

Development of Māori capacity to contribute to the Council's decision making processes

Introduction

Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires all local authorities to establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the Council's decision-making processes.

Coverage

In Te Wai Pounamu (the South Island) one tribe, Ngāi Tahu occupies all but the most northern part of the island. The entire Selwyn District lies within the rohe (area) of Ngāi Tahu. Ngāi Tahu Whanui is Tangata Whenua within the rohe of Ngāi Tahu. Ngāi Tahu Whanui represented by Papatipu Runanga and Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, comprises people of Ngāi Tahu, Ngati Mamoe and Whaitaha descent and holds customary tribal authority over an area that includes the entire Selwyn District.

Descendants of Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Te Taumutu have resided in the area now known as Selwyn District for over 40 generations. This rich Ngāi Tahu history and tribal authority is underpinned by spiritual and whakapapa connections, occupation, land, resource use and management thereof.

The territorial area governed by Selwyn District Council sits within the takiwā (territory) of Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Ngāi Tūāhuriri which are two of 18 Ngāi Tahu regional papatipu rūnanga, constituted under the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 to represent mana whenua interests.

The approved tribal leaders and members of Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Ngāi Tūāhuriri are acknowledged as knowledge holders of mātauranga mana whenua.

Operational arrangements

Te Waihora Co-governance Agreement

Selwyn District Council is also signatory to the Te Waihora Co-governance Agreement between Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, Canterbury Regional Council, Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council.

The Purpose of this Agreement is to provide for an enduring, collaborative relationship between the Parties that includes shared exercise of functions, duties and powers under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2002.

This Agreement records the commitments of the Parties to collaboratively exercise the functions, powers and duties of the Councils and reaffirms the Parties' commitment to jointly

strive toward appropriate vesting of decision-making powers in the Parties as co-governors over the Te Waihora catchment.

Te Taumutu Runanga

Council engages in quarterly meetings with the Chair and Executive members of Te Taumutu Rūnanga during which we engage in a wide-range of topics that both parties have an interest in. This includes both the impact of current and proposed legislation together with operational matters across Selwyn District.

Council values this relationship and the manner in which it continues to foster open communication and trust between our two organisations.

Council will continue to schedule quarterly meetings to engage with and share information with Te Taumutu Rūnanga.

Mahaanui Karataiao Limited Service Level Agreement

The Council has entered into a service and funding agreement with Mahaanui Karataiao Limited to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Mahaanui Karataiao Limited is a Rūnanga-owned entity and a consultancy which has been established specifically for the purpose of engaging with local government.

A broad range of services is offered under the agreement including advice/liaison and the facilitation of consultation on resource management issues, advice on policy and democratic processes and training for the Council and Rūnanga staff.

District Plan Review

The District Plan sets out the rules and policies for how people can use and develop land under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The RMA requires all operative provisions of a plan to be reviewed every 10 years.

The District Plan explains how the Council will manage matters such as:

- Residential development
- Noise
- Location and height of buildings
- Natural hazards and the management of hazardous substances
- Protection of indigenous vegetation

The Review of the Selwyn District Plan has been under way for a number of years with the Proposed District Plan (PDP) being publically notified in October 2020. There were 470 submissions received on the PDP and it is intended that the hearing of these submissions will begin in July 2021. The development of the PDP begun with an assessment of what was working and not working with the existing District Plan. This happened through research and analysis, consultation and engagement, identification of issues and options, development of the policy framework and plan provisions

Contribution from, and engagement, with Māori has been had from the start of this process and has been woven throughout to ensure appropriate consideration of tikanga Māori and te ao Māori. The key aspects of this includes:

- Manawhenua representation on the District Plan Review Committee from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as the overarching iwi authority, with Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga being the primary Papatipu Rūnanga with manawhenua over Selwyn District. The District Plan Review Committee included a representative from Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga These representatives, along with the rest of the District Plan Review Committee contributed to the Council's decision-making processes around the District Plan Review and provided the final direction on the provisions of the PDP.
- Technical input from Mahaanui Karataiao Limited in developing the issues and options and provisions of Proposed District Plan.
- The establishment of a Rūnanga Advisory Group to also provide feedback on the draft provisions, particularly those for Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori and the Māori Purpose Zone.
- Rūnanga representation on the Indigenous Biodiversity working group, which was tasked by the District Plan Review Committee with working through and developing the provisions for protecting indigenous biodiversity.
- The inclusion of Iwi Commissioners on each of the District Plan Review hearing panels that will hear and consider all submissions on the PDP and make the final recommendations to Council on the PDP.

Council will work closely with its Key Collaborators on process and inputs used to inform decisions. Ngāi Tahu (as the Iwi Authority) have a statutory role, obligation or shared interest in the process and outcomes of the District Plan Review.

National Policy Statement on Urban Development

The National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) emphasises the existing requirements in the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (te Tiriti o Waitangi or the Treaty) in urban development and ensure iwi/Māori are engaged in processes to prepare plans and strategies that shape urban environments. The provisions recognise the strong traditional, and continuing, associations iwi/Māori have with urban environments throughout Aotearoa. The Council will have to give effect to these in the District Plan. Key aspects include:

- Consulting with hapū and iwi in a way that is early, meaningful, and in accordance with tikanga Māori;
- Taking into account the values and aspirations of hapū and iwi for urban development;
- Provide opportunities for hapū and iwi involvement in decision-making, and;
- Operate in a way that is consistent with iwi participation legislation.

Greater Christchurch Partnership

The Greater Christchurch Partnership (GCP) has been working collaboratively for over a decade to tackle urban issues and manage the growth of the City and its surrounding towns. Until June 2017, the Partnership was known as the Urban Development Strategy Partnership.

The Greater Christchurch Partnership comprises the councils in the Greater Christchurch area (Christchurch City, Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts and Environment Canterbury - the regional council), Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, the Canterbury District Health Board and the Greater Christchurch Group from within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

The Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee (GCPC), is a joint committee of the four councils and has representation from each of the Partnership organisations. The GCPC oversees the implementation of the Urban Development Strategy on behalf of the Partnership.

In addition to the GCPC, officer groupings have been established to provide advice to the GCPC and maintain collaborative relationships across the agencies represented at GCPC. These include a Chief Executives Advisory Group (CEAG), a group of senior staff, and a number of subgroups with more specific mandates.

The GCPC as a joint committee makes decisions which inform the decision-making of Selwyn District Council in respect of implementing growth management policies within the area of the Selwyn District identified in the Urban Development Strategy. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu sit at the table as a partner and stakeholder in decision-making which impacts upon Selwyn District Council and its own decision-making processes.