



Report 01.835

28 November 2001

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Report to: Wellington Regional Council
From: Councillors Margaret Shields and Ian Buchanan

Ara Tahī Meeting - 21 November 2001

1. Purpose

To report to Council the proceedings at the meeting of Ara Tahī held on 21 November 2001.

2. Background & Comment

The Council's representatives, Councillors Buchanan and Shields attended the meeting. Councillors Aitken, Barr, Evans, Laidlaw, McDavitt, Turver and Yardley also attended.

2.1 Progress Report

Keriana Wilcox and Jason Kerehi provided an overview of a number of projects undertaken during the financial year. Members were also briefed on the proposed production of a Heritage Technical Report for the Wairarapa Coastal Strategy, incorporating Wairarapa Iwi/Hapu and their historical relationship with the coastline.

Keriana Wilcox reported on the success of the Whitireia Polytechnic's Te Reo classes. The Council intends to run classes next year but with shorter timeframes. The option of making classes available to Councillors is also being considered. It was noted that work on the development an Iwi internet page, hosted on the Council's website, is continuing.

2.2 Technical Workshops

There was general support for workshops on Marae in order to improve mutual understanding. It was noted that the main barrier to a better working relationship could be summed up in one word "attitude". It was further noted that there was a need for Councillors to balance the scientific world-view with that of kaitiakitanga.

The meeting agreed to increase the number of technical workshops from 3 to 5 per year.

2.3 Regional Monitoring Strategy

Feedback from the Iwi technical workshop on monitoring held at the Whakarongotai Marae on 10 October 2001 was given. An action plan was presented, proposing that the Regional Council will:

- Aim to develop more understandable monitoring outputs
- Distribute monitoring results to Iwi on a regular basis
- Work towards integrated reporting
- Assist in the use of stream monitoring kits
- Hold discussions with Iwi to further discuss customary indicators
- Move towards integrated state of the environment reporting

The proposed action plan was approved for inclusion into the draft regional monitoring strategy.

2.4 The Freshwater Ecosystems Programme

Murray McLea updated the meeting on the progress of the Council's Freshwater Ecosystems Programme. He also noted that during the next financial year the following work would be undertaken:

- The identification of inanga spawning habitats in the Wairarapa;
- Survey of freshwater fish at 70 locations in the Region;
- An inventory of structures that are barriers to fish passage in the western part of the Region;
- Guidelines relating to the passage of fish through culverts for use by consents staff.

It was noted that reports would be completed and made available at the end of the financial year.

2.5 Proposal for Review of Regional Parks and Forest Lands Management Plans

The proposed review of the regional parks and (western) forestlands management plans was brought to the attention of Ara Tahi. This initial report also sought feedback as to the preferred mechanisms for tangata whenua input into the two reviews. It was agreed that a workshop be scheduled on this matter.

It was noted that review proposals are yet to be considered by the relevant council committees.

2.6 Administration Putea Reports by Iwi Representatives

Wayne Hastie noted that five of the seven Iwi authorities had signed up to Iwi funding. He also noted the need for written reports from Iwi to be included in the agenda for the next meeting in February 2002.

2.7 Climate Change – Te Puni Kokiri

Daran Ponter, Te Puni Kokiri, indicated that New Zealand is expected to ratify the Kyoto Protocol before 21 December 2001. He noted that the potential impacts of climate change for Maori were outlined at the previous meeting of Ara Tahī.

It was noted that Te Puni Kokiri was offering assistance to those wishing to develop submissions on the Government's consultation documents. Te Puni Kokiri staff were also available for another hui on climate change, should Iwi or Ara Tahī members request it.

2.8 Treaty Based Environmental Audits – Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

Ronda Cooper, Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, outlined the work of the office; in particular, the fact that the Commissioner is an officer of Parliament and reports to Parliament on environmental matters.

The Commissioner is currently considering the development of guidelines that would improve government department processes with regard to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. These guidelines have been formulated into a "Treaty-based Audit" draft paper. It was noted that the Commissioner has not made any decisions, as the proposal is still in its early stages.

2.9 Working Towards a Sustainable Region – Howard Stone

Howard Stone provided Ara Tahī members with an update on the future direction of the Regional Council. He indicated that his presentation was similar to briefings given to all Regional Council staff.

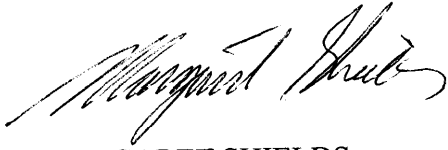
The core principle underpinning the Council's approach was the concept of "sustainability". A sustainable approach will ensure a better life for all in the future. Howard Stone also described the key relationships that would need to be incorporated into this programme. He noted that he considered Ara Tahī members to be internal stakeholders while individual Iwi were also external stakeholders.

2.10 General Business

Te Akapikirangi Arthur reminded the meeting that he had been appointed chairperson of Ara Tahī in February for a 12-month period and that the appointment of a new chairperson would have to be considered at the February 2002 meeting. Te Akapikirangi Arthur thanked the members of Ara Tahī for their support during the year.

3. Recommendation

That the report be received and the information noted



MARGARET SHIELDS
Chairperson



IAN BUCHANAN
Chairman, Environment