

# STATEMENT ON FOSTERING MĀORI PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

## PURPOSE

This statement outlines the actions Council intends to implement to support Māori participation in Council decision-making processes over the period of this Long Term Plan (LTP), as required by Schedule 10(8) of the Local Government Act 2002.

## BACKGROUND

Council is committed to improving our working relationship with iwi and Māori of Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Māui. 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 recognises that its activities and services may affect 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 iwi and Māori on a regular basis. In certain cases, these are ongoing processes required by legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Act. Other cases are a way of recognising the spirit of partnership inherent in the Treaty of Waitangi/Tiriti o Waitangi.

Statutory responsibilities Council enacts under the various Treaty of Waitangi Settlements across the nine iwi in the District derive from the:

- Ngāti Kōata, 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,
- Ngati Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014; and
- Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

The Treaty of Waitangi Settlements Acts above clearly 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.

## COUNCIL AND MĀORI WORKING TOGETHER

As well as Council's commitment to provide opportunities for iwi and Māori participation in its decision-making processes, the Local Government Act 2002 also places a number of obligations and responsibilities on Council. These include the establishment and maintenance of processes to:

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

There are a number of methods used by iwi and Māori and local authorities in New Zealand to foster working relationships. The methods set out below are not an exhaustive list, but represent some of the actions that we currently undertake, and some new actions we will take to include iwi and Māori in our decision making processes:

- a. Committing to regular hui/liaison meetings with iwi and Māori in order to develop our relationships further, and to discuss specific and general issues of relevance to both parties.
- b. Establishing a Strategic Relationship Framework to achieve mutually beneficial relationships (both at governance and management levels) with the nine iwi.

- c. Through hui, working with iwi and Māori to identify how best to gain input into issues of relevance to iwi and Māori, including the opportunity to be involved in relevant working groups.
- d. Identifying representation opportunities for iwi on Council, including Council subcommittees, joint-committees, Council owned organisations and regional organisations.
- e. Appointing a Councillor as an iwi and Māori portfolio holder.
- f. In conjunction with iwi and Māori, continue providing structured training/familiarisation courses to improve Councillors and staff understanding of iwi culture and perspectives.
- g. Consulting with iwi and Māori on the formation of the LTP, the Annual Plan, reserve management plans, relevant changes to the Tasman Resource Management Plan, and other strategic documents or plans.
- h. Appointing a Council kaumatua to assist the Mayor and Chief Executive.
- i. Providing staff with support and resources to assist Council's relationships and capacity building with iwi and all Māori living in Tasman. The resources will help to bridge the gap between iwi, Council, the wider community and the legislation pertaining to how Council and iwi work together.