

Report 07.225
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Committee Ara Tahi
Author Jack Rikihana – Chair – Ara Tahi

Report – Hui a Ara Tahi 2007

1. Purpose

To provide a record of the Hui a Ara Tahi 2007 on Matiu Island and present the suggestions and resolutions made at the hui.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Ara Tahi agreed to hold a second Hui a Ara Tahi to provide an opportunity for iwi representatives to discuss and strategise key issues they engage in with Greater Wellington. Wellington Tenth invited the iwi to hold the hui on Matiu Island for which they share responsibility with the Department of Conservation.

The hui was held over two days, 12-13 April. The Ara Tahi Chair presided over the agenda, with iwi reps taking turns to lead a discussion topic. Richard Orzecki was the scribe and those notes are attached to this report. Koro George Tamarapa, kaumātua for Wellington Tenth and, specifically Matiu Island, welcomed the iwi and participated in the korero. Liz Mellish provided a historical account for the island which has connections to all the iwi in the region.

4. Key Issues

The hui saw healthy debate and discussion covering several key issues. In most cases resolutions on each issue were agreed. The following is a brief summary of the discussion on each issue with the hui recommendations.

The key issues discussed at the hui are listed below:

- Iwi funding;
- Water;
- Selection and tenure of the Chair of Ara Tahi;
- Iwi representation on Council committees;
- Iwi Environmental Indicators; and
- Raising the profile of Ara Tahi.

4.1 Iwi Funding

The funding process was explained again, with iwi capacity funding and iwi project funding identified as the two key streams. Iwi representatives reiterated the need to report unused budget amounts to each Ara Tahi meeting so they can monitor how they had accessed funding. It was further suggested that the report to Ara Tahi monitors how much of an iwi project had been completed to ensure less slippage.

The withdrawal of Taranaki Whanui was discussed as were iwi management plans.

Resolution 1: proposals from iwi, including Iwi Management Plans, be encouraged and supported by GWRC.

Liz/Tom - Carried

4.2 Water

Water was raised as the single most important issue to all iwi, councils, the crown and landowners. Iwi saw a need to develop a collaborative stance on freshwater. It was suggested that a working group be formed to advance this initiative.

Resolution 2: an Ara Tahi working group develop a proposal to provide an Ara Tahi view on freshwater.

Liz/Alma - Carried

Resolution 3: the working group comprise Liz Mellish, Richard Orzecki, Jack Rikihana and Peter Flynn, with the authority to co-opt outside members. That this group be resourced accordingly.

Jack/Tom - Carried

4.3 Selection and Tenure of Chair

This discussion was prompted from an Ara Tahi decision at our last meeting on 27 Feb 2007 which asked iwi to consider the selection and tenure of the Chair and to report back to the May meeting. The discussion points and resolutions are therefore contained in the Māori Policy Advisor's Report (07.226).

4.4 Representation on Council committees

The issue of wider iwi representation on Council committees was discussed. The hui identified current representation on the Environment Committee and the Regional Land Transport Committee, noting that the latter was an appointment of a 'cultural' position rather than an Ara Tahi appointment. It was also noted that Wairarapa iwi had held membership on the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee in the past.

Involvement of iwi in the Wellington Regional Strategy was also discussed. Ara Tahi recognised their involvement in the formative stages of the strategy and also acknowledged that Dr Ngatata Love held a position on the committee based on his personal expertise in matters Māori and economics. How iwi would want to be involved in the implementation of the strategy is an issue that needs to be worked through.

The hui identified that council had a large number of committees and that it would be best to take a strategic approach and slowly familiarise and acclimatise itself to each one. It was further suggested that Ara Tahi invite presentations from committee Chairs or Managers to explain the purpose and processes of each committee and how they best see iwi representative involvement and/or benefits. It was recommended that Ara Tahi should determine who best to nominate to each committee. The nomination would then go to full Council for approval.

The hui discussed the role of iwi representatives and noted that they would be a bridge between Ara Tahi and the committees and be able to highlight key issues or initiatives from that particular interest to Ara Tahi. They should have the ability to ask staff to provide papers or presentations to Ara Tahi to highlight these initiatives to the wider iwi membership (as what happens with the Environment Committee). The representatives would eventually build their own knowledge and expertise in that particular field e.g. Landcare and be expected to provide an immediate tikanga response to the committee with recourse to consult iwi through Ara Tahi or seek kaumātua expertise.

It was strongly recommended that Council consider resourcing two iwi representatives to each committee.

Landcare, Utilities and Rural Services and Wairarapa Committees were seen as the immediate priorities.

Resolution 4: seek wider iwi representation on other Council Committees;

Resolution 5: invite Council Committees to make presentations to Ara Tahi;

Resolution 6: advise Greater Wellington of the Ara Tahi nominees to council committees;

Resolution 7: resourcing two iwi representatives on to each council committee.

Jack/Graeme - Carried

4.5 Iwi Environmental Indicators

The hui acknowledged that Māori indicators have a different basis [than western science] and that there was a clear dilemma between economic sustainability/return vs. Māori principles (e.g. wairua, te mana and mauri). It was also noted that clear timeframes were set e.g. clearing up a stream within ten years.

It was agreed that DoC publications on iwi environmental indicators be sent to each iwi.

This discussion traversed another issue, that is clarification of Māori terms and agreeing collectively a position on each term. This also addressed a request from Dr Bev James for Ara Tahi to provide definitions of terms into the RPS.

It was suggested that Ara Tahi return to their elders for clarification of terms and to indicate if the process [iwi agreeing on generic terms] was an appropriate tikanga. It was also suggested that a literature review report be commissioned to look at all iwi management plans and council plans in the region.

Resolution 8: Commence a literature review to gather information regarding iwi environmental indicators, Māori terminology and concepts

Te Waari/Aka - Carried

5. Ara Tahi profile

A discussion of Ara Tahi's profile was highlighted as an immediate concern. It was suggested that the name 'Ara Tahi' could be added as a by-line to the main Greater Wellington logo as with 'Parks and Forest'. It was further suggested that a story on Ara Tahi should go into the GW publication 'Elements' thus raising the profile and giving the general public an opportunity to understand what the forum does. There is an opportunity to do a story on the Hui itself and the visit to Matiu Island as an introductory story.

6. Communication

There are no matters in this report that require further communication.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **receives** the report;
2. **notes** the content of the report;
3. **requests** that GWRC encourage and support proposals from iwi, including Iwi Management Plans;
4. **establish** an Ara Tahi working group to develop a proposal to provide an Ara Tahi view on freshwater;
5. **approve** the working group comprising Liz Mellish, Richard Orzecki, Jack Rikihana and Peter Flynn, with the authority to co-opt outside members;
6. **seek** wider iwi representation on other Council Committees;
7. **invite** Council Committees to make presentations to Ara Tahi;
8. **endorse** the proposal that two iwi nominees should be appointed to each GWRC committee;
9. **request** that GWRC agree to appoint two iwi nominees to each GWRC committee;
10. **approves** the commencement of a literature review to gather information regarding iwi environmental indicators, Māori terminology and concepts; and
11. **requests** that GWRC provide appropriate resourcing to the working group and literature review.

Report approved by:

Jack Rikihana
Chairperson, Ara Tahi