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Committee **Ara Tahī**
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Wellington Regional Strategy Iwi-a-rohe report recommendations

1. Introduction

The *Iwi-a-rohe Sustainable Economic Development and Wellington Regional Growth Strategy* report (27 May 2005) included two recommendations to the Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington):

11. commission further work on:
 - a. estimating the value of the Maori economic base in the Wellington Region, including the different types of economic activity currently taking place, the values of assets in each industry sector, and estimates of future expected assets as a result of fisheries allocations and Treaty settlements
 - b. detailed overviews of selected industry sectors in which Maori organisations are active, through interviews with key Maori stakeholders
 - c. an annual report that updates key statistics relating to iwi-a-rohe and Maori in the region; and
12. review current processes for iwi-a-rohe participation in council activities, and ensure that robust processes are established and maintained for the on-going participation of iwi-a-rohe so that their aspirations and concerns are fully incorporated at all stages of policy and plan development.

This report examines the recommendations made and how they will be addressed by Greater Wellington.

2. Recommendations 11 & 12

Recommendations 11 (a) and (b) are both driven by the recognition that “there are a number of limitations on the information available”¹ regards the Māori economic base, economic activity, assets and future expected assets. The information that is available is predominantly national data, it includes a variety of ethnic and race-based delineations, and is rarely broken down to a regional, local or iwi level. Furthermore, where it is broken down, it is most often not by local government boundaries.

In addition, industry specific information concentrates on industries of national and regional significance, rather than ethnic significance. Where those industries are significant to Māori, little information is collected about Māori organisations within them. Then again, where that information is collected, there are a wide variety of definitions of what constitutes a “Maori organisation.”

In essence then, we currently lack good information and have great difficulty matching the information we do have from a variety of sources. This is clearly an impediment to making useful comments about the Māori and iwi economic base in the Wellington region.

However, this lack of information does not constitute a justification for Greater Wellington undertaking to fill the information gap. Greater Wellington does not have the appropriate expertise in geographic or regional economics to undertake the task. Also the information that would be acquired would not specifically address Greater Wellington’s core activities in environment management, regional transport, regional water supply, land management, flood protection and parks and forests.

Recommendation 11 (c) was developed in recognition that statistics relating to Māori are in a constant state of flux, such that the information received yesterday is likely to be superseded today. This is due to both the growing Māori population base and also the new use of statistical tools with the aforementioned data.

However, Greater Wellington need not undertake its own reporting to keep up-to-date on this information. Statistics New Zealand regularly collects the data we need. In addition to the Census cycle, there are regular surveys such as the Household Labour Force Survey that provide good, regular information. Our own annual report would be unnecessary duplication of publicly available information.

Recommendation 12 is currently being undertaken by Greater Wellington. The review is indeed intended to provide for robust processes to involve iwi-a-rohe as obliged under the Local Government Act 2002.

¹ Phillips, B. “Iwi-a-Rohe Sustainable Economic Development and Wellington Regional Growth Strategy,” unpublished report, 27 May 2005; 32.

3. Recommendations

That Greater Wellington:

1. *Decline the Iwi-a-rohe Sustainable Economic Development and Wellington Regional Growth Strategy report recommendations 11 (a), (b), and (c); and*
2. *Agree to the Iwi-a-rohe Sustainable Economic Development and Wellington Regional Growth Strategy report recommendation 12.*

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