

Working with Tangata Whenua

Setting

Tangata Whenua

As tangata whenua, six iwi and their respective hapū exercise mana whenua over traditionally defined areas across the New Plymouth District.

Iwi	Population (Census 2013)	Hapū		Mandated Representative Body
Ngāti Maniapoto	35,358	Ngāti Rākei Ngāti Rungaterangi Ngāti Rora		Maniapoto Māori Trust Board
Ngāti Tama	1,338			Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tama
Ngāti Mutunga	2,514	Ngāti Okiokinga Te Kekeawai Ngāti Aurutu Ngāti Hinetuhi	Kaitangata Ngāti Kura Ngāti Uenuku Ngāti Tupawhenua or Ngāti Tū	Te Runanga o Ngāti Mutunga
Ngāti Maru	852	Ngāti Hinemokai Ngāti Rongonui Ngāti Kopua, Ngāti Tamatapu	Ngariki Ngāti Kui Ngāti Te Ika Ngāti Tamakehu	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Maru Taranaki Trust
Te Āti Awa	15,273	Otaraua Manukorihi Ngāti Tuparikino Ngāti Rahiri	Pukerangiora Puketapu Ngāti Tawhirikura Ngāti Te Whiti	Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa
Taranaki Iwi	6,087	Ngāti Tairi Ngā Mahanga		Ngāti Tairi Ngā Mahanga

The South Taranaki iwi of Ngāruahine, together with Ngāti Maniapoto also have overlapping Treaty of Waitangi Settlement interests within the southern and northern boundaries of the district.

Census 2018

On 6 March 2018, 80,679 people were residing in the New Plymouth District. Of this total, 14,370 or 17.8 per cent of the New Plymouth District population identified as Māori. This compares with the 2006 Census, where Māori represented 14.1 per cent (9,369) of the district population. In the 2013 Census, that had increased to 15.7 per cent (11,082) of the district population.

The 2018 Census increase of 17.8 per cent is also 2.4 per cent higher than the national average, where those identifying as Māori accounted for 15.4 per cent (744,800) of the total population (4,840,600) counted on Census Day 2018.

With this ongoing upward trend in the growth of the Māori population, an average median age of 24.8 years (compared to 40.6 years for the district), and the increasing contribution and participation of Iwi in local and regional economies, it is critical that we look at ways to increase capability and support Māori participation in our decision-making systems and processes.

Legislation

Summarised below, the Local Government Act 2002 and Resource Management Act 1991 are the key pieces of legislation, which requires us to support Māori participation in our decision-making processes.

Local Government Act 2002

Under the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA), we are specifically required to:

- Establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to Council's decision-making processes (s14(d) and s81(a) refer);

Māori Contribution to Decision-making

- b) Consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council (s81(b) refers);
- c) Provide relevant information to Māori for the purposes of a) and b) above; and
- d) In the course of decision-making, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga (s77(1)(c) refers).

Section 82(1) of the LGA also details a set of principles for consultation, with section 82(2) specifically requiring us to have in place processes for consulting with Māori.

Resource Management Act 1991

Council is obliged under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA) to:

- a) Take into account any iwi management plans in undertaking any plan development process;
- b) Recognise and provide for:
 - the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga;
 - the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development; and
 - the protection of protected customary rights;
- c) Have particular regard to kaitiakitanga; and
- d) Take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

As part of developing plans, we are also required under the RMA to:

- a) Consult with tangata whenua through iwi authorities before notifying any plan; and
- b) Consultation requires us to:
 - i) consider ways in which it may foster the development of their capacity to respond to an invitation to consult;
 - ii) establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for those iwi authorities to consult it;
 - iii) consult with those iwi authorities;
 - iv) enable those iwi authorities to identify resource management issues of concern to them; and
 - v) indicate how those issues have been or are to be addressed.

In addition, requirements for consultation with iwi authorities also appear in Treaty of Waitangi settlements, and are beginning to appear under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.

To ensure compliance with its statutory obligations, we have in place a range of mechanisms to support Māori in contributing to Council decision-making, which are summarised below.

