



COUNCIL POLICIES - Section Five

Development of Maori Capacity to Participate in Council Decision-Making

Purpose

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Local Authorities to facilitate participation by Maori in the Council's decision making processes.

The Ten Year Plan outlines how Council might help Maori to participate in Council decision-making. Council has adopted the following policy to assist Maori participation in such decision making:

Policy	Achievements
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council will compile a database of those who wish to be considered Maori for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2002. Council will maintain a process to ensure this database is current and up to date. 2. That those persons who have identified themselves as Maori are specifically targeted for consultation when Council decides that it wishes to consult. Where specific legislation requires specific consultation with Maori or tangata whenua, then the requirements of that specific legislation will over-ride this policy. 3. Council will identify key issues of particular interest to Maori. 4. Council will gather information on Maori perspectives about Council activities. 5. Council will consciously build on the good quality relationships that have already been established. Examples include the development of further Memorandums of Understanding and relationships developed through other processes such as the Resource Management Act, Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint project and Council's strategic work programme. 6. Council will identify a work programme to progress items 1-5 above. 7. Council will progress the above work programme as staff time and funding allows. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In anticipation of the settlement of the Treaty of Waitangi claims for Hauraki Iwi, and in recognition of the importance that the settlement will have across all of the four well-beings that Council is charged with promoting, local government agencies within the rohe of Hauraki Iwi are, at the invitation of the Crown, participating in the settlement negotiations process. This participation includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance level meetings with the Chief Crown Negotiator and the Hauraki Iwi Collective; • Participation at officer level in the Crown Technical Working Group in developing governance and operational processes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Co-governance arrangement for the Waihou and Piako river catchments and for the Coromandel Peninsula; 2. A contact list for consultation purposes is held by Council and updated in July of each year. 3. Appointment of iwi sanctioned commissioners to agency resource consent hearing panels where development proposals have the potential to impact natural resource of significance to Hauraki Iwi. 4. Those persons who have identified themselves as Maori for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2002 have been added to the Council contact list. 5. Iwi authorities for Ngati Hei and Ngati Maru have been afforded greater participation and interaction with Council under agreed protocols relating to input into resource consent decisions. The Iwi have access to a consent tracking database that alerts them to every application received in the District. Iwi then alert Council planning officers to any issues that are considered to be relevant. 6. Broadband access has been supplied to Ngati Hei to allow greater participation and interaction with Council under the Memorandum of Understanding. 7. Staff are available to attend Ngati Hei's monthly meeting for liaison purposes. 8. Blueprint Project: Two technical officers from Hauraki Whaanui are members of the Coromandel Blueprint Project Political Steering Group and Technical Working Group. These members have assisted Council in the development of the Blueprint Framework for the Future and the scoping for the Local Area Blueprints. 9. Appointment of Mr David Taipari to the District Plan Review Committee in his individual capacity as a person knowledgeable of the resource management issues significant to the Iwi of Hauraki. 10. Hui were held with different tangata whenua to ascertain views around aspects of the district plan review project and to learn preferences for engagement in the review process going forward. 11. Council will scope further the work programme for policies 1-5 once the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Hauraki Iwi is signed - possibly by early 2013 - to ensure alignment with the new environment that this will create. The draft work programme will estimate timing and costs.