti Koata	
Name of Post Settlement Governance Entity	Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui Trust	Ngāti Tama ki te Waipounamu Trust	Ngāti Rārua Settlement Trust	Ngāti Koata Trust	
Settlement Legislation	Ngāti Kōata, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu, and Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui Claims Settlement Act 2014				

- Overlay sites
- Statutory Acknowledgement Areas
- Cultural Redress protocols
- Relevant Fossicking Areas
- Deferred Selection Properties
- Vest and gift back to the Crown for public use
- Coastal and Maritime Instrument Areas
- Specified area Right of First Refusal (RFR) land
- Licensed Land property
- Conservation Kaitiaki Instruments
- Settlement iwi RFR land
- General RFR land

TE KAUNIHERA (COUNCIL), IWI/MĀORI WORKING TOGETHER

There are many varied and nuanced ways in which the Council can work with iwi/Māori. The Council is committed to growing and strengthening our working relationship and level of engagement with iwi/Māori. These relationships are strategically important and are based on a range of statutory and non-statutory instruments, supporting opportunities for mutual benefit and advancement.

The Council consults and engages with iwi/Māori on a regular basis. In certain cases, these are ongoing processes required by legislation such as the Resource Management Act, Local Government Act and relevant Settlement Acts. Other cases are a way of recognising the spirit of partnership inherent in Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Council have made key appointments to facilitate enactment of the Council's responsibilities to iwi/Māori;

- The Mayor and Chief Executive have been appointed as iwi/Māori liaison portfolio holders.
- The Council Kaumātua who assist the Mayor, elected members and Chief Executive with support around tikanga Māori at civic events, pōwhiri, blessings and other ceremonies.
- The Council Kaihautū is a senior advisor to, and provides cultural support to, the Chief Executive, Leadership Team, Mayor, elected members and kaimahi (staff); and helps to enhance engagement between the nine iwi of the Tasman District, the Council and the wider community, to help realise the partnership embodied in Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi. The Kaihautū plays a leadership role in the development of strategic and operational rangatira-ki-rangatira relationships between the Council and iwi, ensures tikanga Māori cultural

FOSTERING MĀORI PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING THROUGH NGĀ IWI O TE TAUHU / COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

	Ngāti Toa	Ngāti Kuia	Ngāti Apa	Rangitāne	Ngāi Tahu
	Tainui	Kurahaupō			Uruao
	Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kuia	Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō	Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae
	Toa Rangatira Trust	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kuia Trust	Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Trust	Rangitāne o Wairau Settlement Trust	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT)
	Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014	Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāti Kuia, and Rangitāne o Wairau Claims Settlement Act 2014			Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996

policy is embraced by the Council, and works to ensure decision-making is fully and effectively informed by a Te Ao Māori perspective.

- The Council have also recognised the expanding workload through creating Te Kāhui Hononga (Māori Partnerships and Engagement Team). This includes the Kaihautū, a Kaitohutohu Māori (Senior Māori Advisor) and Kaiāwhina (Co-ordinator) that support hui between iwi and Council kaimahi and provide expertise, advice and guidance as needed throughout various Council functions. This expansion has been part of a refocus of existing resources and additional Central Government resources being made available.

The eight iwi of Te Taihū have collaborated on a number of initiatives:

- ‘Kia Kotahi te Hoe’ – a strategy to advance their collective aspirations in response to the critical needs of whānau Māori in Te Taihū. The strategy is based around four key pou/priorities: employment, kai, housing and health.
- ‘Te Kotahi o Te Taihū Charitable Trust’ was formed to lead the aspirations of the strategy. The Council will look for opportunities to support and align with these aspirations.

Four iwi of Te Taihū have created Ka Uruora which is providing tools to support and empower whānau on their journey to secure housing opportunities through financial independence. The Council will look for opportunities to align with and support these initiatives for affordable healthy homes in our community (e.g. supporting the papakāinga development at Te Āwhina Marae and much needed renovations at Onetahua Marae).

