

Meeting notes for the Environmental Hui

This document contains the notes from the three Environmental Hui held November 2014 and a summary of potential future joint initiatives for engaging with tangata whenua based on feedback from the hui.

[Environmental Hui - Te Ahu Centre, Kaitaia, 19 November 2014](#)

[Environmental Hui - Far North District Council, Kaikohe, 20 November 2014](#)

[Environmental Hui - Northland Regional Council, Whangarei, 24 November 2014](#)

[Future Joint Initiatives](#)

Environmental Hui - Te Ahu Centre, Kaitaia, 19 November 2014

Attendees

Rosie Conrad, Te Aupouri, rosie@teaupouri.iwi.nz
Rongo Bentson, Te Rarawa, rongo@xtra.co.nz
Jean Beazley, Te Rarawa, Jean.beazley@xtra.co.nz
Tyneal Windelborn, Te Rarawa
Bundy Waitai (arrived about 11:30am and left 2:00pm)
Ben Lee, NRC
Keir Volkerling, consultant for NRC
Steven Sanson, FNDC
Theresa Burkhart, FNDC
Louisa Kopa, FNDC
Dover Samuels, NRC Councillor
Abraham Witana, NRC

Apologies

Bronwyn Hunt, Te Rarawa
Mike Stevens, Te Aupouri

Summary

- Councils need to engage with local communities more and attend marae or other community meetings to make best use of peoples time (hui after 5.30pm) and learn more about those communities.
- Rating issues in Te Hiku are complex and multifaceted. Whanau are reluctant to approach the council and distrust them.
- Councils should place greater emphasis on delivering services in a 'Maori' friendly manner. Council processes are often complex and can be intimidating which create barriers to participation. Maori staff generally have a greater understanding of issues and how to best communicate with Maori communities.
- Infrastructure provision and maintenance (especially roading, sewage and water supply) are major issues in Te Hiku. Te Kao toilets upgrade was used as an example.
- Maori should be represented on Councils and the current electoral system is unfair and the FNDC poll is a waste of time.
- Concerns about environmental management plans and their effectiveness, cost and resourcing were raised.
- Significant issues resource management raised included pest management, the quality of water ways, extraction of swamp kauri, dust from logging trucks,
- Issues around the complex nature of papakainga were discussed and that the process needed to be simplified and agencies needed to work closely together. Papakainga workshops were thought to be a good idea.
- Feedback on the outcomes of the hui is important. Councils mostly consult for their own purposes and once they have what they want are never heard from again.

- Councils should be actively involved in TOW settlements rather than waiting to be directed by the Crown to participate or engage.

Notes

Iwi/Hapu management plans - there needs to be some way that they are given effect to, not just to have regard to them, and shelve them.

Need to keep things simple - need to be an expert to get involved in processes - which is not possible for many people on the ground at the Marae level. There's too much academic language.

Big challenges to engage people in developing iwi / management plans, particularly as the perception is that they don't get listened to.

Concerns about compliance costs for tangata whenua development - example given of having to upgrade sewage system at huge cost.

NRC was talking to communities about flood management some years ago. The community provided many ideas about how to manage flooding (eg raising road level). But since the meeting nothing has happened. People get disillusioned about getting involved in these things when nothing appears to come out of them. Need to keep people informed so that they understand why things aren't actioned.

Point made that there should be seats allocated to Maori - solution to issue of getting Maori on to councils.

Maori staff - point made that Maori are not seeing Maori council staff out there talking with us. Councils need to go out to the people.

Pest management - we're losing biodiversity. Councils need to come on board more. All agencies need to work together. Pest management plan for Warawa - area is part DOC land and private land. The community took the plan by the reins and developed the plan. It's now working well. Treaty settlement - has increased impetus for DOC to do pest management work, also co-management of DOC estate now.

1080 - councils should be taking a greater role in getting information out there. There's a lot of misinformation out there.

