

Report No:	RCN11-12-05
File No:	A506
Date:	6 December 2011
Decision Required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Full Council
Meeting Date: 15 December 2011
Report Author: Mark Tregurtha, Strategic Projects Adviser
Subject: **Statement on Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Long Term Plan is required to set out what steps Council intends to take to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision making processes. The Ten Year Plan 2009-2019 statement has been updated to reflect new commitments made by Council over the last few years. The updated statement is attached for Council approval for inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 (LTP).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the proposed statement included in Appendix 1 be adopted for inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012–2022.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

That the Tasman District Council:

- 1 Receives the Statement on Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making Processes Report RCS11-12-05; and**
- 2 Approves the Statement on Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making as attached in Appendix 1 to this report.**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council approval of a Statement on Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making for inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Schedule 10(8) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires Councils to include in their LTPs the steps that the local authority intends to take, to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority.

3. VIEW OF MĀORI AND IWI

- 3.1 In considering the adoption of this Statement Council should take into account the views of Māori and iwi on how they wish to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council. Iwi and Māori submissions to previous Long Term Plans have proposed the additional actions for Council consideration:

- Employment of an iwi adviser
- Additional funding to assist with environmental work and monitoring
- Training of iwi representatives to become Resource Management Act Commissioners

Staff and Councillors will continue to have discussions on any low cost suggestions to further develop iwi and Maori contributions to the decision-making process.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The activities set out in the draft Statement are funded through the proposed budgets for the LTP. Any additional actions undertaken by Council would add costs and conversely any actions removed could result in some savings.

5. OPTIONS

- 5.1 Council can reaffirm, amend, add to or delete any of the actions proposed in the attached statement.
- 5.2 The costs of any changes would need to be quantified on a case by case basis.

6. SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.1 The adoption of this Statement is important to iwi and Māori and is legally required to be included in the Draft LTP for consultation through the special consultative procedure.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the proposed statement be approved for inclusion in the Draft LTP.

8. DRAFT RESOLUTION

That the Tasman District Council:

- 1 Receives the Statement on Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making Processes Report RCS11-12-05; and**
- 2 Approves the Statement on Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making as attached in Appendix 1 to this report.**

Attachment:

Appendix One - Statement on Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making

Statement on Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making

Purpose

This statement outlines the steps Council intends to take to foster Māori capacity to contribute to Council decision-making processes over the period of this LTCCP, as required by Schedule 10(5) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Background

Council has is committed to further improving the close working relationship between the District's Māori community and itself. The Council recognises the wealth of special values that the tangata whenua hold for the places, the resources, the history and the long term sustainability of the District. Council further recognises that its activities and services impinge daily on these values and that in order to make appropriate decision, Council must account for the values of Māori as a special set of community values. Council consults and engages with Māori on a regular basis. In certain cases, these are ongoing processes required by legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991. Other cases are a way of recognising the spirit of partnership inherent in the Treaty of Waitangi.

Steps Council is taking to foster Māori participation in Council Decision-Making

As well as Council's personal commitment to providing opportunities for Māori participation in its decision-making processes the Local Government Act 2002 also places a number of obligations and responsibilities on Council in regard to Māori. These include the need to establish and maintain processes to:

- Provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council.
- Consider ways in which we may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council.
- Provide relevant information to Māori for the above purposes.

There are a number of methods used by Māori and local authorities around New Zealand to improve their relationships. The methods set out below are not exhaustive, but represent some of the steps that Council and Iwi and Māori use to include Māori in the decision making processes:

- (a) Committing to regular hui/liaison meetings with Iwi and Māori to develop the relationship further and to discuss specific and general issues of relevance to both parties
- (b) Through the hui in a) above, working with Iwi/Māori to identify how to gain input into issues of relevance to Iwi and Māori , including the opportunity to be involved in relevant working groups
- (c) Providing assistance to Iwi to prepare an Iwi Management Plan.
- (d) Appointing a Councillor as a Māori /Iwi portfolio holder.
- (e) In conjunction with Iwi continue providing some future structured training/familiarisation courses to improve Councillors and staff understanding of Iwi perspectives
- (f) Consulting with Iwi on the formation of the Long Term Plan, the Annual Plan and on relevant changes to the Tasman Resources Management Plan.
- (g) Appointing a Council kaumatua to assist the Mayor and Chief Executive.