The Council also aims to align its work to the vision and intergenerational outcomes outlined in the well-being framework of ‘Te Taihū Intergenerational Strategy’ (launched in November 2020).

In December 2023 Tasman District Council entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement to with Ngā Iwi o Te Taihū, Nelson City Council and Marlborough District Council. This Agreement outlines the high level values that the Partners should be working towards, this is to improve and align strategies councils to iwi, iwi to iwi and councils to councils.

The Council acknowledges that building relationships with iwi/Māori is not simply a matter of complying with legislation, but rather one of understanding, partnership and trust. The following table outlines some of the actions the Council currently undertakes, and some new actions we will take, to further develop iwi/Māori capacity to contribute to our decision-making processes.

FOSTERING MĀORI PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING THROUGH NGĀ IWI O TE TAUHU / COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

Table 1: Ongoing work of Te Kaunihera (Council) with iwi/Māori

Initiatives with iwi/Māori	
Kotahi 1	Iwi Engagement Hui with Taiao advisors on various environmental projects throughout Council meet bimonthly with eight iwi. Manawhenua ki Mohua is a hapū based entity in Mohua (Golden Bay) assist kaimahi to attend monthly board hui as needed. Likewise assist kaimahi to attend Te Āwhina Marae board hui as needed.
Tuarua 2	Continuing to actively promote consultation and implement representation opportunities for iwi/Māori on Council committees (e.g. the appointment to the Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Joint Committee), Council hearing panels, Council owned organisations (e.g. the committees in charge of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit and Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit – both jointly owned between the Council and Nelson City Council – as well as the Tasman Bays Heritage Trust) and Council projects (e.g. development of the Tasman Bio-Strategy, upgrade of the Motueka Wastewater Treatment Plant etc.).
Tuatoru 3	Continuing to promote iwi/Māori involvement in Nelson Tasman CDEM Group work. Enhancing the process that was developed in 2019 during the Pigeon Valley fires and built upon in 2020 in response to Covid-19, for engaging iwi in emergency centre operations and their inclusion in Nelson Tasman CDEM Group decision-making and governance.
Tuawhā 4	Continuing to provide iwi with funding towards their contributions to Council decision-making processes (e.g. provision of professional input and advice to Council).
Tuarima 5	Continuing to hold regular hui/liaison meetings with iwi on a wide range of matters, in order to develop our relationships further and to discuss specific and general issues of relevance to both parties. As an example, in October 2017 Council formed an Iwi Working Group consisting of a representative of each of the nine iwi to support the process of plan changes and review. This group meets regularly to discuss RMA policy matters. Council is working with iwi authorities to develop the Tasman Environment Plan (TEP) and identify resource management issues of concern and possible solutions to them, along with other relevant matters.
Tuaono 6	Through hui, working with iwi/Māori to identify how best to gain input into issues of relevance, including the opportunity to be involved in relevant working groups.
Tuawhitu 7	Consulting with iwi/Māori on the formation of the Council's 10-Year Plan, the Annual Plan, Reserve Management Plans, TEP, and other strategic documents or plans.
Tuawaru 8	Continuing to actively participate in the Regional Inter-sector Forum (RIF) and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.
Tuaiwa 9	Inauguration at Te Āwhina marae for Mayor and elected members.

FOSTERING MĀORI PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING THROUGH NGĀ IWI O TE TAUHU / COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

Table 1: Ongoing work of Te Kaunihera (Council) with iwi/Māori (cont.)

