

## Working Together With Māori

*The Council recognises the importance of working together with Māori across the region including Māori involvement in decision making processes. There were a number of activities during the including providing opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the Council.*

It is part of the Council's mission to carry out its various responsibilities by, among other things, taking into account the Treaty of Waitangi. Furthermore, schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002* requires the Council to set out in its long-term plan any steps it intends to take to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision making processes over the period covered by the *Plan*.

There are eight recognised iwi in the region, Ngaa Rauru Kiihahi, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāruahine, Taranaki Iwi, Te Atiawa, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Tama. It should also be noted that Ngāti Maniapoto have indicated a small overlapping interest in North Taranaki as part of their treaty settlement negotiations with the Crown, which will involve the establishment of a relationship agreement with this Council.

### Policy development

Opportunities were provided to Māori to be involved in the development of policy and in particular input was sought or opportunities provided in regards to:

- the proposed *Coastal Plan for Taranaki* has progressed to the Environment Court for mediation to resolve outstanding issues raised by various stakeholders and individuals. The Plan has a focus on acknowledgement of cultural values and the recognition of statutory acknowledgements and sites of significance within the coastal marine area.
- the establishment and operation of the Wai Maori working group (iwi and hapū) for the review of the air, soil and freshwater plans towards a proposed draft of the Natural Resources Plan.
- discussions with iwi/hapu and other councils to gain an understanding of Mātauranga Māori and how it will be included into the monitoring programme for freshwater within Taranaki.
- a watching brief is maintained on the status of Marine and Coastal Area (MACA) applications from iwi and hapū.
- discussions continue with most of the iwi of Taranaki and the regional and district councils on the joint development of a collective Mana Whakahono a Rohe (iwi relationship) agreement.

### Resource Consent Processes

Continued to provide and develop processes for Māori to be involved in and contribute to resource consent processing and administration. This included:

- ongoing engagement with iwi authorities and hapū on resource consent applications within their respective rohe, in recognition of their Treaty of Waitangi settlement's and associated statutory acknowledgement areas.
- notification to iwi and hapū of resource consents applications in the coastal marine area that are associated with their respective MACA applications that are before the High court and the Crown.
- continued engagement with Ngāti Manuhiakai hapū and company representatives on the renewal of resource consents for Taranaki By-Products Ltd.
- in association with Trustpower staff, and along with Te Atiawa and Ngāti Maru representatives, we visited a number of hydroelectricity sites in Taranaki as a lead up to the re-consenting process for those sites later this year.



## Enforcement

As Kaitiaki, Maori are involved in enforcement, including providing victim impact statements for Council initiated prosecutions under the *Resource Management Act*.

## Ongoing Engagement

Maintained and developed processes for ongoing engagement with Māori on a number of fronts from meetings to discuss matters of mutual interest. During the year activities included:

- the work with Ngāti Mutunga on the Urenui and Mimi estuary, as part of the Estuary Vulnerability Assessment project and the cultural research by the Iwi has just concluded with a joint iwi/council presentation of their report.
- the Wai Maori working group established last year with iwi and hapu representatives from across the region has continued to meet regularly with policy staff and a mediator, to input into the draft *Natural Resources Plan*. The working group is financially supported by the Council. To date they have met as a roopu every six weeks from April last year (9 meetings).
- continued support for Tiaki Te Mauri o Paraninihi Trust for pest control and eradication in the Mount Messenger Conservation Area.
- the environmental management plan for Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa was presented by their iwi environmental staff in June of this year.
- the powhiri whakatau for the Council environment awards was led by the Chairman for Ngāti Te Whiti hapū Trenton Martin. The awards were again well attended, particularly with the number of schools and community groups receiving recognition for their great efforts this year.
- interaction with Okahu-Inuawai Mana Taiao representatives on a number resource consent applications within their rohe has continued as has support for the National Kaitiaki Wananga hosted by the hapū at Aotearoa Marae in late October early November last year.
- continued updates of the Taranaki Maunga Treaty Settlement negotiations from Iwi and Crown negotiators.
- discussions with Ngāti Maru Treaty negotiators and Te Arawhiti (Office of Treaty Settlements) to develop a joint management agreement is continuing.

- preliminary discussions with Ngāti Maniapoto Treaty negotiators and Te Arawhiti (OTS) on a relationship agreement.
- meetings with Parihaka representatives to discuss and explore options for a water supply and other environmental enhancements as part of the infrastructure build project for Parihaka.
- work with Nga Mahanga a Tairi hapū and Puniho and Oakura marae representatives towards a memorandum of understanding regarding Pukeiti gardens have continued.
- protection of the Piharau spawning area located on a tributary of the Waitara River remains a priority for Ngāti Maru and discussions with the land and forestry owners are ongoing.

## Representation

Iwi participation in the decision making of the Policy and Planning and Consents and Regulatory standing committees has continued with the appointment and endorsement of three new and three returning representatives. The powhiri whakatau for the representatives was held on 3 March led by Council kaumatua and kuia Sandy Parata and Joyce Luke from Ngāti Ruanui. However, due to the Covid 19 lockdown the first meetings for the representatives were on 9 June. Inductions for the representatives have been scheduled for later in July early August.

## Information management

A number of iwi and hapū have been provided with access to various layers of environmental and sites of significance data on the GIS (geographic information system). The sites of significance data, is a result of the current plan reviews and active engagement with iwi and hapū to identify and log those sites for consideration and protection as part of the policy and planning process. Guidelines on access to sensitive data are in development including a provision for a memorandum of understanding agreement. Maintenance of the regional Iwi contacts list is ongoing.

## Training

The cultural awareness programme for the staff and councillors has continued throughout the year with guidance in basic te reo, place name pronunciation, waiata and tikanga.

## Resources

Support for iwi and hapū environmental projects is ongoing. In particular, letters of support for environmental research project funding applications have been provided. The involvement of iwi and hapū members in research projects such as the recent water allocation projects for small streams and rivers over a particular size has continued.

## Review

The Council will, with iwi, review the effectiveness of its policies and processes for working with iwi at times and places or in ways agreed with iwi.

