



9.0 THE TREATY OF WAITANGI/COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP WITH MAORI (KO TE TIRITI O WAITANGI ME NGA HONONGA O TE KAUNIHHERA KI TE IWI MAORI)

9.1 Introduction

Hamilton City Council (Te Kaunihera o Kirikiriroa) supports the principles of justice and partnership offered and agreed to in the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) by Maori and the Crown. Through Articles II and III Council recognises Maori as tangata whenua with kaitiakitanga (guardianship) status and ownership rights regarding land, and that Maori are assured the same rights as other citizens. To this end, Council continues to build partnerships with:

- Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company Ltd – an iwi authority representing the views of Waikato-Tainui across the Waikato and King Country regions
- Nga Mana Toopu o Kirikiriroa (NaMTOK) – an iwi group representing the views of local mana whenua³ (Maori with historic ties to the Hamilton/Kirikiriroa area) on issues relating to the management of Hamilton's natural and physical resources
- Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa (TeROK) – an urban iwi authority representing the views of maataa waka⁴ (Maori from other areas) on social issues and Maori contribution to decision-making.

The city enjoys the benefits of the historic knowledge, experience and views of Maori and the inclusive role that Maori play in Hamilton communities. The Local Government Act 2002 reinforces the importance of continuing to foster such relationships, the necessity of good communication and the value of Maori heritage and values in New Zealand's progress as a distinctive nation.

Maori people comprise around 20 per cent of Hamilton's residents. It is estimated that 40 per cent of those identifying as Maori are from hapu with close ties to the Hamilton area, while 60 per cent are originally from other areas of the country.

³ Mana whenua: Maori who are tied to the area/land by whakapapa (genealogy) whose ancestors have lived and died there. As a result they are kaitiaki (guardians) of that area of land.

⁴ Maataa waka: Maori of different tribal affiliations who are living within the area/land of the mana whenua group, i.e., Maori living outside their own tribal boundaries. Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa also represents Pacific Island people in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton under a broad application of this concept.

Council has an important role in supporting its local communities, including working to improve the opportunities for Maori and other citizens to contribute to decision-making and play an active role in the city's development.

9.2 Developing Council's Relationship with Maori

In 1995 Hamilton City Council commissioned the 'Shane Jones Report' which gave clear guidelines for Council to consult with Maori within the city in respect to their responsibilities under the Treaty of Waitangi, the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Settlement 1995 and the Resource Management Act 1991.

Since the Shane Jones Report was adopted Maori have played an increasing influence in the city, both as part of the community and through the distinctive contribution of Maori heritage and culture to Hamilton. Today, Hamilton City Council, Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company Ltd, NaMTOK and TeROK successfully work, individually and collectively, at continuing to develop Hamilton as a city where all cultures work in partnership and respect each others' views, heritage, culture and strengths.

In the immediate future, Council will undertake comprehensive consultation in order to strengthen its current relationship with Waikato-Tainui and develop it into a strategic partnership that reflects the importance of the iwi authority and its close connections to the Maori king movement (kingitanga).

Council recognises and respects the kawa/protocols and associations of Waikato-Tainui and the importance of that role within the city, and the mutual welcoming of Maori, Pacific people, Asian people, European people and other New Zealanders alike.

Council's partnerships and service agreements with NaMTOK and TeROK are long-term and mutually beneficial. They provide a mana whenua perspective and a maataa waka (urban Maori/Pacific) view on issues relating to the Treaty.

In line with the spirit of the Local Government Act 2002, Council will continue consultation with Waikato-Tainui, its current partner organisations and other key community stakeholders in order to foster positive community and city initiatives. The relationship, roles and functions of each of the partner relationships is outlined as follows.

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9.3 Council's Relationship with Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company Ltd

Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company Ltd is the principal constitutional and legally mandated iwi authority for the Waikato-Tainui iwi within the Waikato-King Country region, encompassing some 33 hapu and 63 marae across several local authority boundaries.

Waikato-Tainui as a whole takes on the overall umbrella governance focus for its people, its tribal culture and their maintenance. In terms of its people, Waikato-Tainui regards the sustainable development of local communities as being of utmost importance. To this end it participates in commercial business activities to provide for housing, employment and training and the necessary funding for education and marae grants.

In terms of Waikato-Tainui culture the Waikato River is regarded as te tupuna awa (the ancestral river), representing the mana (authority) and mauri (life force) of the iwi. A key environmental issue for the Raupatu Lands Trust is to monitor any pollutant effects on the river and lakes within the city.

The Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company is in the process of strengthening its relationship with Council. Both parties are seeking a partnership approach to ensure that consultation is robust and positive. The intention is to ensure a strategic affiliation that will complement the existing partnerships Council has in place.

9.4 Council's Relationship with Nga Mana Toopu o Kirikiriroa

NaMTOK advocates the views and opinions of Hamilton's mana whenua people (a subset of Waikato-Tainui) who have a strong affinity with the natural and physical resources within the boundaries of Hamilton City and neighbouring local authorities. They are able to bring forward their local historical and cultural knowledge of the natural resources to any issue.

As a result NaMTOK is seen as the primary authority for such knowledge, kawa and protocol within the city and its environs. NaMTOK regards its partnership with Council as honouring Article II of the Treaty of Waitangi, preserving and commemorating traditional landmarks from a mana whenua perspective in order to assist with positive community dialogue between Maori and non-Maori.

9.5 Council's Relationship with Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa

TeROK provides Council with a number of support services and access to urban Maori (Waikato-Tainui and other Maori) perspectives on a wide range of social issues (Article III). The two organisations meet regularly through the Joint Venture Committee to discuss Maori contribution to decision-making, to facilitate Council consultation with Maori and to support Maori social services and organisations. The Maori Project Fund, which TeROK administers on behalf of Council, provides valuable funding for a range of projects, including capacity building for Rauawawa (Maori community support groups in the city).

Partnerships and service delivery contracts with NaMTOK and TeROK are annual contracts and provide for regular review by both parties. These reviews enable processes and programmes to be amended to ensure that the interaction of Council with Maori communities remains relevant and appropriate to community needs. Most recently, TeROK has provided input into Council's review of representation and the electoral system to be used at the 2007 triennial elections and is coordinating an educational handbook for elected members and staff on local Maori history and protocol.