

Our Council

Councillors



Back [L-R]: Mike McVicar, Rob Kent, Peter Bentley, Karen Hunt, Mark Gould, Charles Sturt, Tania Tapsell

Front [L-R]: Trevor Maxwell, Janet Wepa, Dave Donaldson (Deputy Mayor), Glenys Searancke, Steve Chadwick (Mayor), Geoff Williams (Chief Executive), Merepeka Raukawa-Tait

Rotorua Lakes Community Board



[L-R]: Phill Thomass, Peter Bentley, Geoff Palmer (Chairperson), Rob Kent, Leo Meharry, John Dyer

Maori 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 has been developed for consultation, engagement and communication purposes, and to involve Māori 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 Local Government Act (LGA) has a number of references to Māori 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 as to how local authorities must consult and include Māori and tangata whenua in decision-making processes.

Te Arawa Partnerships Model

Following the 2013 elections, Council agreed that more active participation arrangements with Māori were needed as the existing arrangements were seen as no longer meeting the needs of both parties. Additionally, Council set a Rotorua 2030 vision commitment to effectively partner with Te Arawa.

Comprising former Te Arawa Standing Committee members, a Te Arawa working party presented a proposal to council on 18 December 2014 which introduced a new Te Arawa Partnership Model.

The council agreed in principle to the model and embarked on a seven week period of consultation, which included a series of public information events.

Approximately 1900 submissions were received on the proposal and over 200 submitters were heard over five days of hearings.

On 26 May 2015, Council agreed to adopt a modified Te Arawa Partnership Model. Key elements of the adopted model include:

- The establishment by Te Arawa of an independent Board comprising 9 – 14 members representing Te Arawa iwi, young people, elders, land trusts and incorporations and entities.
- Up to two iwi representatives nominated by the board to the Strategy, Policy & Finance, and Operations & Monitoring, committees – with voting rights.
- Changed delegations for the Strategy, Policy & Finance, and Operations and Monitoring, committees to confine their power to only make recommendations to full Council, rather than making decisions on behalf of full Council.
- Maximum costs for council support for the Te Arawa Board and its activities to be \$250,000 annually, except for when there will be Te Arawa elections every three years, when the maximum budget will be \$290,000.

Councillors also resolved to consider options for greater Māori and Tangata Whenua input into Resource Management Act (RMA) hearing processes in a separate report to be presented to Council in August.

The Te Arawa working party will continue to work with Council and Te Arawa to develop arrangements, policies and agreements to establish the proposed Te Arawa Board, including election and appointment processes.