Getting agencies together in Northland to share work programmes etc eg once a year. Also idea for regional kaitiaki hui. There's already the Te Hiku Fisheries Forum that councils could get involved in - shouldn't reinvent the wheel.

Waterways - probably the biggest issue. We want clean waterways. Its an issue in many places. Should be able to swim in the big rivers and drink from the small ones. Point made that there are many competing interests eg farming lobby.

Issue in Te Kao is that we don't have water to drink. Current system was designed to supply stock. Old supply was sold by district council to private owner. Now they want to sell it but community feel they shouldn't have to buy it.

Swamp kauri - exploitation - a big issue.

Iwi / hapu plans - strong themes are monitoring, impact on freshwater species eg tuna..

What do these issues mean? The next step is to set out how they can be provided for ie how the new regional plan should manage them.

Drainage of wetlands - rules say you can't do it but it still happens.

Cultural landscapes - how do we capture them? We don't quite know yet.

Te Aupouri have a set of sites of significance prepared as part of settlement process. No-one has come and asked for that information. Come to the Marae and ask.

Treaty settlement process - councils engagement may not be as good as it could be. Councils should be at the treaty settlement hearings to listen to the issues, grievances etc because they often relate to council actions. Its a good opportunity for council to be informed.

Logging trucks. Don't keep to the speed limit, dust everywhere. Big issue in Te Kao.

Rates - too high. There was a jump in council valuations - it's too much. Example given of how purchase of avocado orchard pushed up all local land values.

Point made that while we might pay for rates for sewage and parking, we do use the services e.g septic tanks need to be pumped and rates pay for disposal. Example given of toilets at Te Kao where they need to be upgraded and council wanting to tap into Marae septic system without wanting to pay.

Te Hapua wharf - half of its missing. Issue is who owns it? Seems it wasn't clear.

Settlements - is there anything councils should be aware of falling out of the settlements? Eg economic development opportunities. Are there any development aspirations that the plans may limit / restrict? No. Co-management - transfer of functions aspirations? Yes, longer term. capability and liability is an issue though.

Papakainga development? Any planning problems? At Te Kao there is further papakainga development ready to go but council has lost resource consent paperwork! Consent is required.

Current rules treat papakainga the same as a developer, but they are different. Some concessions are made.

Multiple ownership means that it is extremely difficult to develop land for papakainga - it's just too hard. It's the cost and the paperwork. Supposedly only 4 loans given under the Kiwibank scheme across NZ.

Papakainga workshop / information - needs to be pitched in simple language. Would they be helpful in Te Hiku? Yes, provided it's well advertised and all the relevant agencies are involved - would be brilliant.

Biggest hurdle re papakainga is getting the whanau to agree.

Summer - population of Te Kao triples. Is there need for more rudimentary temporary accommodation for people who want to come home for summer? Yes but it's a community issue - not something council can assist with.

Economic development - roading infrastructure is key. We don't have airports or trains, and roads in a bad state.

Looking forward

Question asked about the hui or type of hui into the future. How can councils be more helpful?

Have to balance the content. Have to keep the language simple.

How do we get people to attend? Could attach it to other hui / forum. In Te Hiku there's the social development trust - could talk to them about what their priorities are and how council can help.

FNDC - keen to get out and talk with Iwi etc about the council's work programme and plan to do this next year.

Should go the Marae - you'll be well accepted. Costs a lot for people to travel to hui like this. Could rotate it around the region and get it out to the smaller areas / Marae.

We've tried to locate these particular hui in places that are central.

Important that we're clear about the purpose of hui.

What would you like to see coming out of these hui - what concrete things?

- It's the relationship that's the most important. Being able to talk equally.

- Would like all that's talked about today to be fed to the right place so it doesn't get lost and gets actioned - whether it's now or sometime in the future.
- Love for this hui to come to Te Kao. Even just explaining the difference between the councils would be a good start. Then ask the people what they want? Civil defence issues are really significant for Te Kao.