Significance and Engagement Policy

The Significance and Engagement Policy sets out how NPDC will determine the significance of an issue, proposal, decision or other matter, and the extent of engagement required with Iwi-Māori and identified key stakeholders. This ensures a consistent approach to taking into account Māori contributions to Council's decision-making by:

- Providing opportunities for Māori to contribute to our decision-making process in a meaningful way;
- Engaging with Māori where any matter involving a significant decision affecting the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga; and
- Considering specifically engaging with Māori on other matters as they arise.

Te Huinga Taumatua

Te Huinga Taumatua is a joint-committee made up of elected Council and iwi members, currently co-chaired by a representative from each group. The committee's purpose is to provide strategic guidance and advice to NPDC on issues of importance to Māori. It also has delegated authority for matters including:

- Road-naming and renaming;
- Naming and renaming of NPDC-administered reserves; and
- Determination of Marae Development and Manaaki Urupā grant applications over \$10,000.

The Committee has considered a range of a strategic and policy matters over the past year, including:

- Manaaki Urupā grant;
- Māori wards;
- Council's strategic priorities; and
- Approval of road names.

Te Huinga was also involved in discussions leading in July 2020 to a Council resolution to establish a Māori ward ahead of 2022 local triennial elections. Moving forward, NPDC will explore ways in which Te Huinga Taumatua may initiate reports on topics of relevance to Māori. We will also work closely with the Committee

Māori Contribution to Decision-making

so that the relevant information is available for them to make fully informed decisions.

Iwi Partnerships Portfolio

The Mayor and elected members have created councillor portfolio groups to support NPDC in progressing key initiatives across eight key strategic priorities. Including the portfolio Iwi Partnerships, these informal arrangements assist in achieving efficient and effective communication between elected members and NPDC staff, provide up-to-date information to local communities and facilitate opportunities to engage with NPDC staff.

With elected members allocated to two portfolios each, the Iwi Portfolio Lead also attends other portfolio group meetings to promote collaboration and communication across projects of common interest. In the future, we will support the Iwi Portfolio and Te Huinga Taumatua explore how they can work together more efficiently.

Funding and Grants

We have recognised that Māori participation in the decision-making process is, in part, constrained by funding. This is particularly evident in relation to resource consenting, where access to expert scientific or legal advice is both costly and complex. As a result, we provide funding that supports tangata whenua to engage identified resource management expertise.

We also provide Marae Development Grants, and a Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection Fund to support iwi with marae insurance and maintenance. In 2020, NPDC also initiated a Manaaki Urupā Grant to assist Māori owners in maintaining their urupā.

Finally, we provide funding support for the creative sector through Creative Communities funding. Due to the low number of applications for local Toi Māori activities, this will be a priority in 2021 and out-years.

Puke Ariki Kaumātua Committee

Te Kaumātua Kaunihera o ngā Whare Taonga o Puke Ariki was established in 2004. Made up of kaumātua (elders) from around Taranaki, the committee advises Puke Ariki on issues regarding Māori, the taonga Māori collection, and tikanga. The Kaunihera meets monthly and is open to kaumātua from all of Taranaki. While providing expert cultural advice, exploring further relationships with iwi may identify opportunities to better align the Puke Ariki experience to their aspirations.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre Aotearoa

Recognising its responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the gallery has established the advisory group Whiringa Toi. An expression of the gallery's desire to enrich its expression of a Te Tiriti-based partnership, the group offers a forum for Iwi-Māori to participate in shaping the priorities, procedures and cultural activities of the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre.

Made up of the Gallery Director and representatives from local Māori artists, NPDC and iwi of Taranaki, Whiringa Toi will also be central to the gallery's desires and efforts to facilitate engagement, consultation and collaboration with Iwi-Māori and whānau whānui.

Internal Capacity

To enhance effective engagement of Māori in decision-making we have committed staff and other resources to support, advocate on behalf of, and guide NPDC's interactions with Māori.

There continues to be a focus on building the cultural competency of our staff. This will include building staff capability in basic te reo Māori (language) and tikanga (practices), and developing staff knowledge and understanding of Māori concepts, values, histories and experiences. It also includes enhancing staff confidence

and skills in engaging with Māori to establish and manage effective relationships.

We are also undertaking a number of activities, either in progress or planned, which NPDC will be progressing over the term of this Long-term Plan. Aligned to our new strategic community outcomes, these initiatives are summarised below.

