

Draft Statement on fostering Māori participation in Council decision-making

Te Whakatītina i te urunga o Ngāi Māori ki te Kaunihera

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

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

Kia Kotahi Te Taihū, Together Te Taihū Partnership Agreement

Council signed a partnership agreement with the eight iwi and two other councils of Te Taihū in December 2023. This agreement recognises the important and unique roles that both iwi and councils play in the cultural, social, environmental and economic wellbeing of Te Taihū. It seeks to weave these aspirations together more closely, to strengthen our position as Te Taihū and deliver to our shared aspirations more effectively. It will be an enduring relational agreement that sets out protocols and tikanga that all the partners have committed to.

An accompanying action plan is being developed to set out partnership priorities and actions to complete over the next three years.

Initiatives to support Māori participation

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

- Continuing to engage with the eight iwi of Te Taihū through the following regular iwi-Council engagement hui:
 - Te Taihū Mayors and Chairs Forum involving three Top of the South councils' mayors and eight Te Taihū iwi chairs to provide guidance related to governance and strategic direction
 - Te Ohu Whakahaere involving Nelson City Council's Chief Executive and eight Te Taihū iwi Chief Executives and General Managers to provide direction related to management matters
 - Te Ohu Toi Ahurea involving iwi cultural managers to assist and contribute to guidance on arts and heritage

- Te Ohu Taiao involving iwi environmental planners to assist and contribute to guidance on environmental management, including resource management matters.
- Continuing to support Iwi/Māori representation on the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit, Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit, Nelson Regional Transport Committee, and the Nelson Marina Management Board.
- Continuing to facilitate iwi input into Council's activity management plan process, as part of the development of its long term plans.
- Supporting iwi capacity building, particularly the ability to engage with and respond to the range of matters of mutual interest that further iwi-Council partnership (funding prioritised from central government's Three Waters/Affordable Water Reform programme 'Better off funding').

Council facilitated the establishment of the Whakatū Māori Ward, with the support of Te Taihu iwi, for the 2022 local election.

Initiatives to build capability and support engagement

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 Puāwaitanga Cultural Competency Framework
- Supporting the Kaumātua in their role to provide advice and guidance to Council on tikanga and kawa (Māori customary practices)
- Implementing Te Parikaranga, an online iwi engagement platform to enable Council officers to share projects with iwi and to receive input on the level of interest iwi have with a Council project.
- Supporting community events and activities to promote te reo Māori me ōna tikanga within the Whakatū Nelson region, including Waitangi Day, Matariki, national kapa haka, and Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week) celebrations.

Te Tau Ihu Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts 2014

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 Mauī 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.