Initiatives for Council staff and elected members	
Kotahi 1	<p>Providing staff with support and resources to assist the Council's relationships and capacity building with iwi and all Māori living in Tasman. The resources will help to bridge the gap between iwi, Māori, the Council, the wider community and the legislation pertaining to how we will work together. Examples of ways we are working on this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in conjunction with iwi and training providers (e.g. NMIT, Te Ataarangi), continuing to provide structured training/familiarisation courses to improve elected members' and staff understanding of tikanga, kawa, te reo Māori, te Ao Māori, Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, the nine iwi of Tasman District, and iwi culture and perspectives • continuing to provide He Waka Kuaka te reo Māori classes to staff • continuing to enable staff participation in cultural events (e.g. Waiata group, Matariki, Te Wiki o Te Reo, Waitangi Day), and • continuing to improve our induction process for staff and elected members, to build understanding of the unique differences between iwi, and matters of importance to iwi/Māori in our rohe.
Tuarua 2	<p>Entering into a Strategic Partnership Agreement to achieve mutually beneficial relationships (both at governance and management levels) with Ngā Iwi o Te Tauihu, Nelson City Council and Marlborough District Council.</p>
Tuatoru 3	<p>Implementing new representation opportunities for iwi/Māori on the Council, including establishment of a Māori Ward for the 2025 local election and representation on Council subcommittees and joint committees.</p>
Tuawhā 4	<p>Participating in combined governance structures (First Tranche Regions) with NCC and ngā iwi as scoping partners to assess the Nelson Tasman readiness and support required to be one of the first regions to implement the new Resource Management system.</p>
Tuarima 5	<p>Working together with iwi/Māori to implement Te Mana o te Wai (the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management describes this concept as the integrated and holistic well-being of wai (water). Te Puna Korero has been set up to facilitate strategy implementation for Te Mana o te Wai.</p>
Tuaono 6	<p>Continue to familiarise ourselves with iwi aspirations and objectives contained within strategic documents produced by iwi entities (e.g. their annual reports, environmental management plans and medium to long-term planning documents) when developing new Council policies and plans.</p>
Tuawhitu 7	<p>Working together to co-design our response to major legislative/sector changes. The Government has signalled significant reforms. Iwi input and influence into these changes and how they are implemented is fundamental. We recognise the need to better work together with iwi and more effectively include them in decision-making.</p>

FOSTERING MĀORI PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING THROUGH NGĀ IWI O TE TAUHU / COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

Table 1: Ongoing work of Te Kaunihera (Council) with iwi / Māori (cont.)

Initiatives for Council staff and elected members (cont.)	
Tuawaru 8	Working together with our environmental policy team to create cultural mapping layers and incorporating Mātauranga Māori alongside scientific disciplines.
Tuaiwa 9	Whakawhitiwhiti Whakaaro (Iwi Portal). Provides iwi with a window to view and interact with past, present and future projects, undertaken by the Council in conjunction with Tāngata Whenua o Te Taihū o Te Waka-a-Māui. This space provides iwi with the platform to view projects and their details, to comment on projects and to indicate the level of engagement they would like to have on each project creating efficiency and instant engagement.

New actions Council intends to progress over the next 10 years

- Iwi cadetships in collaboration with the eight iwi of Te Taihū, Nelson City Council and Marlborough District Council
- Iwi Advisory Rōpu for cultural narrative and art. A number of initiatives across Council have identified a need for cultural narratives and have been raised internally by Council kaimahi, by iwi as well as various community groups.
- Work alongside and in support of iwi to start identifying the needs of maata waka in our rohe and actions to progress these needs.
- Explore opportunities for in-kind support or other support to iwi for specific projects, such as cultural mapping and development of iwi environmental management plans and climate change strategy plans
- Engage with iwi in a more meaningful way for the development of future Plans and Activity Management Plans – i.e. from the beginning of these processes, co-design and collaboration
- Work together with iwi Taiao staff to streamline the process for engaging on resource consents (e.g. provision to facilitate this through Whakawhitiwhiti Whakaaro, iwi portal)
- Support (in kind) kapa haka festivals in Te Taihū in the lead up to Te Matatini in 2027:
 - » Te Mana Kuratahi the national primary school's competition in 2023
 - » Te Mana Kurarua the national secondary school's competition in 2024, and
 - » Te Matatini national competition in 2027.