Engaging with Tangata Whenua

NPDC recognises that the need to consult with tangata whenua stems from the Treaty of Waitangi principle of partnership. Requiring both parties to act reasonably and make informed decisions, NPDC also acknowledges engaging and consulting with tangata whenua often leads to a better understanding of the issues and opportunities. In many instances, this will result in stronger, trusting relationships, and in many instances, positive outcomes of mutual benefit.

Aligned to the strategic goals of Partnerships, Delivery, Community, Sustainability and Prosperity, key opportunities for NPDC, tangata whenua and Māori to work together are summarised below.

Partnerships / Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou

Taranaki Covid-19 Regional Civil Defence and Recovery Response



In late March 2020, Aotearoa-New Zealand entered into Level 4 lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout the event, iwi and Māori health and social providers were able to quickly identify and respond to the needs of Māori, and in some instances local communities as well. In response, NPDC and Civil Defence are working to better incorporate Iwi and local Māori providers in future civil defence events.

Māori Contribution to Decision-making

This approach is also being adopted to develop a regional Covid-19 economic recovery response, with iwi contributing at local, regional as well as national levels of decision-making. This will be important to ensure a regional economic recovery, which responds to the higher unemployment rates being experienced by Māori as a result of Covid-19.

Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana

In March 2019, NPDC signed an agreement with Te Āti Awa hapū Manukorihi and Otaraua at Ōwae Marae detailing how we will work together to manage the proceeds of the sale of Waitara endowment land.

Under the *New Plymouth District Council (Waitara Lands) Act 2018* (the Act), 770 leasehold sections can be purchased by occupiers, with the revenue from sales to be used to:

- Establish a Hapū Land Fund, with decisions on its use made by Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana Trust, which will manage and administer the interests of Manukorihi and Otaraua hapū;
- Establish a Waitara Perpetual Community Fund to help support community projects in Waitara, with NPDC and the Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana Trust each appointing three board members to establish the Te Tai Pari Trust (formerly the Waitara Perpetual Community Fund Board); and
- Support Waitara River and environmental projects, to be managed by iwi and hapū with interests in the river, and the Taranaki Regional Council.

To date, over 20 properties have been purchased by leaseholders. Moving forward, a significant piece of work NPDC and Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana will look to progress are the co-management and administration arrangements for the reserve lands listed in the Act (section 20 of the Act refers).

Ngā Kaitiaki

Initiated in 2016, NPDC and iwi/hapū agreed to set up a group called Ngā Kaitiaki. Made up of representatives from iwi and hapū, the purpose of the working group was to review the draft District Plan from a Te Ao Māori (Māori worldview) perspective. An independent planner providing professional planning advice supported the group for the next three years.

Generally meeting once a month, Ngā Kaitiaki and NPDC officers together worked on a new District Plan, resulting in the notification of the new Proposed District Plan in September 2019. NPDC is now working with iwi and hapū submitters on the Proposed District Plan, who continue to receive independent professional planning advice.

Moving forward, the Ngā Kaitiaki working group will continue to consider high level strategic issues in relation to the District Plan and district planning in general.

He Puna Wai Working Group

NPDC is working with the iwi rūnanga of Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Maru, Te Āti Awa and Taranaki Iwi to develop a sustainable 30-year integrated three waters strategy (drinking, waste and stormwater), which:

- Balances the need to protect the public health and provide local communities with services which in the long-term are sustainable and do not impact on the natural environment; and
- Contributes towards aspirations as reflected in their respective Iwi Environmental Management Plans and policies.

Established in 2018, NPDC recognises that as a Treaty partner, iwi have a significant contribution to make in freshwater management and planning process. Also

acknowledging the unique issues and interests that iwi and hapū face relating to freshwater, He Puna Wai provides iwi an opportunity to contribute to the drinking, waste and stormwater challenges facing the district, as well as potential solutions, including:

- Reducing demands on freshwater through increased efficiencies and waste reduction;
- Upgrading existing infrastructure to increase capacity and resilience; and
- Identifying and developing a new freshwater source.

Moving forward, the working group will engage with significant projects and programmes of work, including the Waitara Wastewater Outfall and stormwater projects, wastewater issues at Urenui and Ōnaero and District Water Conservation Plan.

