



Report 06.211  
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File E/06/03/02

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee  
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Management

## Ara Tahi representation and the Environment Committee

### 1. Purpose

To seek the approval of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee for a representative of Ara Tahi to be given the delegated authority to become a formal member of the Environment Committee, with full voting rights.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3) (b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

At the 30 May 2006 meeting of the Environment Committee, agreement was reached that a formal request be made to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee for a member of Ara Tahi to be given delegated authority to sit on the Environment Committee.

Ara Tahi have nominated Jack Rikihana to be their representative on the Environment Committee.

While the Environment Committee supports this appointment, Council standing orders require the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee to formally approve this appointment.

The Terms of Reference for Council and Standing Committees states that a standing committee may: *recommend for consideration by the Policy and Finance Strategy Committee, where appropriate, appointment of persons who are not regional councillors and who have a knowledge that would assist the working of the Committee.*

#### **4. Comment**

There has always been a synergy between the work of the Environment Committee and that of Ara Tahi.

Environment matters were, (and remain), the focus of Council/iwi discussions at Ara Tahi and only after the review of the Charter of Understanding in 2000 did Ara Tahi's discussions widen to include all of the Council's functions. In addition, the Chairperson of the Environment Committee has remained as one of Council's two elected representatives of Ara Tahi, enabling a clear line of communication between both committees.

The issue of formal Ara Tahi representation on the Environment Committee has been raised a number of times over the years, and the Chairman of Ara Tahi has also for some time periodically attended and participated in Environment Committee meetings on an informal basis. While there has always been a general level of support for formal Ara Tahi representation on the Environment Committee, until now a formal Ara Tahi request for representation has never eventuated.

At the 30 May 2006 meeting of the Environment Committee, Councillors endorsed this partnership with its agreement that approval from Policy, Finance and Strategy would be sought for formal Ara Tahi representation on the Environment Committee.

#### **5. Communication**

A press release will be prepared informing the community of the decision of Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. *receives the report;*
2. *agrees that an Ara Tahi representative, as nominated by the Ara Tahi Committee be given formal membership to the Environment Committee, with full voting rights; and*
2. *notes that Ara Tahi have nominated Jack Rikihana to fulfil the role of Ara Tahi's inaugural representative on the Environment Committee.*

Report prepared by:

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