



# Te Ruarangi<sup>1</sup>

Ngā Kupu Pānga | Terms of Reference 2022-2025 Triennium

**Date:** November 2024

**Author:** Pou Manawhakahaere – Group Manager, Governance & Engagement

---

<sup>1</sup> *Te Ruarangi* is an expression of the vision where the principles of *Kawanatanga* (governance or authority) and *Rangatiratanga* (chieftainship or sovereignty) come together in a harmonious partnership for the benefit of the *taiao* (environment or natural world).

# Kohikohinga | Contents

1. Kupu whakataki   Background.....	3
2. Ngā roopū   The Parties.....	3
Tāngata Whenua of Te Taitokerau.....	3
The statement of intent in regard to these for tāngata whenua are : .....	3
Northland Regional Council .....	3
3. Te Kaupapa   Mission Statement.....	4
4. He Tirohanga Māori   Vision Statement 2030.....	4
5. Ngā Ture   Values .....	4
The following engagement principles will guide the committee in the pursuit of its purpose:.	4
6. Ngā whainga   Objectives .....	5
To advance Māori engagement that supports environmental, social, cultural and economic priorities across the region: .....	5
7. Ngā mema   Membership.....	5
The working party will comprise up to 30 members in total consisting of: .....	5
8.   Removal and replacement of members.....	6
9. Ngā Heamana   Co-Chair’s.....	7
10. Te wahanga   Term of appointment.....	7
11. Whakamahinga   Operation .....	8
12. Arataki tangata   Member induction.....	8
13. Papā o te pānga   Conflict of interest.....	8
14. Hokohitanga o ngā hui   Frequency of meetings .....	8
15. Kotahitanga   Quorum.....	9
16. He utu   Payment .....	9
17. Whakaoti raruraru   Conflict resolution.....	9
18. Ngā purongo   Reporting - accountability.....	9
19. Arotakenga   Review .....	10
20. Tuku mahi   Delegations.....	10

# Te Pae Tāwhiti – Vision 2021-2040

- He whenua haumoko – Land that is bountiful
- He wai mā – Water that is pure and healthy
- He iwi whai ora – People that are flourishing

## 1. Kupu whakataki | Background

This Terms of Reference recognises that this agreement is not intended to be a legally binding document, but rather a document that encourages and supports an enduring and long-term relationship between Northland Regional Council and the tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau.

It also recognises that although two distinct partners, each bringing their own perspective to the table, that the tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau and council may share common aspirations in regard to the environmental, social, cultural and economic future of our shared region.

This agreement also appreciates that it will be through goodwill and cooperation that trust will develop and therefore a relationship based on mutual respect.

## 2. Ngā roopū | The Parties

This agreement is between tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau and Northland Regional Council.

Both parties are committed to giving effect to their responsibilities to tangata whenua of Te Taitokerau under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and will be active Te Tiriti partners by developing and maintaining meaningful relationships with each other.

### **Tāngata Whenua of Te Taitokerau**

Tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau are extremely passionate about their heritage and give regard to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of this country and recognises a partnership between Māori and the Crown, for Māori, further cementing the intent of He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nū Tirenī (1835 Declaration of Independence).

### **The statement of intent in regard to these for tāngata whenua are:**

He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nū Tirenī (Declaration of Independence) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi provide the foundation doctrines of authority and partnership that are being sought by iwi and hapū in government, including local government.

### **Northland Regional Council**

The Northland Regional Council (council) is the regional authority with responsibilities defined in the Local Government Act 2002, which provide for its obligations to Māori under Te Tiriti o Waitangi including:

- To take appropriate account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
- To maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision making processes.



## 3. Te Kaupapa | Mission Statement

*He iwi tahi tātou kia ora ai te taiao. Kawanatanga and Rangatiratanga work together for the wellbeing of the environment.*

Te Ruarangi:

- Provides a forum that emphasises and advocates te Ao Māori, the Māori world view
- A means by which the Māori perspective is valued, influences and challenges processes and policy
- A stable platform for whānau, hapū and iwi to connect and communicate with each other
- A safe forum for open and forthright discussion
- Provides strong leadership in consultation with tāngata whenua and Māori communities.

## 4. He Tirohanga Māori | Vision Statement 2040

The working party will reflect a (true) partnership that respects the mana and authority of tangata whenua of Te Taitokerau and council. This is determined by an enduring relationship committed to the protection and preservation of our taiao by:

- Representing the view of Māori in Te Taitokerau in council matters significant to tāngata whenua
- The application of Te Ao Māori or the Māori world view e.g. Mātauranga Māori, kaitiakitanga, mauri in council policies and processes
- Giving effect to the partnership and representation of Māori in Te Taitokerau in council decision making processes.
- Representing a partnership in working together to achieve and implement Tāiki ē Te Ruarangi Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan \*(not excluding other areas of focus in the LTP that may not be in Tāiki ē)