Te Rewarewa Reserve

In 2007, NPDC and Ngāti Tawhirikura hapū signed an agreement to co-manage the Te Rewarewa Reserve. A site of significant spiritual, cultural and historical importance to the hapū, the agreement describes the expectations and aspirations of both parties in the care and development of the reserve.

In 2018, after a review of the co-management entity in place, the Te Rewarewa Reserve Working Party was set up. Made up of both NPDC and Ngāti Tawhirikura representatives, the working group is overseeing the physical return of the hapū back on the reserve, as well as the development of a NPDC and Ngāti Tawhirikura co-management plan, which will guide care and development of the reserve over the next 10 years.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe

The RMA gives iwi authorities the option to invite a regional or district council to form a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreement (Mana Whakahono). The arrangement

Māori Contribution to Decision-making

provides a mechanism for councils and iwi to agree on the ways tangata whenua can participate in the RMA decision-making and assist councils with their statutory obligations to tangata whenua under the RMA.

In May 2018, NPDC was one of four local territorial authorities notified by Ngāruahine Iwi to initiate a Mana Whakahono. However, following a proposal by the Taranaki Regional Council, the four local authorities with the eight Taranaki iwi met in November 2018 to consider a region-wide Mana Whakahono arrangement.

Since September 2019, facilitation of informal mātauranga Māori and Mana Whakahono discussions have been facilitated by Poipoia Limited. With the process impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, Informal discussions are due to resume, with a focus on finalising an agreement.

Delivery / Mauri mahi, mauri ora

Iwi and hapū resource consenting support

Over the past three years, there has been an increasing demand on iwi to participate in NPDC projects and processes like district planning, development projects, urban design and spatial planning. That demand presently out-strips iwi capacity and capability to be able to respond in a timely manner, while also ensuring they fulfil their responsibilities as Kaitiaki.

With potential impacts on statutory processing, reporting and project completion deadlines, we will partner with iwi and explore options to develop a more responsive and efficient resource consenting process for iwi, hapū, NPDC and resource consent applicants.

Funding will be available from 2022 to 2025 to support iwi and hapū in processing the high number of resource consents requiring their input. This will assist NPDC,



applicants, developers and other stakeholders to complete resource consent applications in an efficient and timely manner.

It will also provide an opportunity for NPDC and tangata whenua to think about approaches to resource consenting in the future.

Wāhi Tapu review

After the release of the operative New Plymouth District Plan in 2005, NPDC became aware that the location of listed wāhi taonga were inaccurate. With the change from imperial to metric measurements of New Zealand Archaeological Association data, the Wāhi Taonga Review Project was initiated in 2007.

Originally intended to accurately record the locations of known wāhi taonga in the District Plan, it was extended in 2010 to include new sites. NPDC, an archaeologist and tangata whenua worked together to confirm the locations and extents of sites so they could be included in the proposed District Plan. This will ensure certainty for District Plan users, while protecting sites and areas of significance to tangata whenua.

Moving forward, NPDC will be working with those iwi and hapū who have yet to have the location and extents of their wāhi tapu sites within the district confirmed.

Community / Ngāmotu tū ngātahi

Rohutu Reservation

Rohutu is a 7.13 hectare Māori freehold land block situated at the end of Leslie Street, Waitara. From 1940 to 1960, a small, vibrant community developed, albeit in an informal, ad hoc way.

Administered by trustees since 1960, the vision today for the reserve is to develop a safe, secure and resilient community, which maintains its unique cultural



heritage while also enjoying the benefits of a modern community, including quality housing and public amenities and services.

Over the years, with the effects of coastal erosion and increased frequency of tidal surges, wastewater contamination through damaged septic tanks and the imminent risk of buildings falling into the sea, a collaborative effort between reserve trustees, NPDC and others is urgently needed to both mitigate immediate risks and take a more strategic approach to development on the site.

Waitara-Bell Block Coastal Walkway Extension

The first section of the New Plymouth Coastal Walkway opened in December 2001. Since then, residents and visitors alike use the walkway for leisure, commuting and business activities. A safe corridor to travel from one end of the city to the other, it encourages people of all ages to enjoy the benefits of physical exercise, being outdoors, and enjoying what the district has to offer.

