

Maori Perspectives Of The Environment

Proposed Action Strategies

Technical Report No. 7

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Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

Environment
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List of technical reports

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1 Introduction

The main task of Stage II Maori and the Environment research project is to provide summaries of information about Maori environmental perspectives for consideration by the Iwi Core Group and Long Term Community Council Plan (LTCCP) review teams. The Stage II report will:

- Identify Maori values information held by Environment Waikato,
- Identify information gaps within the Maori values information held by Environment Waikato, and
- Make recommendations about how to address those gaps.

A summary of information gaps identified during the course of this research project is presented in Technical Report No. 6. The purpose of this report is to develop an action plan that identifies strategies to meet the future information needs of Environment Waikato with respect to Maori values information.

Recommendations have been developed from information gaps that were identified with respect to the following databases:

- Resource Use Consent Submissions Database
- Policy Submissions Database
- Spatial Databases

Recommendations have also been developed from information gaps that were identified from submissions by iwi and hapu through the following processes:

- Submissions on the Waikato Regional Plan
- Submissions on Resource Use Consents
- Submissions of Iwi and Hapu environmental planning documents

2 Action Plans

2.1 Internal Information

Overall, there is minimal reference to iwi environmental perspectives in EW reports. This is based on on a lack of understanding by EW staff on the role that iwi have to play in local government processes. As a result, Maori issues tend to be generalised within EW reports.

Improvements to Internal Information

Recommendation	Task
Build capacity within EW staff on Maori issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Further allocation of resources to meet the requirements for staff training➤ Develop programmes that focus on explaining:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The relevance and importance of obtaining information on iwi or hapu affiliation• The diversities that exist within Maori communities of Aotearoa• The relevance of the Treaty of Waitangi and the importance of including it throughout EW processes and procedures
Develop and maintain positive relationships with iwi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Implement the recommendations of the Buttimore (2003) report
Value staff members commitment to Maori perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Inclusion of a responsiveness to the Treaty of Waitangi component of executive and managerial staff performance reviews
Encourage a corporate culture that recognises the value of active Maori participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Implement the recommendations of the Buttimore (2003) report

Improvements to Internal Information

Recommendation	Task
Develop a central storage or management facility for Maori values information within the Library and Powerdocs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a physical location for Maori values information that is available for staff within the EW Library ➤ Create a directory using Powerdocs on the central server for Maori values information ➤ Determine access rights for this directory of Maori values information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow corporate access to public information • Restrict access to sensitive information ➤ Advertise the location of this facility through internal communication systems such as staff meetings, email and intranet

2.2 Resource Use Consent Submissions

The extent to which iwi submissions assist in EW's decision-making about resource use consent applications remains unclear. Furthermore, it is evident that resource use applicants are not adequately consulting with those people (specifically iwi) who may be affected by the proposed activity. Increased attention to tangata whenua environmental perspectives regarding the use of natural and physical resources within their tribal rohe is required to promote and encourage improved relationships with iwi, hapu and whanau of the Waikato region.

Improvements to Resource Use Consent Submissions

Recommendation	Task
EW develop or establish policy that is more stringent in regards to consultation with iwi and adherence to resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Refer to the Buttimore (2003) report for recommendations ➤ Apply Maori values framework (refer to Technical Report No. 2) when developing policy
Planners are involved in the consultation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Apply Maori values framework when considering resource consent applications ➤ Active involvement in the consultation process by providing technical support to iwi and applicants throughout the process
The Maori values content of submissions is recorded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a relational Maori Values table within the Corporate Database. This table would record the codes for key Maori values such as those described in the Maori values framework ➤ Staff members who maintain these databases are encouraged to maintain the data for this field
The Resource Use Consent Submissions Database (RUCSD) is integrated into the Corporate Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create an application for resource use consent submissions, or ➤ Develop relational database links with the RUAMS database
The content of submissions is recorded within the RUCSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Scanning, or ➤ Data entry into new fields
The filing system is improved for resource use consent submissions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Filing submissions by: chronological order, resource consent number, and document number ➤ Create a separate folder for Maori submissions
Link the RUCSD to the Contacts Linking GIS Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A field in the RUCSD is created that identifies iwi/hapu/Maori Organisations and then to the Contacts Linking GIS Layer
Further research on the iwi submission process to EW is undertaken	

2.3 Databases

2.3.1 RUAMS database

The RUAMS database lacks a record of submissions on resource consents. Tracking iwi resource consent submissions spatially should be undertaken.

Improvements to the RUAMS Database

Recommendation	Task
Track iwi resource consent submissions spatially	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Recording resource consent submissions by Maori organisations in the Submissions Tracking System which is linked to the RUAMS Database, and secondly➤ Establishing a spatial database of Maori organisations through the Contacts Linking GIS Layer➤ Alternatively, the stand-alone Resource Consent Submissions Database could be integrated into the Corporate Database and linked to RUAMS:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equal identification fields (e.g. Resource Consent Number field) in both databases will minimise the task of integration.• Inclusion of a contact identification field linked to the Contacts database may resolve this issue

2.3.2 Contacts Linking GIS Layer

The Contacts Linking GIS Layer currently contains point data for approximately half of the marae in the Tainui rohe. Further work is required to complete mapping of marae in the Environment Waikato region. There is also no spatial reference data for Maori organisations, iwi and hapu in the Contacts Linking GIS Layer. Both inter-tribal and intra-tribal issues complicate the development of these layers. Existing organisational structures such as Trust Boards, Hapu clusters (e.g. Huakina Development Trust), Regional Management Committees (e.g. Maniapoto RMC), Marae and Incorporations are a starting point for developing spatial layers.

