

# The Iwi Environmental Management System

## 4.1 Introduction

Section 3.3, Tiakina te Mauri Ora, set out the environmental management ethic and system of the tangata whenua of the Region. It discussed the overarching philosophy, principles and concepts, including the Treaty of Waitangi, that guide the relationship of tangata whenua with the environment. The issues of resource management concern to the iwi of the Region, and the objectives, policies and methods for meeting iwi resource management aspirations, derive from these principles and concepts.

This chapter provides a general statement of the objectives, policies and methods that flow from the perspectives elaborated in section 3.3. It complements the specific objectives, policies and methods relating to iwi which are found in the chapters which follow. If, in one of the following chapters, there are no specific references to iwi, it does **not** mean that iwi are not concerned with that particular issue. Rather, it means that the matter is dealt with generally in this chapter. In particular, this chapter addresses matters relating to the ongoing relationship between tangata whenua and local authorities that is required to achieve sustainable management.

Finally, section 3.3 provided most of the explanatory material for this chapter. Only the main points of that explanation have been repeated here and only when it has been necessary to explain why a particular objective, policy or method has been adopted.

## 4.2 Issues

General issues relating to the iwi environmental management system have been identified in section 3.3. Specific issues are identified in the chapters which follow.

See also  
Fresh Water  
Issue 2,  
Coastal  
Environment  
Issue 7,  
Landscape  
Issue 3 and  
Waste

## 4.3 Objectives

<b>Objective 1</b>	<i>A mutually satisfactory relationship is developed and maintained between the Wellington Regional Council and the iwi of the Region.</i>	Iwi Policies 1 and 2.
<b>Objective 2</b>	<i>The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are taken into account in resource management.</i>	Iwi Policies 3-5.
<b>Objective 3</b>	<i>There are increased opportunities for tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga in the Region.</i>	Iwi Policies 4, 6 and 7.
<b>Objective 4</b>	<i>There are increased opportunities for the cultural aspirations and tikanga of tangata whenua with regard to natural and physical resources to be met.</i>	Iwi Policy 8. See also Coastal Environment Objective 4.

Developing a satisfactory relationship and good planning and decision making processes is fundamental to addressing resource management issues of significance to iwi. By focusing on process, rather than environmental outcomes, this set of objectives retains the flexibility necessary to provide for iwi aspirations in a realistic manner within the framework of the Act.

The Treaty of Waitangi is the basis of Maori involvement in resource management in the context of the Act (**Objective 2**).

Kaitiakitanga (**Objective 3**) and the exercise of tikanga in relation to natural and physical resources (**Objective 4**) are two of the primary ways in the iwi environmental management system is implemented. Protection of mauri is one of the elements of kaitiakitanga which is embodied in **Objective 3**.

This set of objectives has been adopted in order to help achieve the iwi vision for the future of the Region, to provide general objectives for resource managers dealing with issues of iwi concern, and to give effect to the relevant provisions of the Act (see section 1.7 of the Regional Policy Statement). The wording of the Iwi objectives reflects what is **achievable** in the lifetime of the Regional Policy Statement.

## 4.4 Policies

<b>Policy 1</b>	<i>To develop an understanding of, and recognise the relationship between, rangatiratanga and kawanatanga in the management of the Region's natural and physical resources, including recognition of the principle of tino rangatiratanga and its association with tribal autonomy, authority, control and self-determination.</i>	Iwi Method 1.
<b>Policy 2</b>	<i>To support<sup>5</sup> the active participation of tangata whenua in the development and implementation of resource management policy and plans, and in the resource consent granting process.</i>	Iwi Methods 2-5 and 15.
	<p>Policies 1 and 2 have been adopted to provide guidance on the development of the relationship between the iwi and local authorities. <b>Policy 1</b> addresses the need for the relationship between rangatiratanga and kawanatanga, as set out in the Treaty of Waitangi, to be explored, developed and applied in a practical manner to the management of natural resources in the Wellington Region.</p> <p>The development of this understanding and its application will be worked out between the tangata whenua and the Regional Council. <b>Policy 2</b> emphasises the participation of tangata whenua in the processes and implementation of the Act.</p>	See also Waste Policy 10.
<b>Policy 3</b>	<i>To promote awareness of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Maori environmental management system within local authorities and other resource management agencies.</i>	Iwi Method 6.
<b>Policy 4</b>	<i>To recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.</i>	Iwi Methods 7-10. See also Coastal Environment Policy 7 and Fresh Water Policy 13.

