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Report to Wellington Regional Council
From Councillors Stuart Macaskill and Ian Buchanan

Ara Tahi Meeting – 7 March 2001

1.   Purpose

To report to Council the proceedings at the meeting of Ara Tahi held on 7 March 2001.

2.   Introduction

It is intended that in future there will be a regular report by the Council's representatives at Ara Tahi meetings.

3.   Background & Comment

The meeting of Ara Tahi, held on 7 March, was attended by the Council's representatives, Councillors Macaskill and Buchanan. Councillor Gibson together with Councillors Shaw and Turver also attended.

Water Integration

Following Te Akapikirangi Arthur offering the karakia the nature of the water integration proposal was explained to Ara Tahi, particularly the agreement by the three councils to consult. Rupene Waaka suggested that there be Maori representation on the joint committee examining submissions

Annual Plan

The Council has offered to arrange meetings between local Councillors, officers and Iwi representatives to discuss the Annual Plan where Iwi feel this would be useful.

The Council Website

Considerable interest was shown in the potential for Iwi to raise their public profile by the inclusion of a page on the Council's website. This could be the first stage in Iwi establishing their own permanent presence on the world-wide web.

Review of the Year 2000

Further reports were presented to the meeting reviewing the effectiveness of the developing relationship between Iwi and the Council throughout the Region. Iwi members expressed their satisfaction with the progress made in the last year. In particular the introduction of Maori Hearings Commissioners was warmly received.

The date and themes of workshops to help build Iwi member's understanding of the technical aspects of the Council's business were also agreed.

4.   Recommendation

That the Report be received and the information noted

STUART MACASKILL   IAN BUCHANAN
Chairman   Chairman, Environment