After work is the best time to hold hui.

Environmental Hui - Far North District Council, Kaikohe, 20 November 2014

Attendees

Maiki Marks,
Tas Davis, Kaumatua
Pae Wynyard, Ngati Manu
Harry Mahanga, Ngati Manu
Matiu Paerau
Charlie Nathan
Arron Kauwhata
Mertyl Sanson
Rachel Ropiha, NRC
Andre Hemara, WDC
Ben Lee, NRC
Keir Volkerling, consultant for NRC
Steven Sanson, FNDC
Theresa Burkhart, FNDC
Louisa Kopa, FNDC
Dover Samuels, NRC Councillor
Abraham Witana, NRC
Venessa Anich, KDC

Summary

- Water pollution issues (sediment and waste water in particular) in the Bay of Islands, Hokianga and Kerikeri were a key concern for participants (especially the Ngati Manu and Nga Puhi representatives). Discussion on Councils processes (or lack of) were discussed.
- Participation in policy development and implementation was considered crucial. Participants felt this wasn't happening and was a major contributor to poor environmental outcomes for tangata whenua.
- Land based sewage disposal was preferred disposal method.
- More catchment management plans are needed and councils should be focused on supporting their development.
- Council processes for taking into account iwi/hapu management plans are ineffectual – especially FNDC where there is no formal process.
- Tangata whenua do not effectively engage in resource consent processes and more work needs to be done to improve participation.
- Rating issues in the BOI are not addressed appropriately and tangata whenua are concerned about losing their land.
- Councils need to talk to each other more so their 'houses' are in order and consistent messages are given to tangata whenua.

- FNDC remissions policies could be improved and there should be shared rating policies across the region.
- Public information on council processes and policy development methods is needed so that tangata whenua can strategically participate.
- Education and awareness initiatives (especially around water conservation) are needed. More signage, compliance and monitoring.
- Co-management and joint management options need to be explored and considered seriously.

Notes

Harry - need to talk to people on the Marae about anything that affects them.

Mertyl - concerned about river, has planted out riparian areas and seen good results. Would like to see other landowners doing the same.

Water NPS sets the bar too low - opportunity is for council to raise it to a completely natural state. Should be aspirational.

Will council be recognising recent Waitangi tribunal decision? Not yet but if it needs to it will. It's an issue for central government to deal with first and to direct councils. Council is aware of the outcome of the decision.

Councils role is to distill the range of values.

Education - "we only drain rain" signs. They should go everywhere in Northland.

Plans needs to have policy that says anything going through waahi tapu is a 'no no'.

Sedimentation issue is huge. Over 1m of silt over pipi beds in Opuia. Disgusted that council hasn't done anything. We are kaitiaki of the Moana. It's hard to understand why councils aren't doing anything.

There were amendments to the RMA to develop catchment management plans? Seems that councils are taking decisions out of the air. Need data before you can make decisions. First priority for catchment management plans should be BOI.

George Riley now with Northland Inc. He's a resource that Maori can use.

Matiu raised an issue that Land Management were meant to contact him about e-funding - Abe will follow up with Anita Semenov.

Would be helpful to have stories / bio's about Maori policy people on the website - wasn't aware that there are Maori working in policy within councils.

Dover - opportunity is open to you to make presentation to the councils Maori advisory committee. Holding meetings around the North - it's where Maori can come along discuss / raise concerns.

Communication lines between people on the ground and the council not happening. Dover disputes that.

Point made that Iwi plans need / should focus on issues that councils can deal with and in a way they can interpret.

Maiki - developers water down the policy. Current RMA is being watered down, and the freshwater NPS is a good example. It's not thinking about future generations. It was driven by farmers. However council can put policy in place that goes over and above and to codify Mauri.

Dover - the political reality is that the government wants to make the RMA more commercial friendly. We should focus the mahi on the stuff we can influence and have got a mandate for. NRC set up standing advisory Maori committee. The issue is - how many Maori are setting around the table of council and govt. That's where the decisions are made.

