



## **Report 02.91**

08 March 2002

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Report to: Wellington Regional Council  
From: Councillor Ian Buchanan

### **Ara Tahi Meeting – 8 February 2002**

#### **1. Purpose**

To report to Council the proceedings at the meeting of Ara Tahi held on 8 February 2002.

#### **2. Background & Comment**

##### **2.1 Local Government Relationships with Maori: Case Studies - CRESA**

The Centre for Research, Evaluation and Social Assessment (CKESA) has been commissioned by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and Te Puni Kōwhiri (TPK) to explore local government relationships with Maori. A description of the research proposal as well as profiles of the CRESA research team is contained in **Attachment 1**.

The information collected will allow LGNZ, TPK and the Department of Internal Affairs to develop guidelines to help local authorities implement the proposals in the Local Government Bill (scheduled for enactment in July 2002).

Ara Tahi have expressed their support for the project and have agreed to make themselves available for interviews.

##### **2.2 Review of the Year 2001**

Officers reported on work completed in 2001 as part of the Strengthening Relationships Policy. It was noted that Ara Tahi had met on five occasions during the year. Some of the key issues addressed at these meetings include: the Annual Plan 2001/02, the Water Integration proposal, an Ara Tahi web page, climate change and the Local Government Act Review. A key outcome for Ara Tahi this year was Council approval for funding to build Iwi administrative capacity.

The report noted that technical workshops had, for the first time, been offered at locations other than at Council offices. The feedback had been positive and this practice will be continued in 2002.

It was noted that the annual walk over the Rohe did not occur in any formal sense in 2001. However, the concept was widely supported and it is intended to utilise Councillor training sessions this year to begin a series of visits to each rohe.

The report also listed:

- Maori commissioner appointments to resource consent and regional plan hearings.
- An overview of projects funded by Council and carried out by Iwi

It was concluded that a considerable amount of progress was made during 2001 towards strengthening the relationship between the Council and Tangata Whenua

### **2.3 Dates and Themes for Technical Workshops -2002**

It was decided that the first Iwi workshop for the year would consider the Parks and Forests Management Plans. The topics for subsequent workshops will be determined at the next meeting.

### **2.4 Administrative Funding Report**

Last year the Council decided to provide funding to assist Iwi in building their administrative capacity and thereby enhance their ability to interact with the Council. Six Iwi representative groups signed funding contracts with the Council. One of the requirements of the contract is that a written report and breakdown of expenditure is provided.

Written expenditure reports have been received from: Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Rangitaane o Wairarapa, Ngati Toa, Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui and Te Runanga o Ati Awa Ki Whakarongotai. The Tenth Trust only received funding on 20 January 2002 and their report will be provided to the next Ara Tahi.

### **2.5 Annual Plan Update**

Greg Schollum provided an overview of the Council's financial planning processes. He indicated that due to the nature of the three-year planning cycle the greatest opportunity for input would occur during the review of the LTFS in 2003.

### **2.6 Local Government Act Review**

Helen Atkins from Philips Fox Law provided an overview of the main Treaty clauses in the Local Government Bill. She suggested that while there are areas of concern with the current Bill, it still represents a considerable improvement on the Local Government Act 1974.

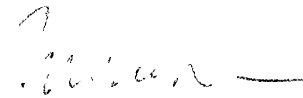
## 2.7 General Business

At the November meeting it was noted that a new chairperson would need to be elected.

Tom Paku, Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Maori Executive Taiwhenua, has been elected the new chairperson of Ara Tahi.

## 3. Recommendation

*That the report be received and the information noted*



IAN BUCHANAN  
Chairman, Environment