



greater WELLINGTON  
THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Report 03.221**

25 April 2003

File: X/16/5/9 &

E/6/21/2

**Minutes of the Ara Tahī meeting held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, the Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington, on Wednesday 23 April 2003, at 10.00am**

**Present**

*Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Maori Executive Taiwhenua* Charles Morunga, Owen Perry, Tom Paku

*Rangitaane o Wairarapa* Alma Mihaere, Horipo Rimene

*Ngati Toa* Te Akapikirangi Arthur

*Ngati Raukawa* Rupene Waaka, Queenie Rikihana Hyland

*Taranaki Whanui* Ihaia Puketapu

*Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai* Miki Rikihana

*Wellington Tenth's Trust* Liz Mellish, Irini Sheppherd

*Wellington Regional Council* Crs Margaret Shields, Terry McDavitt

**Officers Present**

Jane Bradbury, Stephen Karaitiana, Murray Kennedy, Jason Kerehi, Amy Norrish and Nicola Shorten.

**Also Present**

Crs Evans, Long, Turver and Yardley.

## Procedural Items

### 1. Welcome/Karakia

Te Akapikirangi Arthur offered the karakia.

### 2. Apologies

*Resolved*

*(Alma Mihaere/Te Akapikirangi Arthur)*

*That the apologies from Pita Flynn (Ngati Kahunugunu), Mark Te One (Wellington Tenth's Trust), Jack Rikihana (Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai), Te Waari Carkeek (Ngati Raukawa), Miria Pomare (Ngati Toa), Teri Puketapu (Taranaki Whanui) and Ian Buchanan be accepted.*

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes

Tom Paku extended his appreciation to the members of Ara Tahi for their vote of confidence in him as Chairperson.

**Report 03.143**

**File: X/16/5/9 &  
E/6/21/2**

*Resolved*

*(Miki Rikihana/Horipo Rimene)*

*That the minutes of the meeting of Ara Tahi held on 26 February 2003 be confirmed.*

## Matters for Consideration

### 4. Discussion about Ara Tahi

#### 4.1 The role of Ara Tahi and the requirements of the LGA 2002

Members of Ara Tahi discussed the effectiveness and direction of Ara Tahi, with particular reference to how it fits the new requirements under the LGA 2002. The legislation now specifically refers to the need for Councils to consult and consider “Maori”, rather than tangata whenua.

Ara Tahi agreed that the Charter of Understanding for Ara Tahi was clear, workable and set in the right direction. Ara Tahi should remain as an Iwi representative group of tangata whenua.

Ara Tahi members felt that it would not be right for a parallel body, similar to Ara Tahi, to be set up to deal with issues for other Maori. As mana whenua, Ara Tahi members look after all Maori living in their rohe, based on the principle of manaakitanga. As part of putting this responsibility into practice, Charles Morunga suggested that Iwi groups focus on including outside groups living in their rohe by providing them with speaking and voting rights on their marae.

#### 4.2 Joint workshop on Maori involvement in local government

The members of Ara Tahi discussed Maori involvement in local government. Margaret Shields noted that there was a lack of diversity in local government and there is currently no elected Maori representation on this Council. Some members commented that Maori need to be better represented both as council staff and as elected members.

Members also discussed the fact that not many Maori stood for election. It could be difficult for Maori to be elected, and once elected it could be a very challenging position as Maori representatives were often singled out and verbally attacked. Owen Perry said that Iwi needed to be strategic about getting Maori representation and work with their young to encourage them to vote.

It was agreed that further discussion on this issue should take place at the next technical workshop. Many members thought that it would be helpful to have a facilitator for the workshop and an academic who has a background in this area who could come and talk to the group.

Councillor McDavitt agreed that staff would distribute copies of the LGA 2002, KnowHow Guide and CRESA report to members of Ara Tahi.

*Resolved*

*(Rupene Waaka/Alma Mihaere)*

- (1) That Margaret Shields find out if, and how many, Ara Tahi members can attend the Local Government Conference held in Queenstown in July 2003 and advise the Chairperson of Ara Tahi.*
- (2) That the Chairperson of Ara Tahi has discretionary powers to make decisions on this matter, after discussion with Margaret Shields.*
- (3) That Iwi representative(s) are funded to attend the Local Government Conference in July 2003.*

*Resolved*

*(Liz Mellish/Rupene Waaka)*

- (4) That a joint technical workshop will be held on 21 May, 10am to 3pm at Pipitea Marae to discuss Maori representation in local government. Liz Mellish and Tom Paku will set the agenda for the meeting, with Nicola Shorten and Margaret Shields.*

## **5. Progress Report from Maori Policy Advisor**

### **5.1 Ngati Raukawa**

Rupene Waaka advised the meeting that Ngati Raukawa are continuing to carry out research for the Otaki River Tikanga Report and hope to complete this soon.