Charlie - I'm giving you a reality check about what's happening on the ground. We want to be recognised.

Keir made point that that NPS freshwater is better than what we had before (nothing).

Notification template for NRC - application for new seawall. Believe it's unlawful. Would like transparency on how the decisions on notification are made - and for that to be made clear in the plans (currently it's not).

TW participation in council - Dover made point that this is the biggest issue for Maori.

Of 108 accredited commissioners in Auckland / Northland, only 5 are Maori.

Council needs to change their mindset - it's a partnership with Maori. Shouldn't be consulting with Maori, they should be part of the decision making. Abe - partnership is with the Crown, with council it's a relationship.

The north has been going backwards economically and socially - it's going to blow up. People are not even aware of the whakapapa.

Any co-management arrangements with tangata whenua at the moment? No, but there are some in the pipeline - 90 mile beach and possibly Kaipara Harbour.

No RMA transfers in NZ.

Support for swamp kauri extraction to be an issue to look at.

Maiki - concerns about nutrient enrichment - provided example of sea lettuce. Monitoring is not up to scratch, seems to favour big developers. One boat yard has good controls, but another one has no controls - an example of inconsistent monitoring. Please fix it!!

Need to have catchment management plans. BOI has the worst problems.

Abe - talked about catchment plans project. Waitangi one of them. One attendee is on the group and thinks it's a good process.

Charlie - Hokianga - issues - Bees, watering down of RMA, we have some youngsters who have some great ideas for monitoring and compliance. Also integration with councils, including Auckland. Key thing we're looking at now is consolidating land holdings. There's a lot of people who don't want to bash councils but want to work with councils.

Bees - too many cowboys in the industry. Needs to be regulated. Sprays are an issue, wasps are an issue.

Maiki - could have a hui where people can demonstrate great environmental initiatives that they're involved. Anything that can showcase good environmental practice.

Monitoring - tangata whenua role. Charlie - we have a cultural water quality index. Councils should integrate with other monitoring e.g. Hokianga health is doing some monitoring?? Would like to participate in the council formal scientific monitoring to.

Councils need to better recognise the impacts of land activity on estuaries and harbours.

Fonterra is the reason for the significant decline of the economic and social fabric of the north. We should be coming together to help each other. We need to find things for people to do. We need to look for opportunities. What can councils do to help? Councils doing a good job but they need to do more.

Waitangi - pest control - worst pest is cats. We want them controlled. They are a big problem. We want council to continue funding (it's been cut back). Abe - council CPCA funding had committed to only a 5 year period to seed the community initiative - by the end of these project the expectation is that these groups will have the capacity to continue.

Communities need to know where there's funding opportunities. Funding can come from many different sources

Have an open website of who's doing what and what expertise is available and to outline the environmental work that's going on around the North. Good to share knowledge.

Since 2000 there's been over 1m of sedimentation over the pipi beds as a result of the marina at Opuia. In 2002 there was a horrible smell - from the pipes dieing. Before that it was a sandy substrate. Abe - we're still going to see more sediment coming eg from the forestry. It's a matter of how to mitigate it. There's also continued land use and developments - if we don't have riparian planting then we're going to continue to see sedimentation.

Charlie -

- Transport a big issue for North Hokianga. Really bad roads.
- Like the district council reintroducing the hubs.
- District council - water reticulation - metering is a good thing, will help with compliance.
- Economic development - really want to push it.
- During big storms had no power and phone for 1 week and no bread and milk available for 3 days.
- Resource consenting is a restriction.
- Environmental and public health - people in community confused about what wellbeing is the most important. Environment should be the priority.

Vennesa - legislation is raising the bar e.g. Drinking water. Good for people but increases cost to council. KDC are now actually considering removing reticulation in some smaller communities. Mangawhai waste water disposal to land - a good outcome - but it had a huge cost and impact. Point is that infrastructure costs and if we want to improve it then communities need to pay.

