

Māori participation in decision making

Introduction

Council has a long standing history of working closely with Te Arawa and its hapū as the Confederated Iwi of Rotorua district. A number of mechanisms have been developed for consultation, engagement and communication purposes, and to involve Maori of the district in council decision-making processes. They will continue to be developed and reviewed to ensure their effectiveness.

These mechanisms provide a broad range of services on matters to do with Te Arawa, to ensure Te Arawa are able to participate in decision-making processes. The LGA has a number of references to Maori and the Treaty of Waitangi (Section 4 Part 1), Parts 2, 6 and schedule 10 clause 5 and Schedule 11.

The Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 and the LGA 2002 are both specific in how local authorities must consult and include Maori and tangata whenua in decision making processes.

The following Maori groups within council provide opportunities for greater involvement by Maori in Council's decision-making processes.

Te Arawa Standing Committee (TASC)

In 1989 Te Arawa mooted the formation of a Maori advisory committee to meet the requirements of a number of statutes that were in the making at the time.

In January 1993 Council resolved to adopt a strategy to visit marae in the district to ascertain the wishes of the Maori community, with respect to an appropriate structure to give tangata whenua the ability to contribute to the decisions of Council on issues affecting tangata whenua.

In July 2007 at a Te Arawa hui-a-iwi at Te Papaiouru Marae, Ohinemutu, a recommendation was made that the Te Arawa Standing Committee be reviewed and that the review include representation and election model, functions, roles and accountabilities of the committee.

Following the review six representatives were elected to the Te Arawa committee on 29 May 2010 at Te Papaiouru Marae. The elections process was supported by Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Te Kotahitanga o Te Arawa Fisheries and Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa. Information about elected Te Arawa Standing committee members is on Rotorua District Council's website .

Te Pukenga Koeke o te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa

Te Arawa Kaumatua contribute to decision-making processes pertaining to care and protection of Te Arawa Taonga within the Rotorua Museum. The committee met periodically during the year to give guidance on the management of Te Arawa taonga.

Te Pukenga Koeke has been working steadily towards the goals of repatriating Te Arawa taonga from other Museums. They met twice with the Auckland museum and have been able to view a number of Te Arawa taonga held in the Auckland museum. They have also been involved in the relocation of Pukaki from the Civic Centre to Rotorua Museum.

Ngati Whakaue Gifted Reserves Protocol

This is an agreement between the Rotorua District Council and Pukeroa Oruawhata Trust on behalf of the original owners of the Pukeroa Oruawhata Block (known as the City of Rotorua) and their descendants. Council gives effect to the protocol through consultation when there is a significant or important decision to change status of any affected reserve. The committee last met on 29 November 2011.

Iwi Consultative Group

The Iwi Consultative Group holds two to three weekly meetings to assess resource consent applications and advise Council on section 6(e) of the Resource Management Act 1991, and to provide relevant tangata whenua contacts for consent matters.

Kauae Cemetery Committee

Kauae Cemetery Committee trustees meet twice a year to work through operations, policies and procedures, including provisions for the burial of descendants of Ngati Whakaue and the general public. The Kauae Cemetery Committee consists of members from council and Ngati Whakaue. They are appointed by the Maori Land Court.

Pukaki Trust

The Pukaki Trust meets to ensure the safe-keeping, conservation and maintenance of Pukaki. In 2011 Pukaki was moved to Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa – Rotorua Museum.

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Waka Taua Trust

The main function of this trust is to ensure that Te Arawa Waka Taua and the shelter that houses the waka are both well maintained. The trust is administered by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust. The members of the trust are representatives of Te Arawa and the Rotorua District Council.

Council's Kaupapa Māori Department

This department maintains council relationships with Tangata Whenua and Maori as well as strengthening the organisation's ability to effectively engage with Maori through training in tikanga and te reo. The department provides whanau, hapu, iwi and marae contacts and consultation advice to various council departments. The department has also produced resources such as 'Whare Korero', a pocket booklet for staff, councillors and the public. The booklet is a guide to Maori protocol, rituals and basic Maori language and pronunciation. The aim of the booklet is to provide an easy-to-use guide for Maori rituals, structures (marae) practices and language that Council and members of the public may encounter in Rotorua. The Kaupapa Maori department is involved in various projects including, MOU development with various Te Arawa iwi; District Plan Review, central business district revitalisation, Rotorua Eastern Arterial route, te reo training for staff and councillors, Te Arawa Standing Committee review, elections and ongoing support to the Te Arawa Standing Committee. Another significant role of the Kaupapa Maori department is building relationships and sharing information with private and public agencies, iwi and other councils that work with iwi and Maori in their regions and/or districts.