**Policy 5** *To take account of relevant Treaty of Waitangi claims when developing policies and plans and making decisions under the Act.*

**Policies 3-5** have been included in order to clarify some aspects of "taking the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi into account". **Policy 4** reflects s. 6(e) of the Act and all three policies are consistent with s. 8 of the Act.

**Policy 6** *To recognise and promote the role and importance of kaitiakitanga.*

Iwi Methods  
11-  
13.

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<sup>5</sup> The term "support" does not necessarily mean financial support. It can be encouragement or the sharing of expertise.

**Policy 7** *To recognise environmental management plans prepared by iwi authorities.*

Iwi Method  
14.

Section 3.3 described how kaitiakitanga and the protection of mauri are central to the iwi environmental management system. Recognition and promotion of the importance of kaitiakitanga (**Policy 6**) will help increase opportunities for kaitiakitanga to be exercised, and is consistent with s. 7(a) of the Act. This includes iwi involvement in the practical management of natural and physical resources.

Iwi environmental management plans (**Policy 7**) are referred to in the Act and regard must be had to any such plans in the development of policies and plans under the Act. Iwi management plans allow iwi to be proactive in their involvement in resource management and are also of assistance to local authorities in carrying out their policy and planning responsibilities under the Act.

See also  
Ecosystems  
Policy 3 and  
Waste  
Method 4.

**Policy 8** *To recognise the Treaty right of iwi development and to facilitate resource development initiatives which are practical and permissible under the Act. This includes supporting, where appropriate, tangata whenua to develop and enhance their resources in accordance with their own tikanga and values.*

Iwi Method  
14.

**Policy 8** recognises that the Treaty of Waitangi embodies a right to manage tribal resources — including both resource protection and resource development — in accordance with customary preference.

## 4.5 Methods

**Method 1** *The Wellington Regional Council and iwi representatives will jointly prepare a Charter of Agreement to guide their relationship under the Act.* Iwi Policy 1.

**Method 1** will clarify how the Regional Council will work with tangata whenua to discharge its responsibilities under the Act.

*The Wellington Regional Council will:*

**Method 2**

- *Provide information to tangata whenua on resource management matters, including the respective responsibilities of different resource management agencies.* Iwi Policy 2.

**Method 3**

- *Liaise with other environmental and resource management agencies on resource management matters of significance to iwi.* Iwi Policy 2.

**Method 4** *The Wellington Regional Council, where it is the consent granting authority, will:* Iwi Policy 2.

(1) *Consult tangata whenua on all consent applications it considers will have a significant effect on tangata whenua;*

(2) *Encourage applicants to consult with tangata whenua as part of the assessment of effects;*

(3) *Appoint Maori as hearings commissioners, when appropriate;*

(4) *Recognise, when appropriate, tikanga Maori in pre-hearing meetings and hearings; and*

(5) *Consider effects on iwi when assessing whether consent applications should be non-notified.*

**Method 5** *The Wellington Regional Council will recognise and provide for tangata whenua participation in environmental monitoring, as appropriate.* Iwi Policy 2.

**Methods 2-5** have been included to support the participation of tangata whenua in resource management. **Method 2** See also Waste Method 11.

acknowledges that lack of information can hinder the ability of tangata whenua to participate actively in resource management. **Method 3** has been adopted in order to promote an integrated approach to resource management matters of concern to iwi, between different levels of government and across jurisdictional boundaries. **Method 4** provides for tangata whenua values to be taken into account in the resource consent granting process. **Method 5** covers tangata whenua involvement in monitoring and recognition of indicators of environmental well-being used by iwi. This is consistent with recognition of the iwi environmental system and the relationship of iwi with the natural environment.

See also  
Ecosystems  
Method 3.

**Method 6** *The Wellington Regional Council will conduct training courses for Council staff and elected representatives on the Treaty of Waitangi and the Maori environmental management system.*

Iwi Policy 3.