### **5.2 Wellington Tenths Trust – GIS Project**

Liz Mellish advised that they have now mapped half of their 220 sites. The staff they have been working with from Massey University have been very helpful and generous with their time. They are currently working on developing new software that will combine both geographical and historical information. It will enable the project to be more far reaching than anyone had initially envisaged and will have ongoing benefits for GIS recording of heritage for users worldwide.

### **5.3 Okautete Marae**

Owen Perry advised that this project has been completed. In addition, the Marae was recently donated the Okautete community hall.

### **5.4 Homewood Wetlands**

Owen Perry noted that the fencing has been completed at Homewood Wetlands.

### **5.5 Ngawi Wetlands**

Jason Kerehi advised that the fencing will be completed by the end of May.

### **5.6 Rangitaane – Sites of Significance**

A draft protocol for the use of this database has been given to Rangitaane iwi representatives and Council officers now await their response.

### **5.7 Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework project delayed**

The Tiriti o Waitangi framework project is being delayed until later in the year.

### **5.8 Okautete Bush Reserve Open Day**

Owen Perry informed the meeting that the Okautete Bush Reserve open day will be held at 11am on 2 May 2003.

**Report 03.199**

**File: E/06/21/03**

*Resolved*

*(Margaret Shields/Tom Paku)*

*That the report be received and the contents noted.*

## **6. Wind Generation**

Murray Kennedy advised Ara Tahi that Council is looking at wind generation as a viable, sustainable (renewable) energy resource for the Wellington Region. The Council is seriously considering providing council land, such as part of Belmont Regional Park, for this purpose.

He clarified that the Council itself would not develop the wind farms, but would instead play the role of facilitator. This means that Council would request tenders and developers would apply under the Resource Management Act.

Murray suggested that council officers approach Ara Tahi members to get their comments and opinions once a specific location(s) has been identified. Members of Ara Tahi expressed their support for wind farms in general and agreed that this would be an appropriate process to follow.

## **7. Aquaculture Reforms - Update**

Stephen Karaitiana introduced himself and distributed a working party paper, which discusses the aquaculture reforms. He advised the meeting that the Council is working on an aquaculture discussion document and that he will be talking to Ara Tahi members individually to discuss their thoughts and interests.

The discussion document will be written in anticipation of the legislation, which has not yet been introduced to Parliament.

Members discussed the fact that the Ministry of Fisheries is not able to keep up with demand for aquaculture permits and is moving very slowly. Tom Paku suggested that there be two administrative bodies, one for the North Island and one for the South Island.

Liz Mellish noted that there are now implications further out to sea. Stephen Karaitiana agreed that many people are interested in off-shore developments and these are generally very large areas. While the technology for this is currently limited, many are already applying for consents in anticipation of the technology being developed within the next ten years.

Nicola Shorten advised members of Ara Tahi that there is an aquaculture hui on 30 April which is being organised by The Ministry for the Environment. It will be held at Te Puni Kokiri.

**Report 03.198****File: ENV/10/02/04***Resolved**(Tom Paku/Margaret Shields)**That the report received and the contents noted.***8. General Business****8.1 Chairperson involved in Maori policy staff appointments**

Rupene Waaka requested that the chairperson of Ara Tahi be involved in appointments of Council staff members in Maori Policy, as has been the case in the past.

**8.2 Farewell to Howard Stone**

Margaret Shields informed the meeting that Howard Stone, the Council's current CEO, will be leaving soon after the next Ara Tahi meeting held on 11 June and asked if members of Ara Tahi wished to be involved in his farewell.

*Resolved**(Margaret Shields/Rupene Waaka)*

(1) *That the members of Ara Tahi farewell Howard Stone at the meeting of Ara Tahi on 11 June.*

(2) *That Tom Paku arrange a gift for Howard Stone from the members of Ara Tahi.*

**8.3 Welcome to Barry Harris, Greater Wellington's new CEO**

Margaret Shields advised members of Ara Tahi that the new CEO would commence at Greater Wellington Regional Council on 4 August. He previously worked at Environment Waikato and will be brought to Wellington by Tainui Iwi.

Members of Ara Tahi said they would like to be involved in welcoming Barry Harris and suggested that a powhiri take place.

*Resolved**(Tom Paku/Rupene Waaka)**That Tom Paku liaise with Margaret Shields and Tainui elders to discuss the details of the powhiri.***8.4 Care to be taken when milling trees near riparian areas**

Miki Rikihana requested that the Council be careful near riparian areas when milling Greater Wellington Regional Council forests. Margaret Shields noted his concern and assured the members of Ara Tahi that the Forest Division of the Council maintains very high environmental standards when undertaking such activities.

The meeting concluded at 12:15pm. Alma Mihaere offered the closing karakia.

The date of the next meeting is 11 June 2003.

Tom Paku  
Chairperson

Date: