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Tena koe Fran

Māori Constituency - Ara Tahi position

As agreed at the Ara Tahi meeting on 24 June, Ara Tahi has considered the matter of the establishment of a Māori Constituency for the region for the 2010 election. This is a very important kaupapa for mana whenua and we welcome the opportunity to provide advice and support to Council.

Following a robust discussion at our most recent Technical Workshop Ara Tahi has decided to recommend that the Council do not consider establishing a Māori Consistency at this time.

In reaching this decision a broad range of view points were put forward, all of which referenced the recent establishment of Iwi representatives on Council Committees as a significant development in Iwi representation in the region. There was a clear message from all parties that the establishment of these positions is a priority for Ara Tahi for the remainder of this Council term. Ara Tahi is less conclusive on the substantive issue of whether this is the appropriate time to progress a Māori constituency. Given a lack of consensus we agreed that we should defer any decision until the next opportunity.

Once again we thank you for engaging us on this very important matter.

Naku noa, na



Te Waari Carkeek
Chair, Ara Tahi