Maiki - councils should be giving people really good advice about how they can minimise their footprints for their houses etc.

Abe outlined the 3 water reticulation schemes being run by tangata whenua in Te Rarawa. Also solar generation project. Maiki suggested that these are the examples that should go onto a website.

Northland biodiversity forum put out a publication "funding options for biodiversity in Northland". It sets out all the funding options available.

Discussion about adobe style housing.

Rating - multiple owned land. Concerned that it could (again) be used as a way to dispose Maori of their land.

Enabling Maori land - a mayoral forum initiative. It's looking at how barriers and constraints can be reduced to help Maori to utilise and develop their land.

Be good if councils could produce a document that summarises what's going on in councils re plans and the work they do and don't do.

Councils should provide evidence about 1080. Should be providing communities with information to address fears.

What's happening with Kauri dieback? It's an ongoing issue. NRC just employed someone to work on Kauri dieback.

KDC - have zoned Maori land specifically - permits papakainga. Support for this approach.

Current FNDC district plan has good korero in it - but it just hasn't been put into practice.

Support of a kaitiaki type workshop. Good to share knowledge.

Environmental Hui - Northland Regional Council, Whangarei, 24 November 2014

Attendees

Millan Ruka
Jarred Pitman
Albie Apiata
Emma Cribb
Huhana Seve
Mira Norris,
Waimarie Bruce
Tania Pene (in 11:30am)
Ben Lee, NRC
Keir Volkerling, consultant for NRC
Steven Sanson, FNDC
Theresa Burkhart, FNDC
Louisa Kopa, FNDC
Dover Samuels, NRC Councillor
Abraham Witana, NRC
Solomon Tipene, WDC
Paul Wanders, WDC
Vennasa Anich, KDC
Bill Shepherd (in at 11:45am left 12:15pm).

Summary

- The papakainga housing process is confusing and complex with few whanau ever being able to successfully build on MFL. The process needs to be simplified
- Support for the WDC papakainga proposal to transfer powers
- Concern around capacity and technical support (especially in regards to how TW will participate in WDC proposed 60-70 PC's over the next 3 years).
- Support for more Maori Commissioners for resource consent applications - should be a priority.
- Participants wanted dedicated access to Maori planners and other technicians.
- Significant resource management issues included water quality, capital dredging and dredge spoil disposal, impact on tuna from clearing drainage, mining, impacts of air pollution on pipi beds, sewage discharges from people living abroad boats declining availability of kaimoana and notification of resource consent applications (concern that some applications are being processed non-notified)
- Support for idea of a resource management unit between hapu and/or iwi, but differing views on the resolution (i.e. which groups the unit would be an umbrella for).

Notes

Albie - where's tangata whenua jurisdiction? (Was raised in the context of the presentation on councils roles).

Hikurangi swamp - opening up of stop banks - is anything happening. Had massive consequences. Dover - There are currently proceedings with the Court.

Compliance - does WDC apply compliance equally? Answer - yes.

Maori don't want to be legislated. Reference to recent Waitangi Tribunal decision. Suggestion that this is what policy should be addressing. Dover - we can't deal with this - a central government issue.

Millan - gave example of consent for 16,000m³ extraction in river which effects across council boundaries all the way down to Kaipara. Also concerned about that the application was not notified.

What determines an Iwi as per the RMA? There is no formal definition. While there is the fisheries settlement which determines Iwi for fisheries purposes, but this is not the case under RMA. Paul Waanders - what about s33 transfers to "Iwi authorities"? Keir, again there is no definition - hasn't been tested. Paul - it is an issue - we're looking at such a transfer for papakainga and legal advice is that it has to be an Iwi authority - not hapu, even though papakainga is managed at whanau / hapu level. Keir - two options - just go ahead with hapu / whanau transfer, unlikely to get challenged, or just get the Iwi to rubber stamp it (they're unlikely to not agree to it).

