

**Report:** 03.18  
**Date:** 4 February 2003  
**File:** E/01/01/01

**Committee** Ara Tahi  
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## The Local Government Act 2002 - Implications for the Council's Ten-Year Plan

### 1. Purpose

The Local Government Act that received the Royal Assent on 24 December 2002 has specific requirements for council planning that came into effect immediately. Members of Ara Tahi should be aware of these requirements and their implications.

### 2. Background

As members of Ara Tahi are aware, the Council has been preparing a Long-Term Council Community Plan in accordance with the Local Government **Bill**. There have been a number of opportunities to discuss and comment on the elements of the Plan as they have been developed. In particular, Ara Tahi commented favourably upon the components of a “Sustainable Region”, developed as part of the community outcomes process.

Now that the Bill has become an Act, the Council has to confirm that it is complying with the law.

### 3. Comment

We were very relieved to see that a Long-Term Council Community Plan in 2003 is permitted! A council has a choice of producing its first Long-Term Council Community Plan either in 2003 or in 2004, and then must produce one in 2006 and three-yearly thereafter.

The initial version does not need to meet all the requirements of the Act, but must do so in 2006.

The reason that all councils are to be on the same cycle is to promote a co-ordinated approach to facilitating the identification of community outcomes, and reduce both the risk of confusing the community and the burden from repeated consultation.

The Council will now continue to prepare its Long-Term Council Community Plan for 1 July 2003. I will report orally on the overall content as it is developing, in accordance with the emphasis on sustainability, previously reported to Ara Tahi.

The Council will include a number of policies in its Long-Term Council Community Plan:

- Revenue and Financing Policy
- Liability Management Policy
- Investment Policy
- Policy on Partnerships between the local authority and the private sector
- Policy on the Remission and Postponement of Rates on Maori freehold land
- Policy on Significance
- Policy on Appointment of Directors

Some of these policies are already in existence or are variations of existing policies, others are new. Owing to the need to consult on these policies through the special consultation process, the Council has to have drafts prepared by early March. This leaves very little time for consultation in advance. Accordingly, the Council would like to have discussions on drafts of the policies with Ara Tahi on 12 March 2003 Technical Workshop. I note that there is already a date reserved for a workshop then and understand that no particular topic has yet been designated.

#### **4. Recommendations**

*It is recommended that Ara Tahi*

- 1. receives the report and the comments noted; and*
- 2. holds a workshop on the various draft policies of Council on 12 March 2003.*

Report prepared by:

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