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Committee Ara Tahi
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Ngati Tama Representation on Ara Tahi

1. Purpose

To establish a process to determine if Ngati Tama will be invited to be represented on Ara Tahi.

2. Background

The Greater Wellington Regional Council received a letter from Ngati Tama in September 2002. The letter expressed their desire to establish a Treaty partnership with the Greater Wellington, including membership of its Maori governance committee.

The Charter of Understanding between Te Tangata Whenua o Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui and Greater Wellington has provision for the possibility of new parties joining Ara Tahi.

The Charter states that:

“All parties remain open to the possibility of new parties joining Ara Tahi. If a new party communicates to the Council their desire to join Ara Tahi, their request will be brought to Ara Tahi. Ara Tahi will then decide on a process to determine whether such a group will be invited to be part of Ara Tahi and a signatory of the Charter.”

The issue of Ngati Tama membership was first raised at Ara Tahi on 27 November 2002 (Report 02.715).

Comment was made that the *Te Whanganui a Tara Me Ona Takiwa* – Report on the Wellington District, Waitangi Tribunal Report was due to be released in 2003 and that this would provide more information about representation in the Wellington area.

It was decided that:

“Ara Tahī Iwi members will deal with mandating issues themselves at a later date.”

The matter was raised again at Ara Tahī on 26 February 2003 under General Business.

The minutes from that meeting note:

“Members agreed to leave a decision on this until they have sought the opinion of their own Iwi and reached some conclusions.”

3. Recent Developments

The *Te Whanganui a Tara me ona Takiwa* – Report on the Wellington District, Waitangi Tribunal Report was released on 17 May 2003.

Greater Wellington received a second letter from Ngati Tama in May 2003. This letter referred to the report findings and stated that Ngati Tama ‘urgently request a meeting to discuss a Treaty partnership relationship with Wellington Regional Council.’

4. Comment

Greater Wellington has an obligation to respond to Ngati Tama’s requests. As stated above, the Charter states that Ara Tahī will decide a process to invite a group to be a part of Ara Tahī and a signatory to the Charter. Ara Tahī must decide on a process for considering and responding to the request.

At the least, such a process could include:

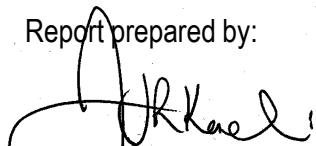
- what the steps in the process will be;
- who is responsible for each step; and
- when this will be done by.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that Ara Tahi

1. **decide** on a process that determines whether Ngati Tama is invited to join Ara Tahi or not; and
2. **communicate** this decision to Ngati Tama.

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