Resource management agencies have a responsibility to increase their understanding of, and respect for, the Treaty of Waitangi and Maori values relating to the environment. Training staff and elected representatives will help ensure that structures and processes take account of these matters. **Method 6** could also be adopted by territorial authorities.

**Method 7** *The Wellington Regional Council and the tangata whenua will jointly produce a statement on access to information on waahi tapu and other sites and issues of significance.*

Iwi Policy 4.

**Method 8** *The Wellington Regional Council will consult with tangata whenua over the management of any waahi tapu or any other significant sites or taonga which are located on Wellington Regional Council land or which are managed by the Wellington Regional Council.*

Iwi Policy 4.

**Method 9** *The Wellington Regional Council will, in its regional plans:*

Iwi Policy 4.

- (1) *Acknowledge and incorporate, where appropriate, the special relationship that tangata whenua have with the environment, as reflected in their environmental management system;*
- (2) *Recognise and provide for waahi tapu and any other sites of significance to tangata whenua, where appropriate; and*
- (3) *Include objectives, policies and methods, as appropriate, for the management of taonga of importance to tangata whenua.*

**Method 10** *The Wellington Regional Council, when requested to do so by an iwi authority, will investigate the need for Heritage Orders.* Iwi Policy 4.

**Methods 7-10** indicate four of the ways in which the Wellington Regional Council will give effect to s. 6(e) of the Act (which is reflected in Policy 4). **Method 7** concerns access to information and recognises that there needs to be negotiation between tangata whenua and local authorities on the availability and ownership of information on waahi tapu and other sites and issues of significance to iwi or hapu. The use of silent files is a potential element of this method. See also Fresh Water Methods 43 and 44, and Ecosystems Methods 5 and 15.

**Method 11** *The Wellington Regional Council, in consultation and partnership with tangata whenua, will investigate opportunities for iwi management of resources and opportunities for joint management, where appropriate.* Iwi Policy 6.

*The Wellington Regional Council will:*

**Method 12**

- *Appoint tangata whenua as kaitiaki by a transfer of powers, where appropriate.* Iwi Policy 6.

**Method 13**

- *Support tangata whenua to administer transferred powers, functions or duties, where appropriate.* Iwi Policy 6.

**Method 14**

- *Support iwi to prepare iwi management plans, where appropriate and where iwi wish to do so.* Iwi Policies 7 and 8.

**Methods 11 to 14** focus on improving opportunities for iwi management of resources and on formal recognition of the role of kaitiaki. These methods are consistent with a partnership approach to resource management, as required by the Treaty of Waitangi, and the transfer of powers provisions of the Act (s. 33). **Method 14** recognises that iwi authorities might require assistance to prepare their management plans. This assistance will most likely be in the sharing of ideas and expertise.

**Method 15** *The Wellington Regional Council will conduct training courses, or use other appropriate training mechanisms, to assist iwi representatives to increase their ability to participate in resource management activities.* Iwi Policy 2.

In taking account of the Treaty principle of active protection, and the duty of consultation, resource management agencies have a

responsibility to provide sufficient information to iwi and to assist them in gaining knowledge and understanding of resource management matters. Provision of training opportunities will help iwi to carry out kaitiakitanga responsibilities and to work more effectively with resource management agencies. This method could also be adopted by territorial authorities.

## 4.6 Anticipated Environmental Results

This chapter is about implementing a relationship based on the Treaty of Waitangi, whereas other chapters focus on the management of specific resources. The environmental results anticipated in this chapter, therefore, relate mainly to improved processes, rather than to changes in the natural and physical environment.

Good processes will result in positive changes in the environment; these anticipated environmental results are covered in chapters 5-14.

- (1) Environmental policies of iwi authorities are developed and implemented.
- (2) Appropriate consultation is undertaken on all resource management matters of significance to tangata whenua.
- (3) Tangata whenua are involved in resource management decision making processes, as appropriate.
- (4) Tangata whenua are involved in environmental monitoring of matters of resource management significance to them.
- (5) Tangata whenua values are incorporated, where appropriate, into sustainable management.