

Report 03.220
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Committee Council
Author Councillors Margaret Shields and Terry McDavitt

Ara Tahi Meeting – 23 April 2003

1. Purpose

To report to Council the proceedings of the meeting of Ara Tahi held on 23 April 2003.

2. Background and Comment

2.1 The Role of Ara Tahi

Members of Ara Tahi discussed the effectiveness and direction of Ara Tahi, with particular reference to how it fits the new requirements under the LGA 2002. The legislation now specifically refers to the need for Councils to consult and consider “Maori”, rather than tangata whenua.

Members of Ara Tahi agreed that the Charter of Understanding for Ara Tahi is clear, workable and set in the right direction. Ara Tahi should remain as an iwi representative group of tangata whenua.

Ara Tahi members felt that it would be wrong for a parallel body to be set up to deal with issues for other Maori. As mana whenua, Ara Tahi members look after all Maori living in their rohe, based on the principle of manaaki tanga. As part of putting this responsibility into practice, Charles Morunga suggested that iwi groups focus on including outside groups living in their rohe e.g. providing them with speaking and voting rights on their marae.

2.2 Joint Workshop on Maori Involvement in Local Government – 21 May 2003

The members of Ara Tahi discussed Maori involvement in local government. Councillor Shields noted that there is a lack of diversity in local government and that there is no elected Maori representation on this Council. Some members of Ara Tahi commented that Maori need to be better represented, both as council staff and as elected members.

It was agreed that further discussion on this issue should take place at a joint workshop to be held at Pipitea Marae on 21 May, 10am to 3pm. Nicola Shorten, Margaret Shields, Liz Mellish and Tom Paku will set the agenda for the workshop. Members also thought that it would be helpful to have a facilitator for the workshop and an academic who has a background in this area to come and talk to the group.

2.3 Member(s) of Ara Tahi to Attend Local Government Conference in July

Members of Ara Tahi expressed interest in attending some or all of the Local Government Conference held in Queenstown in July 2003. Councillor Shields agreed to find out if and how many members could attend and the appropriate way of funding Ara Tahi representation.

2.4 Progress Report from Maori Policy Advisor

2.4.1 Ngati Raukawa

Rupene Waaka advised the meeting that Ngati Raukawa are continuing to carry out research for the Otaki River Tikanga Report and hope to complete this soon.

2.4.2 Wellington Tenth Trust – GIS Project

Liz Mellish advised that Wellington Tenth Trust have now mapped half of their 220 sites on GIS. The staff they have been working with from Massey University have been very helpful and generous with their time. In fact, they are currently working on developing new software that will combine both geographical and historical information. This will enable the project to be more far reaching than anyone had initially envisaged and will have ongoing benefits for GIS recording of heritage for users world-wide.

2.4.3 Okautete Marae

Owen Perry advised that this project had been completed. In addition, the Okautete community hall was recently donated the Marae.

2.4.4 Homewood Wetlands

Owen Perry also noted that the fencing has been completed at Homewood Wetlands.

2.4.5 Ngawi Wetlands

Jason Kerehi advised that the fencing will be completed by the end of May.

2.4.6 Rangitaane – Sites of Significance

A draft protocol for the use of this database has been given to Rangitaane iwi representatives and council officers now await their response.

2.4.7 Okautete Bush Reserve – Open Day

Owen Perry informed members that the Okautete Bush Reserve open day will be at 11am on 2 May 2003.

2.5 Wind Generation

Murray Kennedy advised members of Ara Tahi that the Council is looking at facilitating the development of wind generation as a sustainable energy resource in the Wellington Region. The Council is seriously considering providing council land, such as part of Belmont Regional Park, for this purpose.

He suggested that council officers approach Ara Tahi members to get their comments once a specific location(s) has been identified. Members of Ara Tahi expressed their support for wind farms in general and agreed that this would be an appropriate process to follow.

2.6 Aquaculture Reforms

Stephen Karaitiana advised members of Ara Tahi that the Council is working on an aquaculture discussion document and that he will be talking to Ara Tahi members individually to discuss their thoughts and interests.

Members discussed the fact that the Ministry of Fisheries is not able to keep up with demand for aquaculture permits.

It was also noted that there are now applications further out to sea. Many people are now interested in off-shore developments and these are generally very large areas. While the technology for this is currently limited, many have already applied for resource consents in anticipation of the technology being developed within the next ten years.

Nicola Shorten advised members of Ara Tahi that there is an aquaculture hui on 30 April which is being organised by the Ministry for the Environment.

2.7 General Business

2.7.1 Chairperson Involved in Appointment of Maori Policy Advisor

Rupene Waaka requested that the chairperson of Ara Tahi be involved in appointments of council staff members in Maori Policy, as has been the case in the past.

2.7.2 Welcome for New CEO

Margaret Shields advised members of Ara Tahi that the new CEO would commence at the Greater Wellington Regional Council on 4 August 2003. He currently works at Environment Waikato and will be brought to Wellington by Tainui (and possibly other) Iwi.

Members of Ara Tahi agreed that they would like to be involved in welcoming Barry Harris and will organise a powhiri.

2.7.3 Care to be Taken When Milling Trees Near Riparian Areas

Miki Rikihana requested that the Council be careful near riparian areas when milling Greater Wellington forests. Councillor Shields noted his concern and assured members

of Ara Tahi that the Forest Division maintains very high environmental standards when undertaking such activities.

3 Recommendation

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report approved by:

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Margaret Shields
Chairperson

Terry McDavitt
Chairman, Regional Land Transport