



# Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Planning Fund

## Climate Adaptation Planning Component

### **Application Criteria**

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# Ngā Mahere Iwi/Hapū mō ngā Take Taiao — Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans

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## What is an Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plan (IHEMP)?

An Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plan (IHEMP) is a term commonly applied to a resource management plan developed by a hapū, iwi, or iwi authority. IHEMPs are holistic documents that describe environmental and resource management issues of importance to tāngata whenua, and especially in relation to identified resources or taonga to which they have a recognised traditional association.

The plans may also contain information relating to specific cultural values; historical accounts; descriptions of areas of interest (iwi/hapū boundaries/rohe); and consultation/engagement protocols for resource consents and monitoring, plan changes, and matters of significance for tāngata whenua.

## The importance of developing an IHEMP

IHEMPs recognised by an Iwi Authority provide a mechanism for tāngata whenua interests to be considered in council decision-making. Regional and district councils must always balance various competing interests. However, there are specific legislative obligations under the overarching framework of the **Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)** that require councils to take iwi/hapū planning documents — including IHEMPs — into account (see excerpts of key sections below):

- Section 35A: A local authority must keep and maintain ... a record of the planning documents that are recognised by each iwi authority and lodged with the local authority.
- Section 61(2A): When ... preparing or changing a regional policy statement ... the council must take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority.
- Section 66(2A): When ... preparing or changing a regional plan ... the council must take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority.
- Section 74(2A): A territorial authority, when preparing a district plan, must take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority ....
- Section 104 (1)(c): When considering an application for a resource consent and any submissions received, the consent authority must ... have regard to ... any other matter the consent authority considers relevant and reasonably necessary to determine the application. [**Note:** NRC considers an IHEMP to be a “matter” that is “relevant and reasonably necessary” under this section].

An iwi authority is defined in the RMA as “the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so”.

The Regional Policy Statement and the Regional Plan are developed and regularly updated by Northland Regional Council (NRC). The policies and rules within these documents reflect NRC’s obligations under the RMA and other legislation, and are developed in consultation with the communities the council serves. Below are some policies from the above documents that are relevant to IHEMPs.

The **Regional Policy Statement for Northland** has policies that relate to the kaitiaki role of tāngata whenua, and to Treaty of Waitangi principles including partnership. These include:

- **Policy 3.12:** Tāngata whenua kaitiaki role is recognised and provided for in decision-making over natural and physical resources.
- **Policy 8.1.2: Policy — Regional and District Council statutory responsibilities**  
The regional and district councils shall when developing plans and processing resource consents under the [RMA]:
  - (a) Recognise and provide for the relationship of tāngata whenua and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites wāhi tapu, and other taonga;
  - (b) Have particular regard to kaitiakitanga; and
  - (c) Take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi including partnership.
- **Policy 8.1.7: Method — Advocacy and Education**  
The regional and district councils shall:
  - (a) Actively encourage resource consent applicants to consult with tāngata whenua as early in the process as possible prior to lodging consent applications for proposals that are likely to impact on tāngata whenua and their taonga; and
  - (b) Refer resource consent applicants to any relevant iwi or hapū planning document lodged with the respective council that has been authorised by the iwi or hapū for public availability.
- **Policy 8.2.1:** The regional council will recognise the value of iwi and hapū management plans in decision-making under the [RMA] and the need to support tāngata whenua in the development and implementation of these plans.

In the light of these policies, IHEMP preparation is part of being involved in resource management, supporting partnership, and exercising kaitiakitanga.

#### The Proposed Regional Plan for Northland

- **Policy D.1.1** states that a resource consent application must include, in its assessment of environmental effects, an analysis of the effects of an activity on tāngata whenua and their taonga, if any of the seven listed adverse effects are likely.
- **Policy D.1.2** states that if the above analysis takes place with regard to tāngata whenua, the analysis must have regard to (but not be limited to): any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority; the outcomes of any consultation with tāngata whenua with respect to the consent application; and statutory acknowledgements in Treaty Settlement legislation.

Thus, IHEMPs have an important role in guiding an assessment of environmental effects on tāngata whenua in relation to resource consent applications.

## Funding available for development, review or update of IHEMPs with a climate change adaptation planning component

The area of focus for this Phase 1 round of IHEMP funding is climate change adaptation planning. Hapū and iwi may apply for this fund if they wish to develop a new IHEMP, or review or update an existing IHEMP, to further develop or add a climate adaptation planning component.

Northland Regional Council's aims for making this funding available include:

- Encouraging and enabling more climate change adaptation planning to be built into IHEMPs.
- Supporting IHEMP implementation and the establishment of cultural monitoring frameworks.
- Creating a direct statutory link to the RMA that is lacking in other community climate change adaptation planning processes, by linking adaptation planning work with IHEMPs.

