Issue Two: Recognition of the air resource as a taonga and protection of wāhi tapu from the intrusion of odour or visual contaminants**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

The issue to be addressed is that of recognition of and provision for the physical, spiritual and cultural relationship of iwi o Taranaki in the management of air quality in the Taranaki region.

The air, like other natural and physical resources is considered by Maori to be a taonga, to be valued, used with respect and passed on intact to the next generation. To despoil or diminish the resource is a violation of the principle of stewardship or kaitiakitanga.

Within the belief structure of Maori culture, the sky is Ranginui, father of Papa-t_-a-nuku's earthly progeny. Rangi is high and tapu, adorned by celestial bodies such as the moon and stars and is associated with life and light. Weather patterns may give expression to human emotion. The emission of contaminants to air may therefore have a spiritual or emotional effect.

Air contaminants may also adversely affect wāhi tapu. Because the sacredness of wāhi tapu extends upwards towards Rangi, objectionable odours or visible contaminants may violate the sacredness of these sites or other places or features of significance to iwi o Taranaki.

Objective

OBJ 2	To recognise and provide for the relationship and values of iwi o Taranaki in the management of air quality within Taranaki.

Policies

POL 2.1	*Procedures and approaches will be adopted to enable iwi o Taranaki to participate in air management decision-making processes.*
POL 2.2	*The adverse effects of the discharge of contaminants to air on wāhi tapu and other places, areas or features of significance to iwi o Taranaki will be avoided, remedied or mitigated to the fullest extent practicable.*

Explanation

The stated objective is to give effect to sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8 of the Act. In carrying out its resource management functions under the Act, Taranaki Regional Council must recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga; have particular regard to kaitiakitanga and take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Policy 2.1 recognises the partnership relationship between iwi and the Crown implied by the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and refers to the establishment of procedures to encourage active participation of iwi in air management.

Policy 2.2 gives explicit recognition to the need to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects on wāhi tapu or other sites or places of significance, arising from the discharge of contaminants to air.

Methods of implementation

Taranaki Regional Council will use the following methods to implement policies 2.1 and 2.2:

METH 1 **Consider Policies 2.1 and 2.2**, in accordance with Section 104 of the Act, when developing conditions for controlled activities, or when determining whether to grant or refuse consent for a discretionary or non-complying activity.

METH 2 **Provide** full opportunity for tangata whenua to **participate** in the **resource consent process by:**

a) advising applicants for resource consents of the desirability of consulting with affected parties including iwi and hapu who may be affected, as part of the applicant's assessment of environmental effects;
b) notifying affected iwi of all publicly notified air discharge permit applications;
c) providing for consent application consultation with iwi, hapu and whanau groups in relation to particular discharge permit applications;
d) arranging and facilitating pre-hearing meetings between consent applicants and members of affected iwi and hapu;
e) providing adequate information and technical advice to assist with the preparation of submissions when required;
f) contracting, as may be appropriate, representatives of iwi and hapu to supply information, provide representative views and undertake specific research work for policy and plan preparation or review; and
g) extending notification periods when necessary, to enable adequate consultation and possible resolution of issues.

METH 3 **Provide for tikanga Maori** in the **hearings process** by:

a) provision of interpretation services for the presentation of evidence in te reo Maori (the Maori language);
b) holding pre-hearing meetings and hearings on marae at the request of affected iwi and hapu; and
c) public exclusion from hearings and restrictions on the publication of evidence when this is necessary to avoid offence to tikanga Maori and the disclosure of the location of wāhi tapu.

METH 4 **Encourage** appropriate iwi participation in **environmental monitoring** of the discharge of contaminants into air, including input into the design of monitoring programmes and the gathering of information to assist the council to monitor the discharge of contaminants to air.

Method 1 states a requirement of the Act, for the avoidance of doubt. Consent authorities are required to have regard to the objective and policies of the plan when considering their decisions on resource consents.

Method 2, providing for notification of consent applications to affected iwi authorities, is a requirement of Section 93(1)(f) of the Act and is necessary to enable iwi to screen consent applications in order to ascertain the need for

consultation. The provision of sufficient information and time to enable iwi to make informed decisions by consensus, is a basic requirement of genuine consultation.

Method 3, making provision for the use of te reo Maori; for holding meetings and hearings on marae; and for the protection of sensitive information (for example, the location of wāhi tapu) within the hearing process, is considered an important means of recognising tikanga Maori, and is specifically provided for by Sections 39(2)(b) and 42(a) of the Act.

Method 4, providing for the encouragement of iwi participation in environmental monitoring within their rohe, is a means of recognising and involving tribal kaitiaki and furthering partnership objectives.

Environmental results anticipated

ER 1 Increased understanding of the environmental perspectives and values of tangata whenua.

ER 2 Ongoing protection of wāhi tapu within the Taranaki Region.

ER 3 Environmental outcomes which accommodate the cultural and spiritual values held by tangata whenua.

Issue Three: Adverse effects on the environment from the discharge of contaminants to air from industrial or trade premises

Industrial and trade premises are defined in the Act to mean:

`a) Any premises used for any industrial or trade purposes; or
b) Any premises used for the storage, transfer, treatment or disposal of waste materials or for other waste-management purposes or used for composting organic materials; or
c) Any other premises from which a contaminant is discharged in connection with any industrial or trade process
and includes any factory farm; but does not include any production land'.

There are a number of significant site specific or point source discharges to air from industrial and trade premises in the Taranaki region. These include chemical and fertiliser manufacturing plants, petrochemical processing plants, metal industries, milk and meat processing industries and fuel-fired power stations. Numerous smaller commercial and light industrial operations such as dry cleaners, fast food outlets and spray painters also produce a range of discharges to air. Dust and odours may be discharged from the transport and loading and unloading of fertilisers, sand, sawdust and other material. Industrial and trade premises also include factory farms such as piggery and poultry farms, landfill sites, and other sites for waste management purposes such as oxidation ponds and incinerators in institutions such as schools and hospitals.

A wide range of contaminants may be discharged from industrial and trade premises. Contaminants may include chemicals and potentially hazardous or toxic gases from manufacturing and processing industries, incinerators and landfill fires, dust, smoke, powders and metallic particles, odorous compounds and water vapour. The actual and potential effects of these contaminants are equally wide. These range from effects on amenity values, for example the shadowing effect of water vapour from a cooling tower plume, to effects on human health. However, many discharges, particularly those from small