



Report **04.470**
Date 10 August 2004
File X/16/07/01

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

Feedback from the iwi technical workshop on the Wellington Regional Strategy

1. Purpose

To provide Ara Tahī with feedback from the technical workshop about the Wellington Regional Strategy held on 4 August.

2. Background

At the Ara Tahī hui on 14 July 2004, John Allard, Corporate Policy Manager, gave a brief presentation about the Wellington Regional Strategy. Adrienne Young Cooper, who is the project director for the Strategy, was also in attendance.

John explained that the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum would like iwi to be involved in developing the Strategy, as they believe Ara Tahī is the most appropriate group to be involved. He proposed that Ara Tahī consider appointing a representative to the Forum and that Ara Tahī act in an advisory role.

Although many members felt that the proposal provided a significant opportunity for iwi, having only one person representing the views of Ara Tahī was seen as problematic. Ara Tahī decided to hold a workshop about representation and involvement in the Wellington Regional Strategy.

3. Discussion

The technical workshop took place on 4 August. Adrienne Young Cooper facilitated the workshop. Holden Hohaia from the Wellington City Council was also present.

Adrienne gave a presentation about the Wellington Regional Strategy and distributed copies of the project plan. During the discussions, iwi members made it clear that the environment is a priority for them, and that economic growth is secondary to this.

There was a lot of discussion about the wording of the Strategy's vision and most of the group felt that the term 'sustainable development' should be used instead of 'sustainable growth'. Reference to a document by Morgan Williams (the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment) titled '*See Change – Learning and Education for Sustainability*' was used to support this view.

4. Key issues

4.1 Wairarapa involvement

Iwi members questioned why the Wairarapa was left out of the Strategy. Adrienne explained that a representative from the Wairarapa authorities was part of the Forum, but only as an observer. This was an issue for some iwi members. However, it was stressed that the local authorities in the Wairarapa thought that this was appropriate.

4.2 Funding

Adrienne stated that funding for the involvement of Ara Tahī as an advisory group and for an Ara Tahī representative to attend the Forum had not been discussed. Following a discussion about funding, it was agreed that Greater Wellington would cover the costs of any involvement that was required from Ara Tahī or its representatives.

It is unclear at this time whether extra meetings will be required, or whether Regional Strategy matters can be discussed at normal meetings of Ara Tahī. It was suggested that an extra Ara Tahī meeting may need to be scheduled before each Forum meeting to meet the extra workload. This will be decided once more information is available.

4.3 Roles and responsibilities

The role of Ara Tahī would be an advisory one, and there will also be direct involvement through a delegated representative. A terms of reference may be required to establish how Ara Tahī will be involved and to clarify their role.

Adrienne advised that there will be a meeting with all elected representatives and other stakeholders in December this year. Ara Tahī members are also invited to attend this hui, which will be a good opportunity to meet the other representatives and discuss relevant issues.

Iwi members suggested that a vision be developed to clarify tangata whenua's role as kaitiaki and promote the environment over economic development. It was agreed that this would be a useful process, but at a later stage in the process.

5. Conclusion

It was agreed that Ara Tahī will participate in the Wellington Regional Strategy process in an advisory role and that two representatives would be elected at the next meeting of Ara Tahī. One representative will sit on the Wellington

Regional Strategy Forum to promote the views of Ara Tahi, and the other will be a back up if the first representative is unavailable.

Although the main focus of the Wellington Regional Strategy is to promote growth, sustainability is a key concern for iwi. By actively participating in the process, Ara Tahi can ensure that the views of iwi will be incorporated.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that Ara Tahi:

1. **receive** the report;
2. **note** the contents;
3. **agree** that Ara Tahi will become an advisory group to the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum; and
4. **nominate** two representatives to represent the views of Ara Tahi. One to sit on the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum, and one as back up.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Rawiri Faulkner
Policy Advisor - Maori

Nicola Shorten
Manager - Resource policy

Jane Bradbury
Divisional Manager -
Environment