Improvements to the Contacts Linking GIS Layer	
Recommendation	Task
Further work is required to complete mapping of marae in the Environment Waikato region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use GPS (Global Positioning System) units to record the geographic co-ordinates for marae ➤ Employ a researcher to record the map points, or ➤ Encourage staff to maintain the data for these map points ➤ Linking the marae point data to the contacts database
Develop spatial reference data for Maori organisations, iwi and hapu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify boundaries or shared boundaries with iwi or hapu through a series of hui ➤ Obtain data sets from the Crown Forestry Rental Trust (CFRT) ➤ Use boundary information and maps from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iwi environmental management plans • Published books • Reports • MOU's

2.3.3 Digital Cadastral Database GIS Layer

The Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) owned DCDB does not have a Maori Land “identifier” which limits regional planning on Maori land. However, the TPK Maori Land DCDB is a sufficient starting point for identifying Maori land in the Waikato Region for developing rating policies. A limitation of the database is that like LINZ’s DCDB, it does not contain a complete list of Maori land owners. This is an area of concern that Central Government agencies including TPK, the Maori Land Court and LINZ are currently addressing.

Improvements to the Digital Cadastral Database GIS Layer

Recommendation	Task
Develop a database for Maori Land development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Obtain the Te Puni Kokiri (TPK) Maori Land Digital Cadastral Database ➤ Record ownership details in a separate database and link to the TPK Maori Land Digital Cadastral Database ➤ Obtaining contact details of Maori land owners will prove to be difficult but may be accessible through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local councils • Maori Trustee • Te Puni Koriki • Runanga, Incorporations and Trust Boards • Farm accountants

2.3.4 Archaeological Sites GIS Layer

Public access to a proposed waahi tapu register will cause concerns for the majority of iwi. Iwi will be reluctant to provide sensitive waahi tapu information to Environment Waikato for public use. Likewise, Environment Waikato may be reluctant to fund a project that will have little benefit for the public. To overcome these issues, it is recommended that EW provide support for iwi to manage a waahi tapu register independently. In addition to developing a waahi tapu register, a spatial polygon layer that identifies taonga including but not limited to: maunga, awa, puke, pa sites etc would be beneficial to planners. This spatial polygon would be developed and owned by iwi but supported by EW. It would be used in the resource consent process and other resource management processes to determine whether a proposal will impact on the cultural landscape.

Archaeological Sites GIS Layer	
Recommendation	Task
Provide support for iwi to manage a waahi tapu register independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop a framework for recording sensitive sites while protecting iwi intellectual property rights ➤ Provide financial support to iwi ➤ Provide training in database management and spatial software ➤ Provide on-going support for the maintenance and management of the registers
Develop a spatial polygon layer that identifies taonga including but not limited to: maunga, awa, puke, and pa sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop a cultural landscape layer using <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical records • Reports • Iwi plans, and • Consultation with iwi

2.4 Iwi Capacity to Respond

Iwi submissions reviewed showed that time constraints and resource use consent applicants inability to adequately consult with iwi had caused limitations for iwi to provide sufficient feedback. Iwi have also not been consulted about their views on the effectiveness of processes and procedures relevant to iwi participation in EW decision-making processes. A review of EW plans and policy documents (refer to Technical Report No. 1) also shows that clear processes are set in place for the involvement of tangata whenua participation in decision-making processes. In contrast, it is not easily identifiable in implementation. Furthermore, there is an over-reliance on the Iwi Liaison Officer to carry out many duties that needs to be addressed.

Improvements to Iwi Capacity to Respond

Recommendation	Task
EW works with iwi and hapu to produce Iwi Contributions/Submissions and Iwi Environmental Management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EW provides technical and financial assistance ➤ Assists iwi to update existing plans ➤ Develop trusting relationships with iwi (refer to the Buttimore (2003) report for recommendations)
Relationships where information is shared with iwi rather than taken are developed and maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop trusting relationships with iwi (refer to the Buttimore (2003) report for recommendations)
EW develops a clearer understanding of the relationship tangata whenua has with their environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff Training ➤ Encouraging a greater awareness of the Treaty and tikanga ➤ Use the Maori values framework for policy and planning
Reduce the over-reliance on the Iwi Liaison Officer to carry out many duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further resources are employed in the Iwi Liaison budget ➤ Further research into devolvment strategies is undertaken
Further research on iwi participation in the decision-making process within EW is undertaken	

2.5 Information for External Use

Developing resources that actively seek Tangata Whenua as a target audience and provides information relevant to Maori environmental perspectives and concerns might also seek to encourage and increase Tangata Whenua participation in council's decision-making processes.

Information for External Use

Recommendation	Task
Develop resources that actively seek Tangata Whenua as a target audience and provides information relevant to Maori environmental perspectives	➤ EW's Website is improved by including information and processes that encourage iwi participation in decision-making

Reference List

Buttimore, M. (2003). Iwi Relationships: Consideration of Strategic Options. Environment Waikato: Hamilton.