



Report 04.116
Date 2 March 2004
File X/16/07/01

Committee Ara Tahi
Authors Rawiri Faulkner Policy Advisor - Maori
Kirsten Forsyth Policy Advisor

Achievement of Regional Policy Statement objectives for Iwi

1. Purpose

To inform iwi representatives about the state of the environment reporting process and ask how they would like to be involved.

2. Background

Greater Wellington is preparing for the next state of the environment report, which will lead on to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) review. Part of this process involves reporting on the achievement of the RPS objectives for iwi. The objectives to be reported on are:

Objective one:

A mutually satisfactory relationship is developed and maintained between the Wellington Regional Council and the Iwi of the region.

Objective two:

The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are taken into account in resource management.

Objective three:

There are increased opportunities for tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga in the region.

Objective four:

There are increased opportunities for the cultural aspirations and tikanga of tangata whenua with regard to natural and physical resources to be met.

In July 2002, Local Government New Zealand and Te Puni Kōkiri published a report titled '*Local Government Relationships With Māori*'. A case study on Greater Wellington in that report reported on iwi and council staff views of their relationship. Some of this information may be used or expanded on for the state of the environment report.

The state of the environment report is due out in December 2005, but we will be preparing a series of technical reports to feed into that report during 2004. The technical reports will be used to write the state of the environment report and to contribute to the full review of the RPS. When the RPS has been reviewed, Greater Wellington is required to consult on any proposed changes, and then publicly notify the RPS with any changes. The RPS must then go through the full public process of submission and hearings.

3. Review process

The last state of the environment report '*Measuring Up*' (1999) outlined some processes that were helping Greater Wellington to meet the RPS objectives. For example, supporting Ara Tahi, and having procedures with iwi that allow them to have input to non-notified consent applications.

As a result of the *Measuring Up* report, Greater Wellington consulted with iwi about ways to improve the achievement of the RPS objectives and better take the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi into account in resource management. Outcomes from the last review included the development of a training programme for Councillors and staff on Māori issues, and the appointment of a second iwi liaison officer within the Council.

We need to build on what we have achieved and evaluate our current processes. For this review, we would like to meet with each iwi individually to help us work out the progress in achieving these objectives.

We would like the feedback and interview process with iwi to be completed by August 2004. This will allow Greater Wellington staff time to collate the information and send it out to iwi for comment before writing it up in the technical report that will be used for the main state of the environment report.

Alongside the assessment of how the RPS objectives for iwi are being achieved, there will be an assessment of all the other RPS objectives, such as those for Freshwater and the Coastal Environment. Iwi views will be sought on these matters, for example, are freshwater resources of significance to iwi being protected or enhanced. We would like to spread consultation for this report over the next 12 months.

4. Conclusion

It is important that iwi have the opportunity to contribute to the next state of the environment report. This will ensure that the views of iwi are taken into account during policy development. One of the most effective ways to do this is by open korero and dialogue.

Greater Wellington wants to ensure that the review is robust. It should reflect accurately how well we are achieving the Regional Policy Statement objectives and identify areas where we can improve.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Ara Tahi:

1. *receives the report; and*
2. *notes the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Rawiri Faulkner
Policy Advisor - Maori

Kirsten Forsyth
Policy Advisor

Nicola Shorten
Manager - Resource Policy

Report approved by:

Jane Bradbury
Manager - Environment
Division