



**Report**                    **04.341**  
**Date**                      9 June 2004  
**File**                        E/06/21/01

**Committee**            **Ara Tahi**  
**Author**                 **Rawiri Faulkner Policy Advisor - Maori**

## **External organisations speaking to Ara Tahi**

### **1. Purpose**

To outline a process for responding to external organisations that wish to make presentations to, or consult with, Ara Tahi.

### **2. Background**

Greater Wellington occasionally receives requests from external organisations wishing to make presentations to Ara Tahi. While these presentations can be useful because they provide Ara Tahi with important and relevant information, we need to ensure that they are not done at the expense of Ara Tahi business.

The Charter of Understanding states that the purpose of Ara Tahi includes the following:

- To provide policy advice to the Council
- To act as a forum for collective discussion.

Like Greater Wellington, other organisations (usually government departments) are required to consult with Māori on a range of issues and documents. Although members of Ara Tahi are the relevant people for these organisations to consult with in the Region, we do need to question whether Ara Tahi is the right forum for this consultation to take place.

Allowing external organisations to use Ara Tahi meetings for their own consultation purposes does not encourage those organisations to build their own relationships with Iwi. Greater Wellington is also left with the responsibility of resourcing and managing the process, which is not our responsibility.

For these reasons, we consider that it would be useful to outline a process and criteria to assist Ara Tahi in responding to requests from external organisations.

### **3. Process for considering requests**

Greater Wellington does not have a clearly defined process to follow when requests are received from external organisations wanting to address Ara Tahi. Adopting a clear process will provide certainty and consistency to both external organisation and Ara Tahi members.

When Greater Wellington receives requests from external organisations, the options are:

- The request is placed on the next Ara Tahi agenda for consideration.
- Greater Wellington makes a decision about the relevance of the request to Ara Tahi business. If approved, the item will be included on the next Ara Tahi agenda.
- Ara Tahi defines a maximum number of external items that can be included in each Ara Tahi agenda. Providing the maximum is not reached, the item will be included in the agenda.

Ara Tahi also need to consider:

- Defining an appropriate time limit for presentations from external applicants.
- Where any presentations or items should be placed on the agenda.

### **4. Requests for ongoing consultation**

As stated above, a number of external organisations are required to consult with Māori on a range of issues and documents. A recent example of this is the approach by Transfund to consult with Ara Tahi. While Ara Tahi have confirmed that they are the relevant group of people for consultation, no decisions have been made about how this should happen.

It is not Greater Wellington's role to organise, manage or fund consultation between members of Ara Tahi and external organisations. However, we are happy to assist with the process. Following agreement that Ara Tahi is the appropriate group for consultation, the options include:

- Ensuring that the external organisation has contact information for each iwi. This will allow that organisation to develop their own relationships with members of Ara Tahi, either collectively or individually.
- Providing organisations with support and advice to assist with the development of best practise guidelines and internal capacity requirements. e.g. iwi advisors, points of contact and effective processes.
- For Greater Wellington to work with the external organisation to organise a special iwi workshop(s), to be funded and managed by the external organisation.

## 5. Summary

Ara Tahi provides an avenue for debate and consultation on issues that are relevant to the Council and iwi of the Region. The processes suggested in this report will only apply when external organisations request to speak with Ara Tahi. They will not be relevant in situations where Ara Tahi members request a presentation or information from other organisations.

By developing a process to apply when considering requests from external organisations, demands on Ara Tahi's time can be managed to ensure that the forum continues to meet the expectations of both iwi and Greater Wellington. The process will also provide greater certainty for external organisations and individuals.

## 6. Recommendations

*It is recommended that Ara Tahi:*

1. *receive the report;*
2. *note the contents; and*
3. *define a process for considering requests from external organisations.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Rawiri Faulkner**  
Policy Advisor - Maori

**Nicola Shorten**  
Manager Resource Policy

**Jane Bradbury**  
Divisional Manager  
Environment