NRC has allocated significant funds for this financial year for the development, review and updating of IHEMPs that incorporate a climate change adaptation component as a key area of focus. The total grant amount available for any one application is up to **\$20,000**. The earlier that tāngata whenua entities apply for grants for Phase 1 funding, the sooner they may progress to requesting Phase 2 funds for practical implementation of community initiatives to build climate change resilience.

## Funding scope

This funding round aims to support eligible tāngata whenua entities to do environmental management planning, including a particular focus on climate change adaptation. The scope of the content to be covered by the funding includes:

- a) Creation of a new IHEMP, or review or update of an existing IHEMP, including a detailed climate change adaptation planning component (required); and
- b) Developing or further elaborating cultural monitoring frameworks as part of the IHEMP, including the monitoring of climate change effects on tāngata whenua and wider communities (optional but encouraged); and
- c) Describing kaitiakitanga in the context of those with mana whenua in the rohe of the applicant iwi/hapū, and planning for further realising kaitiaki aspirations and goals (encouraged).

The fund is not intended to support plans for activities:

- that are the primary responsibility or function of another tāngata whenua entity; or
- that are outside the boundaries of Northland Regional Council's jurisdiction.

## Further funding opportunities in future funding rounds

This funding round (Phase 1) will be a platform for potential further funding. Hapū/iwi that develop, review or update IHEMPs that include well elaborated climate adaptation planning components will be well placed to apply for subsequent (Phase 2) funding rounds. These Phase 2 rounds will focus on supporting grassroots initiatives to build climate change resilience. This could, for example, involve direct assistance to Māori communities exposed to climate risk or with particularly vulnerable populations and/or assets.

The aim of the future funding support will be to help build tāngata whenua capacity as well as enduring Māori-NRC partnerships founded on shared climate action. Potential examples of future climate change action support might include (among other things — this is not an exhaustive list):

- IHEMP development or updates (on ongoing basis).
- Resourcing expertise to provide specific climate-related advice.
- Supporting engagement/hui/kōrero on climate change.
- Promoting and supporting water resilience.
- Promoting and supporting cultural monitoring.

- Promoting and supporting tāngata whenua to be prepared for immediate responses to a climate-related event.
- Installation or upgrade of solar power and heating facilities.
- Planning for managed retreat (marae, community facilities, urupā / wāhi tapu, and other sites of cultural significance and value to Māori).

It is therefore important for iwi/hapū to develop IHEMPs with strong climate change adaptation planning components in the current Phase 1 funding round as a step towards obtaining further funding opportunities in Phase 2. Further funding tranches will be available on a rolling basis for the duration of NRC's Long Term Plan for climate change adaptation planning (as part of IHEMPs) as well as implementation of activities on the ground.

## Assessment criteria (Phase 1 funding round)

- 1) Funding will only be granted where (at a minimum):
  - a) The applicant is an established legal or operational tāngata whenua entity such as a marae committee, hapū trust, iwi authority, or a consultant contracted to act on the entity's behalf.
  - b) The IHEMP deals with a range of environmental management planning issues, objectives, policies, plans, and/or methods of concern and interest to tāngata whenua in the rohe.
  - c) The applicant presents climate change-related issues, objectives, policies, plans, and/or methods for funding consideration.
  - d) Evidence is provided of endorsement from the tāngata whenua entity for whom the plan will be prepared.
  - e) There is demonstrated confidence that the relevant iwi authority will recognise the completed plan prior to its lodgement with NRC (such recognition is required under the RMA).
- 2) Applicants must agree to:
  - a) Formally lodge the final IHEMP with NRC.
  - b) Allow NRC to make an electronic copy of the IHEMP publicly available on its website.
  - c) Allow NRC the opportunity to review a draft version of the plan before it is formally lodged.

## Application details

An application form may be downloaded from the NRC website at [www.nrc.govt.nz/ihemp](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/ihemp) , or you can request a copy by email.

The following details will be required in the application:

- 1) The applicant's name and contact details.
- 2) A brief description of the role, skills, qualifications and previous experience of the person(s) who will prepare/update the IHEMP.
- 3) Bank account details and GST number (if GST registered).
- 4) The amount of funding sought, and indicative payment schedule.

