

# Māori contribution to the Council's decision making processes policy

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July 2024

## Basis for this policy

The Local Government Act 2002 acknowledges the Crown's obligation to take appropriate account of the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi Treaty of Waitangi and includes sections to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making that are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes.

This policy specifically responds to S 81 (1)<sup>1</sup> of the Act by:

- Identifying the role mana whenua play in the decision-making process of Council;
- Outlining the scope of mana whenua involvement in decision-making processes;
- Identifying the principles which Council will adopt to facilitate engagement by Māori in local authority decision-making processes; and
- Outline procedures around decision-making matters.

## What this policy aims to achieve

Mana whenua as well as Māori within the district, contribute to Council decision-making in a way which reflects existing agreements, policies, strategies, and treaty partnership principles.

## Core principles underlying Council's approach to fostering Māori capacity to contribute to Council decision-making processes

### *Reflecting the four Pou*

Council will engage with rūnaka in a way which reflects the four Pou of Te Rautaki Tikaka Rua Bicultural Strategy being:

- **He Takata Our People** - Our people are culturally competent and positive role models for our treaty based future.
- **Kā mahi Our Work** - Our systems, processes and institutional culture actively empowers and embeds bicultural practices.
- **Kā Honoka Our Relationships** - Deep relationships with mana whenua drive our treaty-based partnership.
- **He Huarahi Hou A New Way** - We walk confidently into the future looking backwards – we reflect, we learn, we adapt, we innovate.

## Acknowledging mana whenua

Ngāi Tahu have resided in the district for over 40 generations. The principle hapū, Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki and Ngāi Tūāhuriri, hold the mana in this district. The two hapū are acknowledged as the primary kaitiaki, stewards and puna mātauraka, the traditional knowledge holders, on behalf of Ngāi Tahu, for the district.

The Council acknowledges Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki and Ngāi Tūāhuriri as mana whenua and that the two hapū are represented formally by Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga. It also recognises mana whenua's role as the customary tribal authority over land, water, and environment in this district. The expression of these relationships are set out in the various iwi management plans and relationship agreements with Council and other entities.

The Council recognises its role as a partner with mana whenua through Te Tiriti o Waitangi the Treaty of Waitangi and any direct relationship agreements with rūnaka.

## Key areas of decision-making interest to rūnaka

- Appropriate engagement with papatipu rūnaka
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi recognition;
- Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- Natural resource management;
- Council governance structures
- Ways in which local government can assist Māori to build their capacity to contribute to decision making;
- Matters that relate to the expression of tino rakatirataka

<sup>1</sup> A local authority must— (a) establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and (b) consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and c) provide relevant information to Māori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).

## **Key touch points with rūnaka in the decision-making process:**

Council will provide information to affected rūnakanga about the progress of any proposal or decision affecting any of the areas of Key areas of decision-making interest to rūnaka at the following stages:

- When proposals or options are developed that touch on any of the areas of decision-making interest to rūnaka
- When proposals or options are developed which relate to matters of significance to rūnaka
- When proposals or decisions relating to the areas of decision-making interest to rūnaka, or significance to rūnaka are finalised
- When proposals or decisions related to the areas of decision-making interest to rūnaka, or significance to rūnaka are implemented.

## **Acknowledging the broader Māori community**

Council recognises that the relationship with mana whenua sets the framework for the engagement and participation for Māori residing within the district. Engagement with the broader Māori community will occur in a number of ways including through direct engagement and relationship agreements with the local Urban Māori Authority, Te Rūnanga o Ngā Maata Waka.

## **Procedural information**

### **Policy approval**

Council is the authority which adopts this policy and any amendments made to it. Council, along with Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, may also provide input into the content of the policy and any proposed amendments.

Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga may provide advice on the direction of the policy to Council and its staff.

### **Policy review period**

Reviews will occur every three years, commencing at least 1 year before Long-Term Plan adoption (being 30 June).

Where any substantial amendments are made, these will usually be consulted on and adopted by Council as part of the adoption process relating to the Long-Term Plan.

Reviews can occur at other times as and when needed and may be adopted prior to adoption of the Long-Term Plan.

### **Reviews of this policy may be triggered by (but not limited to) the following:**

- Update of any current iwi management plans,
- 4 Pou's (contained in Te Rautaki Tikaka Rua Bicultural Strategy) or related narratives
- Long-Term Plan review or amendments to the Long-Term Plan
- Significant issues related to Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act