## 5. Ngā Ture | Values

**The following engagement principles will guide the committee in the pursuit of its purpose:**

- Titiro ki ngā taumata o te moana tākiri ko te ata - Always remain strategic in our intent.
- Mahi tahi tūtuki noa – identifying opportunities, increased collaboration and completion of projects
- Me whakatau mā roto i te kōrero – Resolution through conversation
- Kaitiakitanga – Dedicated stewardship of tangata whenua of Te Taitokerau
- Ngākau pono – Being true to the purpose of the partnership

## 6. Ngā whainganga | Objectives

**To advance Māori engagement that supports environmental, social, cultural and economic priorities across the region:**

- Monitor and advise on council's compliance to its obligations to Māori under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991 (assurance and compliance function)
- Provide advice to council on topics referred to it by council
- Provide advice to council on topics of strategic importance and relevance to tāngata whenua
- To develop pathways (and processes) that will achieve lasting and meaningful relationships between tāngata whenua and council
- To ensure the views of tāngata whenua are taken into account in the exercise of council functions
- To provide access to specialist Māori technical advice Te Ruarangi members can provide advice based only on information presented and does not replace council's obligation to consult with iwi and hapū. Council also acknowledges that iwi and hapū representative members' advice does not usurp the mana of iwi and hapū of Taitokerau to make decisions and representations to council on issues of importance to them.

## 7. Ngā mema | Membership

**The working party will comprise up to 30 members in total consisting of:**

Nine elected members (councillors) and twenty-one appointed iwi and hapū members from Taitokerau Māori (one representative per iwi and hapū).

To ensure regional representation from the twenty-one appointed iwi and hapū members from Taitokerau Māori, these positions will be filled based on the geographic representation outlined in Appendix 2. In order to maintain the ability to provide geographic representation in Te Ruarangi, should a position not be filled within a geographic area, that position will remain vacant and available to be filled in the future by iwi and/or hapū whose rohe overlaps that mapped geographic area.

Iwi representation will include one member from each of the following Iwi Authorities:

- Ngāti Kuri Trust Board
- Te Rūnanga Nui O Te Aupōuri
- Te Rūnanga O NgaiTakoto
- Te Rūnanga-a-Iwi O Ngāti Kahu
- Te Rūnanga O Te Rarawa
- Te Rūnanga O Whaingaroa
- Te Rūnanga A Iwi O Ngāpuhi
- Ngātiwai Trust Board
- Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Whātua
- Te Roroa
- Kahukuraariki Trust Board

Should one of the above iwi decide not to fill their position, they may choose to endorse a hapū and hapū representative to fill their position. Priority will be given to the following tāngata whenua groupings who have previously had a representative on the working party, in recognition of their early and ongoing commitment to this relationship and kaupapa listed below:

- Ngāti Hine
- Te Whakapiko Hapu
- Ngāti Manu
- Hokianga O Ngā Hapū<sup>2</sup>
- Ngāti Rēhia
- Te Uri o Hau
- Te Waiariki
- Ngāti Kororā
- Ngāti Takapari
- Ngāti Kuta, Patukeha
- Te Parawhau
- Ngati Tara
- Te Whakaminenga O Te Hikutu Hapū-Whānau<sup>3</sup>
- Patuharakeke

Should one of the above tāngata whenua groupings not take up a position on Te Ruarangi, and a position still be available within the geographic area of Te Taitokerau, then that position can be filled by another hapū within that geographic area.

Nominations received from hapū not currently represented on the working party will be presented to council for ratification following consultation with the working party co-chairs. Such nominations must be accompanied with documentation, to the satisfaction of the co-chairs, that the nominee has formally been mandated by hapū to represent them on the working party.

The following procedure will be followed once working party membership reaches 30 and a nomination is received from hapū not currently represented on the working party:

1. Priority will be provided for one member from each group as indicated above.
2. The working party will seek to achieve as wide and even representation as possible.
3. Once full representation is achieved from all priority groups listed above, then new membership is only available by attrition.

Iwi/hapū can nominate an alternate/proxy representative to act on behalf of an absent primary representative.

## 8. Ngā mema tangohia | Removal and replacement of members

Iwi and hapū will undertake their own selection and mandating process to identify their representative and proxy for the working party. When selecting its representative, iwi/hapū are

---

<sup>2</sup> Ngati Pakau, Mahurehure, Ngatikorokoro

<sup>3</sup> Te Hikutu/Whanau Whero/Whanautara/Ngati Kairewa/Ngati Kerewhiti/Ngati Parenga/Ngati Tuapango

encouraged to consider gender equality, and the range of skills and experience required for the working party to adequately perform their role.

Changes to an iwi/hapū nominated representative needs to be formally notified to council however does not require council endorsement. For clarity, section 8 above relates to iwi and hapū who don't already have representation on the working party.

Membership of the group shall cease if a member:

- resigns, or
- fails to attend at least three consecutive meetings over the period of one year without tabling a request for leave of absence.

A member can be removed from the working party by council, following receipt of a recommendation passed by 75% of members of the working party present and voting, under exceptional circumstances where the behaviour of the member is considered detrimental to the effective operation of the working party.

If a member resigns or is removed from the working party, all efforts will be made to fill any vacancies as soon as possible.