- 5) Evidence of endorsement for this work to be undertaken, from the relevant marae or tāngata whenua entity (such as minutes of relevant meetings, or a supporting letter from representatives of a marae committee, hapū or iwi entity).
- 6) A project description:
  - a) The aims and expected benefits of the IHEMP overall, and in particular, of the climate change adaptation planning component.
  - b) The key topics to be covered by the IHEMP, and in particular, the climate change adaptation planning component.
  - c) The methods to be used to collect and compile relevant information (e.g. literature review, interviews, survey, site visits, primary research, mapping, etc).
  - d) Consultation(s) to be conducted with iwi/hapū/whānau in your rohe during the process of IHEMP development.
  - e) Estimated timeframe for preparing and completing the IHEMP.
- 7) Any proposed restrictions on use, distribution, release or publication of the IHEMP by NRC (including any requirements relating to attribution, references and acknowledgement of intellectual property).
- 8) Expected method of lodgement (for options, see *Lodgement of IHEMP* section below).

## Assessment of applications

Although each application may vary, it is expected that the IHEMP developed or updated will cover environmental management issues of importance to tāngata whenua and contextualise these issues within hapū and iwi history, whakapapa and whanaungatanga to provide a context for the purpose of the IHEMP. The plan may also cover the iwi/hapū roles and responsibilities of kaitiakitanga including the management of natural and physical resource areas; taonga of special significance (e.g., urupā, flora, fauna); and indicate how engagement with local authorities and relevant stakeholders should occur to facilitate this management process.

Applications may also consider how ‘mana i te whenua’ is claimed and who has authority to represent the iwi/hapū on resource management issues.

**NOTE:** An IHEMP must be recognised by an Iwi Authority to be taken into account by Regional and District councils. An iwi authority is defined in the RMA as “the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so”.

Funding applications will be considered and decided upon by a panel of NRC managers and staff from the Governance & Engagement (including the Māori Relationships Team) and Community Resilience groups. The panel will consist of at least three members. If an application is successful, a funding agreement (contract) will be established. This will outline the terms and conditions of the funding, a payment schedule, and reporting details. The agreement may also identify any constraints on use of the data by NRC and any attribution / acknowledgement requirements in relation to the source material.

## Payment of grant instalments

Granted funds will be paid in instalments, as detailed below:

- 1) The first instalment will be 30% of the total grant amount, to be transferred to the grant recipient once they and NRC have signed the funding agreement.
- 2) The second instalment will be a further 40% of the total grant amount. This will be transferred to the grant recipient once they have provided:
  - a) A detailed description of planned content for the IHEMP, including headings, subheadings and realistically achievable content therein;
  - b) A timetable for IHEMP preparation and completion, including key milestones; and
  - c) A list of planned information sources, including respondents / key informants.
- 3) The final payment (30%) will be paid to the grant recipient once they have formally lodged the final IHEMP document, in electronic and hard copy, and once NRC has assessed and approved the document's compliance with the agreed outcomes.
- 4) NRC shall make all payments to the grant recipient via direct transfer to their nominated bank account, following provision of a tax invoice by the grant recipient. GST will only be paid if the applicant provides a GST registration number.
- 5) In exceptional circumstances, these arrangements may be varied at the discretion of the relevant NRC Group Managers, including total grant amounts.
- 6) You may also develop your IHEMP in stages across consecutive NRC financial years (July to June), but you will need to clearly indicate the expected timeframe and required budget for each stage in your application.

## NRC staff assistance for IHEMP development

If needed, NRC's Māori Relationships Team and relevant technical staff may provide advice and assistance to those people responsible for preparing the IHEMP development, where appropriate. As a minimum, NRC staff will provide feedback as needed on at least one IHEMP draft (which the grant recipient must provide to NRC prior to formal lodgement), for the writers to consider when finalising their IHEMP.

## Variation of contract

If the applicant wishes to vary the agreed milestones or deadlines, the contract may if necessary be re-negotiated with the approval of both parties.

## Lodgement of IHEMP

To ensure that NRC can have regard to the IHEMP document under the RMA, it must be recognised by the relevant iwi authority and formally lodged with council.

The methods available for lodging the completed IHEMP with NRC include:



- a) Lodge the IHEMP (electronic and printed copy) with a covering letter from the relevant iwi authority recognising the plan.
- b) Lodge the IHEMP (electronic and printed copy) with a copy of minutes of an iwi/hapū/marae meeting where the plan was recognised by iwi authority representatives.
- c) Lodge the IHEMP (electronic and printed copy) at an official meeting at which Council staff and tāngata whenua entity representatives, as well as iwi representatives who recognise the plan, are present.
- d) Another suitable method that has been agreed in advance between the applicant and Council.

The Application Form has details of the email address for enquiries, submitting the grant application, and lodging the completed IHEMP.

## Formal acknowledgement by NRC

Each formally lodged IHEMP will be formally acknowledged by NRC, electronically filed, and catalogued in the council library for staff reference purposes.

Relevant NRC staff will be notified about any new IHEMP that has been lodged.