

## **2021 Statement on Fostering Māori participation in Council decision making**

Council is committed to strengthening partnerships with iwi and Māori of Te Tau Ihu, and providing opportunities for Māori involvement in Council decision-making processes in a meaningful way. This includes an intention to:

- a. Build genuine partnerships with all eight Te Tau Ihu iwi at governance, management and operational levels
- b. Support iwi to participate in local government decision-making
- c. Increasing Council's understanding of te reo Māori me ōnā tikanga (Māori language and culture)
- d. Support iwi aspirations

Some of the initiatives in place to support Māori participation in Council decision-making are listed below:

1. Continuing to engage with the eight iwi of Te Tau Ihu through the following regular Iwi-Council engagement hui:
  - a. Iwi-Council Partnership Group to provide guidance related to governance and strategic direction
  - b. Nelson City Council and Iwi Managers Forum to provide direction related to management matters
  - c. Te Ohu Toi Ahurea involving iwi Cultural Managers to assist and contribute to guidance on arts and heritage
  - d. Te Ohu Taiao involving iwi environmental planners to assist and contribute to guidance on environmental management
2. Iwi/Māori appointments to the Environment & Climate Committee, Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit and the Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit.
3. An intention to make further iwi/Māori appointments to Council committees and subcommittees.
4. Continuing the Iwi Working Group to inform and contribute to the development of Whakamahere Whakatū – the Nelson Plan, which is working together in the interests of the whole of Nelson by:
  - a. Identifying the strategic outcomes to lead the development of the Plan
  - b. Identifying resource management issues of significance to iwi
  - c. Considering and commenting on draft provisions to ensure adequate cultural perspective is provided and outcomes and issues identified by iwi are addressed
5. Iwi representatives provide input into Council's activity management plans, as part of the development of its Long Term Plans.

Council recognises that we need to build capacity and capability to have effective and meaningful partnerships. Key initiatives to build Council capability to engage effectively with iwi and to support iwi engagement in Council decision making include:

- Supporting staff cultural competency development through Te Kāhui Whiria, Māori Partnerships Team
- Supporting the Kaumātua in their role to provide advice to Council on te reo Māori me ōna tikanga (Māori culture and customary practice)
- Developing an Iwi-Council Partnering and Engagement Strategy
- Implementing an Iwi-Council Online Engagement Platform to enable iwi input on Council projects
- Supporting community events and activities to promote te reo Māori me ōna tikanga within the Whakatū Nelson region

This work recognises Te Tau Ihu Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts 2014, including:

- Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu and Te Ātiawa o Te Waka ā Maui Claims Settlement Act, 2014
- Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne o Wairau Claims Settlement Act 2014
- Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act, 2014

The Acts outline areas of interest, including statutory acknowledgement over land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.

In February 2021, central government enacted the Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act, to make the process for establishing Māori wards for local authorities the same as the process for general Wards. Council has previously advocated for a change to this process and made a submission in support of this amendment.