Residents and visitors will experience the same benefits, with the addition of the Bell Block-Waitara Coastal Walkway extension. Potentially adding approximately seven kilometres, the walkway extension will enable people to see unique landscapes, pass by historical sites and read information boards narrating past events which have shaped who we are as a community.

With the added benefit of offering an alternative route to approximately 15 kilometres of State Highway 3, NPDC, in partnership with Puketapu, Manukorihi and Otaraua hapū, will collaborate with other key stakeholders, including Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and Te Papa Rererangi i Puketapu Limited (the New Plymouth Airport Company) to progress this initiative.

Māori Contribution to Decision-making

Te Kohia

In 2016, a significant New Zealand historic site came up for public sale at Brixton, Waitara. NPDC subsequently purchased the property.

Te Kohia Pā, constructed in 1860 by Wiremu Kīngi Te Rangitāke and his followers, was attacked by British Forces on 17 March 1860, marking the commencement of the First Taranaki Land War. The pā was known for its innovative covered trenches - a feature first used at Ruapekapeka in the Northern Land Wars in the 1840s, then refined at Te Kohia. This innovation was replicated by other iwi in the design of pā fortifications during the New Zealand Wars.

In 2019, work began on developing a concept plan for the site, with a project team established made up of representatives from NPDC, Te Kotahitanga o Te Ātiawa, Manukorihi, Otaraua and Pukerangiora hapū and the Department of Conservation.

With the location of the pā confirmed through Ground Penetrating Radar, archival research and three small test excavations, a feasibility study is now planned. The study will assess the possibility of establishing a nationally significant multi-purpose wānanga-education/exhibition/arts centre, along with café/retail and associated services on the site.

Sustainability / Oranga taiao, oranga tangata



Te Ara a Ruhihiweratini

NPDC is preparing a proposal for the construction of a shared cycleway/walkway. Just over 12 kilometres long, Te Ara A Ruhihiwerapini (The Trail of Ruhihiwerapini) will run from Surrey Hill Road, inland from Ōākura, to Pukeiti Botanical and Rhododendron gardens.

With the Taranaki Regional Council and local hapū Ngā Mahanga and Ngāti Tairi, efforts focus on completing the preparation of documentation ahead of lodging resource consents. The intended outcome is to ensure a trail that provides a unique outdoor experience for users, while also being safe, durable and impacting as little as possible on the natural environment.

Responsible for protecting the mauri of the area, we will ensure that resource consents address the identified needs, interests and responsibilities of Ngā Mahanga and Ngāti Tairi as Kaitiaki, both during and after construction of the trail.

Prosperity / Te pai me te rawa o Ngāmotu



Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Festival

Te Matatini is a significant cultural festival and the pinnacle event for Māori performing arts. Held every two years, it is one of the most highly anticipated events for performers, their whānau and the mass of passionate Kapa Haka fans throughout the world.

The festival is a whānau friendly, smoke and alcohol-free event and has an open-door policy where all people are welcome to come and experience the timeless tradition and spectacle of Kapa Haka. In 2019, the event was hosted by Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Te Ātiawa Whānui in Wellington and saw more than 60,000 people attending over the four-day long event.

In 2022, the next festival will be held in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland), with Aotea (Taranaki/Whanganui) scheduled to host the next event in 2024. Offering a potential multi-million dollar boost to the local economy, we will explore with local iwi ways in which we can support a successful bid to host the event for the first time here in the New Plymouth District.

Tangata whenua connection to place

The New Plymouth Airport is located on land that encompasses several pā and urupā sites of significance to Te Āti Awa Iwi and Puketapu hapū. With the land acquired under the Public Works Act 1928, the original airport facility was opened in 1966.

In March 2020, a redeveloped New Plymouth Airport terminal was opened. Incorporating distinct cultural concepts and narratives conveyed through traditional and contemporary artworks and sculptures, the \$29m facility re-establishes a Te Āti Awa Iwi and Puketapu hapū presence upon the landscape.

An outcome of the completed facility was a 'raising of the bar' in terms of tangata whenua participation in future projects of local and regional significance. Already involved in the planned revitalisation of the New Plymouth Central Business District, we will continue to engage early with tangata whenua on significant projects which offer opportunities to both reaffirm their connection to the district and celebrate their unique and distinctive contribution to the district's identity and heritage.