## 9. Ngā Heamana | Co-Chairs

Provision has been made for this working party to have a Co-Chair arrangement. The following process will be undertaken to fill the position of Co-Chairs.

Council will appoint one elected member (and proxy) as their representative to act as Co-Chair. The non-elected members of the working party will appoint a Co-Chair (and proxy), from the non-elected members. Both recommendations are to be endorsed by council.

At least one Co-Chair must be present at the formal meetings and marae-based hui of the working party.

Besides chairing meetings, the Co-Chairs (or proxy) will be responsible for:

- attending agenda preview meetings and reviewing working party actions prior to circulation
- be available to vet prospective applications for membership onto the working party
- assist in mediation when required, in the first instance.

## 10. Te Wahanga | Term of appointment

The standard term of appointment will be three years – consistent with the term of local and territorial authorities – in this case, the 2019-2022 local body triennium. The term of appointment can be less than three years if a representative:

- resigns
- is replaced by the representatives nominating iwi/hapū
- misses three consecutive meetings, or
- the working party is disbanded.

A member can be appointed as many times as their nominating iwi / hapū re-endorse their selection.

## 11. Whakamahinga | Operation

Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Group Manager –Governance and Engagement are the senior managers responsible for the working party and shall attend all meetings. The CEO will ensure the working party is supported by council's Executive Leadership Team.

The CEO will be responsible for ensuring support for the maintenance and servicing of the working party (provision of venue, minute-taking, catering).

Support for the working party extends to council's-controlled organisation, Northland Inc through the CEO and staff.

## 12. Arataki tangata | Member induction

All new members joining the working party will receive an induction pack which will include the Terms of Reference, relevant policies and procedures and information outlining the council's function and processes.

## 13. Papā o te pānga | Conflict of interest

Members will be asked to complete a conflict of interest form at the beginning of each year they sit on the group. A conflict of interest log will be maintained by the officer responsible for liaising with the group and members are asked to declare a potential conflict of interest at each meeting.

## 14. Hokohitanga o ngā hui | Meetings

- a) The working party will meet formally up to 5 times a year at council and a further 5 times a year on marae, focusing on local issues that are important to the haukainga.
- b) Marae based meetings will not be exclusive to Te Ruarangi membership and the schedule of marae-based meetings will ensure a good geographic spread across the region.
- c) Whilst any working party member is welcome to attend the marae-based workshops, these workshops will not constitute a formal working party meeting and therefore no working party actions can be agreed. All working party members attending council approved marae-based workshops are eligible for meeting fee allowances and mileage.
- d) When the full working party meets at the offices of the regional council a meeting room will be made available before or after the meeting of the working party in order for the Māori members of the working party to meet.
- e) The working party meetings provide an opportunity for strategic workshops to focus on strategic Whāinga or goals and review annual reporting so that Te Ruarangi can plan for the year ahead.



- f) Any decision to changes to meeting dates or locations required outside of a formal Te Ruarangi meeting shall be made by the two Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs following consultation with the council Chairperson and CEO
- g) As a commitment to Te Tiriti partnership all councillors are members of TTMAC. Councillors, including the Chair, will endeavour to prioritise their attendance at working party meetings.

## 15. Kotahitanga | Quorum

The following quorum will apply:

- At least a third of the elected members (councillors), and
- At least a third of non-elected members.

This ratio will apply to those seats that are currently filled and not include vacant positions.

## 16. He utu | Payment

Payments for non-elected members of the working party (iwi and hapu representatives) for meeting attendance and mileage will be in accordance with the councils 'Appointed Members Allowance Policy' and in accordance with this Terms of Reference.

Payments include:

- Meeting allowance for meetings of the working party
- Mileage (one claim per vehicle)
- Attendance at Other working parties, as endorsed by council.

## 17. Whakaoti raruraru | Conflict resolution

Should conflict occur, the Council Chair and Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs and the working party will be responsible for working together to resolve the conflict in the first instance. If the conflict persists, the council will only intervene at the request of the majority of the working party members.

## 18. Ngā purongo | Reporting - accountability

The working party, through the Co-Chairs will provide a summary report to the council following each meeting.

Working party members are expected to report back to and liaise regularly with their respective nominating iwi / hapū communities – providing information to their constituents and seeking their feedback.

Officers of council will be responsible for promoting the working party and any initiatives developed (once considered and approved by council), to the wider public through a range of media including print and radio promotion, the council's website and social media.

## 19. Annual reporting

An annual report detailing the work Te Ruarangi has undertaken will be prepared for the annual meeting and will cover:

- Review of achievements towards the objectives contained within the terms of reference
- Reporting on work that demonstrates the Strategic Whāinga of Tāiki ē.

## 20. Arotakenga | Review

The Terms of Reference will subsequently be reviewed as required. All changes to the Terms of Reference will be subject to the approval of Northland Regional Council through a recommendation made by the working party.

## 20. Tuku mahi | Delegations

The working part has no delegated authority from council.

### **Northland Regional Council**

**P** 0800 002 004

**E** [info@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:info@nrc.govt.nz)

**W** [www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)