



Report 08.193
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Committee Council
Author Fran Wilde, Chair

Pukerua Bay Rahui – request for support

1. Purpose

To seek the Council's support for a proposal by Ngati Toa and the Pukerua Bay Residents Association to extend the Pukerua Bay Rahui.

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

In 2002, the Ministry of Fisheries announced a two year closure of most forms of fishing at Pukerua Bay. The closure, commonly known as the Pukerua Bay Rahui, prohibited all methods of fishing with the exception of line fishing for finfish. The area covered by the temporary closure is shown in **Attachment 1** to this report.

Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira Inc. (Ngati Toa), with support from the Pukerua Bay Residents Association, had requested the closure with the aim of allowing the fishery in the area to rebuild.

In 2004, Ngati Toa requested an extension to the temporary closure, and an extension of two years was granted to allow for further rebuilding of the fishery. This closure expired in December 2006, and was reinstated in June 2007 for a further two years.

Both Ngati Toa and the Pukerua Bay community are committed to permanent protection of the fishery at Pukerua Bay, and they would like to establish the area as a mātaítai reserve. A mātaítai reserve would provide long term protection with the same flexibility as the existing Rahui. However, establishing a mātaítai reserve requires that Ngati Toa must first formally establish its mana over this section of the coast, and they consider that this process will take considerably longer than the term of the current closure.

4. **Greater Wellington's support**

Ngati Toa and representatives from the Pukerua Bay community have asked me if Greater Wellington would support their request to the Minister of Fisheries (Hon Jim Anderton) to extend the Rahui for several more years. Such an extension will give them time to establish more permanent protection for the area in the form of a mataitai reserve.

I believe that Greater Wellington should support Ngati Toa and the Pukerua Bay community in this initiative. Not only is it great collaboration between iwi and the community, I have been told that the Rahui is a resounding success, with populations of rock lobster and reef fish recovering spectacularly, and definite signs of recovery of kina and paua.

Our support would help achieve the common goal of Greater Wellington and iwi in the region as stated in the Charter of Understanding. This goal is “the sustainable management of the region’s environment for the benefit and the well being of the regional community, both now and in the future.”

Staff have spoken to Te Runanga o Atiawa ki Whakarongotai Inc, and they are very supportive of the Rahui and the move Ngati Toa are taking now. They will be talking to Ngati Toa about exploring a mātaitai reserve as a way of protecting this area in the longer term.

The Mayors of Kapiti Coast District Council and Porirua City Council have written letters of support for this initiative. Their letters are appended as **Attachment 2** to this report.

5. **Communication**

Letters will be sent to Ngati Toa and the Pukerua Bay Residents Association informing them of our decision.

6. **Recommendations**

That Council:

1. ***Supports** the extension of the Pukerua Bay Rahui and encourages mana whenua to explore longer term options for protection of the area; and*
2. ***Agrees** that a letter of support be sent to the Minister of Fisheries.*

Report prepared by:

Fran Wilde
Chair

Attachment 1: Map outlining Rahui area

Attachment 2: Letters of support from the Mayors of Porirua City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council