Mana Whenua Funding Policy

In 2005/06 Council reviewed its support of iwi management plans and developed a new Mana Whenua funding policy with objectives aimed at supporting the intent of section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002, and promoting resource management objectives. This policy was launched in October 2007. Since that time 14 Maori land trust projects have been supported. The projects have included papakainga feasibility studies, commercial feasibility studies, environmental enhancement projects, waahi tapu maintenance and enhancement, environmental rejuvenation project, replanting projects, kaumatua housing and marae study and restoration study.

The overall aim of the policy is to stimulate and encourage sustainable development of unoccupied Maori land in the District. The intent is to investigate viable strategies; build capacity of Maori land owners and develop joint projects that will benefit owners and the wider community. Recipients of the fund are Maori Ahu Whenua land trusts in the district, however Maori land reservations or marae undertaking projects that will improve water quality may also be eligible.

Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

This joint committee, with representatives from Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Rotorua District Council, meet regularly to ensure a proactive strategic approach to coordinating lakes quality improvement in the district. This structure has been enshrined in legislation as part of the Te Arawa Rotorua Lakes Settlement.

Lakes Restoration and Rehabilitation Programme

This programme was established for both the strategic and operational delivery of action to enhance fresh water sustainability of Rotorua lakes and has iwi representatives. A number of action plans for specific lakes have been developed with contributions from a range of stakeholders including iwi.

Tuhourangi Memorandum of Understanding

In April 2005, Council signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Tuhourangi. The founding statements of the memorandum include: "Council also wishes to establish and maintain processes to provide the opportunity for Tuhourangi to contribute to the decision-making of the Council".

Tuhourangi meetings with Council have included the following projects: Tarawera and Okareka Landscape Assessment; proposed Crater Lake Park Development update; traffic and parking management plan for Punaromia, Tarawera Landing; Lake Tarawera boat trailer parking; Whakarewarewa Forest Vision and Tarawera Trail.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Rotorua District Council Memorandum of Understanding

On 18 December 2009 a protocol between the Rotorua District Council and the Te Arawa Lakes Trust was signed. The purpose is to ensure that engagement and communication between the organisations is effective, that respect for both organisation's roles and responsibilities is upheld, and that the cultural and spiritual relationship Te Arawa has with the 14 lakes and lake beds in Rotorua is recognised.

Ngati Rangiwewehi, Ngati Rangiteaorere, Tapuika (Nga Tokotoru) – MOU

2010 saw the development and completion of three new MOU between RDC and Nga Tokotoru. The purpose of these MOUs is to build relationships and to forge new partnerships with respective iwi and hapu.

Other Memoranda of Understanding

Other MOUs are being developed between Rotorua District Council and hapu of Te Arawa.

Community and Public Arts

Local Maori artists, writers, performers and composers work with RDC on activities and events which have included; the Matariki festival, Artists in Residence, implementation of public art concepts and mural design and development in Western Heights and Brooklands, modernisation of Lakefront public facilities with a locally made mural, collaborative partnership in the Magma Film Festival, kaitiaki sculptures in Ngongotaha, Children's Day and consultation with iwi for gateway designs for the Northern entry into Rotorua. These activities and events contribute to Rotorua District's community outcomes for a living Maori culture and a happening community.

Whare Korero

The Whare Korero booklet was initially compiled by the council's Director Kaupapa Maori in 1997; the latest version in 2006. The handbook is to guide staff in gaining a basic understanding of Maori rituals, protocol and etiquette. The pocket booklet includes Maori language and pronunciations, a guide to rituals or marae etiquette, names and contact addresses of marae, formal and informal greetings, waiata, chants and karakia.

