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Report to Wellington Regional Council  
from Councillors Margaret Shields and Ian Buchanan

**Ara Tahi Meeting – 2 December 2002**

**1. Purpose**

To report to Council the proceedings of the meeting of Ara Tahi held on 27 November 2002.

**2. Background and Comment**

**2.1 Incident Response Report**

A report on incident responses undertaken by Council staff over the last year to 30 June 2002 was presented to the meeting.

*2.1.1 Pro-active pollution control initiatives*

Howard Markland elaborated on the new, pro-active initiatives that were mentioned at the last Ara Tahi meeting:

*Take Charge*

It was noted that, before implementing the 'Take Charge' programme, which works with industries to produce more cost-effective pollution control outcomes, it is important to audit the Council's own sites.

*Information leaflets*

The team will be producing information leaflets to educate industries and people in residential areas about issues such as runoff into storm water drains.

*Odour complaints*

The Pollution Control Team now has a new set of criteria for when to respond to odour complaints, which aim to be more cost effective. This initiative is working well so far as no significant complaints have been missed.

Alma Mihaere expressed concern where there are a large number of odour complaints from a particular area or industry and nothing is done about it after several calls from the same complainant. Howard Markland suggested that it is difficult to know how bad it is in reality, as despite significant pollution control intervention at these sites, complaints are increasing. He pointed to the report that went to the Environment Committee recently and suggested the increase in complaints may be a result of the sensitisation to odours.

*Agreeing standardised responses*

Howard Markland is currently working with other agencies to standardise the approach and procedure where a situation requires several agencies with different priorities to respond, e.g. Local Government, Transit and the Fire Service where there has been a spillage on the road as the result of a car accident.

## **2.2 Point, Click, Fish**

Murray McLea presented this report. The Point, Click, Fish model maps the locations of freshwater fish species in the Wellington region. It can be used to help the Council with their role in looking after these habitats, e.g. when people are applying for resource consents. He suggested it could also be used as an information tool, providing links to relevant information to help with the management of freshwater fish etc.

Many members of Ara Tahi indicated their interest in the model and requested a workshop on it in 2003. The model is especially relevant to the GIS projects that are being undertaken by some of the Iwi.

## **2.3 Update on the Take Action for Water Schools Programme**

Jo Campbell presented this report, which updated members of Ara Tahi on the progress of the 'Take Action' programme. Twelve mainstream schools have participated in the programme this year and the environmental education team are now looking to make the programme available in Kura Kaupapa Maori and full immersion units in schools.

Components of the resource booklet have already been translated into Maori and a pilot programme with Pukeatua School has been organised for term two next year. Jo Campbell asked members of Ara Tahi for feedback on the resource documents and said she would also be keen to hear about other possible projects, like the Pa Harakeke planting day at Wainuiomata

Owen Perry suggested that the Maori perspective be part of the programme at mainstream schools. Jo Campbell advised they were still working on this and that they had plans to do a poster outlining some of the generic concepts. She suggested that Ara Tahi may be interested in being involved in the delivery of the programme e.g. individual Iwi to pass on their own information.

Members of Ara Tahi congratulated Jo Campbell on the programme.

## **2.4 Progress Report from Maori Policy Advisors, Wellington and Wairarapa**

Keriana Wilcox introduced this report. She advised that six of the seven administration putea contracts have been received and they will be paid on Friday, 29 November.

Ngati Tama has recently re-established as an Iwi organisation in Wellington and want to have a relationship with the Council. Ara Tahī Iwi members advised that they will deal with mandating issues at a later date themselves.

## **2.5 Local Government Relationships with Maori**

Debra Packman of Te Puni Kokiri gave a brief presentation on the Local Government Bill and its implications for Maori. She also discussed the CRESA report, which assesses current local government relationships with Maori. Members of Ara Tahī agreed that the information was very interesting and suggested that Debra Packman come back after the Bill has been passed and they have read the CRESA report.

## **2.6 Consultation on Chief Executive Appointment for Greater Wellington, the Regional Council**

Chris Gilchrist from Sheffield Limited came to talk with the members of Ara Tahī about the chief executive appointment. To maintain confidentiality all council staff left the room.

## **3. Recommendation**

*That the report be received and the contents noted.*

MARGARET SHIELDS  
Chairperson

IAN BUCHANAN  
Chairman, Environment