Acknowledging receipt of Iwi management plans - councils need to know the status of the plans.

Don't want to over consult tangata whenua, but there needs to be early and planned engagement. Support for technical type tangata whenua group for RMA plan processes.

FNDC - staring out on the review of the district plan.

WDC - likely to be 60 - 70 plan changes to come out in next 2-3 years. Going to a more policy based approach rather than rule driven. Structure of plan will be totally different.

Mira - we've been getting all the plan changes sent to us - we need technical support to get involved. We're providing information but doesn't get actioned as we want it. Also lots of notification happens just before Xmas - not good timing. Whanau / hapu getting overwhelmed. Support from others about lack of technical expertise and resourcing processes.

1998 - whangarei hapu got together to do a joint environment unit. Approached NRC for funding, but it was declined. Spurned by being overwhelmed by consent etc. Covered papakainga, sites of significance etc. Wanted to set up 1 resource management agency / group for all the hapu.

Vennasa - Otago regional council funded a agency of 4 x hapu to deal with resource management issues. It worked well, properly resourced. A one stop shop. Born out of the settlement. Attendees seemed to like the idea. Dover - would be a lot more difficult to do in Northland!

Millan - need 3 councils working together with NRC.

There are 108 RMA commissioners in Auckland and Northland - only 5 with noted Maori descent. Support for getting more Maori commissioners.

Capital dredging - both the dredging and disposal of it is an issue.

Iwi have a place around management of the 'big' stuff like water and mining because it traverses rohe vs land issue which is a hapu issue.

Joint environmental unit - good to have hapu being able to connect. Hapu need a base.

Discussion about the resolution for an environmental unit. Whether it's Northland level or finer grained. Point made that to start with you might want to start at regional level. waimarie - she thought that no, that there is a need for a whangarei based unit because that's the centre for development - that's where the pressure is.

Air quality - Smells from Port - would pollute the whole of One Tree Point / Takahiwai. Suggestion that the pipi die off may have been caused by toxic air pollutants. General concerns raised about council allowing activities to happen that impact on kaimoana. Tangata whenua rely on kaimoana - opportunities are getting less and less. Councils could put funding into producing seafood to provide kaimoana back to tangata whenua to compensate for the lost opportunities.

Partnership - tangata whenua should be at the table as of right. Need to find ways to work in partnership at the outset. Dover - let's not talk about partnership until settlements are sorted. But point made that the discussions should be happening now - shouldn't wait until settlements sorted. Should be feeling out the relationship now.

Monitoring of air quality from dusty roads. Abe - NRC are monitoring some roads eg Pipiwai. Point that it was a tarsealed road (Otaika Valley) - council should be monitoring these roads too. FNDC - are looking at a 100m sealing in front of affected properties contingent on forestry funding.

Priorities - concern raised that Maori are not a priority. For example money is given too cycle ways and bmx tracks when roads at Pipiwai are unsealed and it's affecting the health of Maori.

Sewage discharge from liveboards - need this added as an issue.

Millan - just monitored 100km+ of river. I'm lucky that I get some funding (not from councils). But concerned what happens after that funding goes. Gave example of parking regulations and the compliance that goes with that but virtually nothing about cattle in waterways. There's no policy or pressure from the NRC. How do Maori play a role in monitoring? Same as for parking compliance, contract it out. But still need to work with our farmers. At a time now where we need to be raising the compliance. Can't wait until treaty settlements - could be a long time before they are finished.

Slips on roads - where material is disposed of. The material should stay within the locality of the whenua. It's a matter of identifying sites within the same area.

Hikurangi swamp - there's dredging of a river happening right now in Maruarua river. The digger was killing heaps of tuna. Can't believe that consent was granted. Thought that it was part of the food protection work. Would have been good to have been prewarned, so that people could have been on site to help save the tuna. Also could have mitigated it by doing it when it was wet so tuna had a better chance of survival.

