

**Statement on Fostering
Contributions to Decision
Making by Māori for the
2021-31 Long Term Plan**



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

Statement on Fostering Contributions to Decision-making by Māori

Under the Local Government Act 2002, a local authority must establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori, and foster Māori capacity, to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority.

This statement sets out the processes in place to develop Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC).

Regional Planning Committee

Treaty settlements with Hawke's Bay claimant groups are significant for HBRC where they relate to natural resource management and cultural redress.

HBRC and the Treaty claimant groups worked collectively to establish the Regional Planning Committee. This was formally adopted by HBRC in September 2011 and the first Regional Planning Committee meeting was held in April 2012.

The Hawke's Bay Regional Planning Committee Act came into effect in August 2015. This Act formalises the statutory existence of the Committee. The purpose of this Act is to improve tangata whenua involvement in the development and review of documents prepared in accordance with Resource Management Act 1991 for the Hawke's Bay region. The RPC comprises equal numbers of elected members and Treaty settlement claimant representatives. All Committee members have full speaking and voting rights.

When the Committee has prepared a plan or policy statement or a change to either of these it recommends the document to HBRC for formal adoption and public notification. HBRC cannot then make amendments before notification but must refer the document back to the Committee for its further consideration should it not agree with the Committee's recommendation.

Māori Committee

HBRC has had a representative group of Ngati Kahungunu tangata whenua as its Māori Committee since 1991, one of the first councils in New Zealand to do so.

The Committee consists of 12 members, three from each of the four Taiwhenua within HBRC boundaries plus three Councillors.

The Committee meets every second month and considers various relevant issues and provides the Council with recommendations taking into account tangata whenua views, expectations and aspirations.

The Charter

In 1994 a charter was developed which set out the way in which the Māori Committee and HBRC would engage. The Charter includes HBRC's responsiveness to its statutory obligations including policies aligning to the Te Tiriti O Waitangi, resource consents consultation, and communication and engagement. The Charter was last reviewed and adopted in September 2020 along with the Māori Committee's Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the triennium. These documents set out in detail how the Māori Committee will actively participate in and contribute to Council decision-making processes, working in partnership.

Direct Hapū and Other Involvement

The Council has direct interaction with a number of hapū and marae on issues of concern to them within this takiwa. In addition, bi-lateral hui between HBRC leaders and Treaty settlement entities including the Iwi Chairs, is part of the Council's commitment to developing and strengthening our partnership with Tāngata Whenua (often beyond the remit of the Regional Planning Committee). Topics are

raised and discussed with consideration for the next steps being planned and agreed to by both parties. At three or six month follow-up meetings, the Council provides both updates and feedback of the actions taken on those issues.

Giving effect to co-governance

In summary, opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making include:

- Nine Treaty settlement claimant group members sit alongside nine elected members on the Regional Planning Committee
- The Chair/s of the Māori Committee sit in HBRC meetings as a non-voting participating member
- A tangata whenua member from each of the RPC and Māori Committees sits on the following Council committees:
 - Regional Transport Committee
 - Corporate and Strategic Committee
 - Environment and Integrated Catchments Committee
 - Hearings Committee

Giving effect to co-management

The Māori Partnerships Group within Council, led by Te Pou Whakarae, is committed to building the cultural competency of all HBRC staff. HBRC's cultural competency framework will enable staff to understand te reo (Māori language), tikanga (protocols) and te taiao (environment through a Māori lens). This will provide staff with the knowledge and tools for engaging appropriately with tangata whenua.

HBRC recognises Mātauranga Māori is an emerging field in council business and a dedicated new role within the Maori Partnerships Team will be resourced through the 2021 Long Term Plan. External engagement of this capability will also be sought when needed.