Albie - grateful to be hearing everything we've heard today - good that everyone's listening. All hapu need to come together to have clout. Myself in others spent countless hours doing work out there. We're all in it together.

Moorings - waka in the water permanently. There was a boat on Port Rd being blasted with material going straight into the water. This wasn't an isolated issue. Boats have foreign material on them - is a big concern. In this particular case the company was sold to a Norwegian company. The consent was transferred but the belief was that the new owners should have to reapply.

Moorings / boat houses along riverside drive. Concern that people given ownership of coastal marine area when tangata whenua can't get it. Explanation made that they don't have ongoing tenure - consents only granted for max of 35 years.

Cremation disposal in water - concerned about it. Keir made point that Auckland educated crematoriums etc to get message out there.

Maori land court - gives an approval for occupation, but then consent declined - how do we deal with it? Jarred - need to look at the barriers in plans to developing Maori land. Should there be some information requirements to understand the council restrictions before going to Maori Land Court? Dover - if owners want to use land for papakainga, then they should first go to the council and understand the rules and regs, design the papakainga around it, and/or get a new zone to accommodate, develop a papakainga plan, landowners then sort out a trust of the like, and then go to Maori land Court.

Maori have to ask council permission to develop their land - why couldn't council just say that all Maori land is papakainga land? Paul - there is quite a lot of land that could be developed for papakainga. KDC have a zone over Maori settlement land.

Roads were taken by public works act, so Maori shouldn't have to pay development contribution for developing roads. Paul - development contributions are under separate legislation.

Transfer of functions for papakainga and resource consent applications. Belief is that hapu should be involved in resource consent application. Could transfer to a Maori body. Point made that it should be with the hapu - don't give it to another body!!

Quality of water is a major issue.

Impartiality of experts - particularly where they have conflicting views in hearings process. Where does the council sit where there is conflicting expertise. Should have independent advisors. Public would have more confidence in processes. Independent commissioners - have to work within the policy framework.

Who defends tangata whenua values? - that's the benefit of Maori commissioners.

Consent notification. On one hand could say that you want to see all consent applications - but then you get overloaded. Could have alert layers on geographic area or by issue. Milan - could GIS map it all.

Die in a ditch issue is Maori commissioners. Need to identify key people and get them trained. Should make it a priority. Dover - if someone did it on their own initiative, so that there's no inference that you are a council 'apprentice', then they may have more credibility. Counter was that we need to improve capacity and get Maori more involved - it's affirmative action. There are local govt act requirements to build capacity. There could also be improved cost / benefit as it could lead to better decision making. LGA - has ability to have Maori seats on council. WDC don't want to do it. Last election had more Maori voting than anytime, but still only one Maori councillor - shows it doesn't work.

Need Maori in all positions across councils.

Maori need to grow themselves.

Water standards - can we set them? Yes

Holding similar types of hui in the future?:

- Suggestion that it would be good to have quarterly hui with just councils, and then biannual hui with organisations (DOC, MPI etc).

Future Joint Initiatives

Based on feedback from the hui potential joint initiatives include:

- Councils have a role to play as facilitators or ‘connectors’ more **joint hui** with both local and central government agencies attending/presenting would be useful.
- A **Tai Tokerau kaitiaki wananga** which facilitated the sharing of information among technicians, interest groups and other stakeholders would be a good opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and resources.
- Council funded or supported **technician/practitioner forums** (similar to those previously funded by FNDC – Te Piritahi) would greatly support participation, capacity building, best use of limited resources, knowledge sharing and improved environmental outcomes.
- **Papakainga workshops** with all of the relevant agencies attending and presentations from those who have been through the process (both successes and failures) would be useful.
- **Regional papakainga guideline** or similar
- **Joint workshops** on specific issues like IMP’s, wahi tapu identification, resource consents process etc.