

## 18 TANGATA WHENUA



### Summary

#### RPS objective

- Involvement of tangata whenua in the management of the natural and physical resources of the region.

#### Tangata Whenua in Northland

- In the 2006 census, 31.7% of the Northland population (148,000) identified themselves as Maori, compared with 14.6% nationally.
- There are 12 iwi whose tribal boundary falls either partially or entirely within Te Tai Tokerau: Ngati Kuri, Ngai Takoto, Te Aupouri, Ngati Kahu, Ngati Kahu ki Whangaroa, Ngati Kahu/Ngapuhi ki Whangaroa, Te Rarawa, Ngapuhi, Te Roroa, Ngatiwai, Te Uri o Hau and Ngati Whatua.

#### Tangata Whenua and the environment

- Tangata whenua traditionally have a holistic approach to the management of the environment and its resources. Their values, perspectives and traditions are underpinned in sections 6, 7 and 8 of the RMA. Because of this, the Council endeavours to provide opportunities for their involvement in the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in a way that is appropriate and meaningful.
- As at August 2007, approximately 10,530 archaeological sites in Northland related to Maori occupation are recorded on the NZ Archaeological Association's site recording scheme database, including wahi tapu sites, middens, terraces, pa sites, battle grounds and burial sites.

#### Progress to date

- At June 2008 the Council recognised nine iwi environmental management planning documents and holds a collection at Councils Water Street office. The council takes into account these documents when developing or changing policy.
- Council continues to circulate non-notified consent applications to provide Maori who have expressed an interest in reviewing resource consent.
- Council continues to distribute a panui (newsletter), to those Maori on its database (nearly 300 different organisations), which outlines activities of interest to Maori and opportunities for involvement in Council projects and processes.
- Various environmental monitoring projects have been funded throughout Northland over the last ten years through the Council's Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund, including kokako and freshwater macroinvertebrate monitoring and shellfish surveys.
- The Council has established relationships with Kura Kaupapa through the

environmental education department of the Council.

- The Council works with Whangarei Harbour Kaitiaki Roopu in administering an annual fund of \$50,000 for projects to enhance the health of the harbour.

### **Areas for improvement**

- Provide more opportunities for kanohi ki kanohi (face to face) interaction between Maori and Council staff so relationships are built across the Council at all tiers.
- Ongoing training for Council staff on the Treaty of Waitangi, Maori concepts and values and basic Te Reo and marae protocol, as well as providing a higher level of training to ensure internal capacity grows.
- Work with iwi on formulating a robust and clear process for Council to fulfil its obligations under section 66 of the RMA to *“take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with the council”* when preparing or changing a regional plan.
- Establish working relationships with District Councils in the region to synergise approaches and provide better delivery of services to the Maori community.
- Establish and maintain a process for Maori to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council, partly by ensuring the cultural interest seats on the Council’s standing committees are filled.

## 18.1 Introduction

This tangata whenua chapter differs from other chapters of the SOE report, in that it is not an environment like air, coastal or land and not a pressure like waste management or transportation. This section is focused on the importance of and connection to te ao turoa (the natural environment) of tangata whenua and how tangata whenua are involved with the management of nga taonga tuku iho o nga tupuna (treasures handed down by our ancestors), the natural and physical resources in Northland.

Northland is rich in heritage and history which bonds both Maori and non-Maori people together. Some of the oldest traces of Maori are found in Northland. The great explorer Kupe, who many iwi trace their lineage too, is said to have first set foot in New Zealand on the shores of the Hokianga Harbour. Many Maori believe that Kupe gave birth to the nation we know today.

The late eighteenth century saw the arrival of Europeans. The first contact was from exploration voyagers and then came traders and whalers. This was closely followed by the arrival of missionaries.



Although many nations travelled to New Zealand, Maori entered into a relationship with Britain. In 1832 James Busby was appointed British Resident in New Zealand by the Governor of New South Wales. This was the first step in bringing Maori into a formal relationship with Britain. It was Busby who hosted the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

### Treaty of Waitangi

Today the Treaty of Waitangi has been interwoven into a variety of legislation, including the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). It is the RMA that requires regional councils to:

- Take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
- Recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.
- Have particular regard to kaitiakitanga (guardianship)

After the enactment of the RMA, the Northland Regional Council formed a relationship with Te Kotahitanga o Te Tai Tokerau, a pan tribal group with membership from the major iwi of Northland. The group was responsible for policy advice during the initial draft stage of the regional plans.

This enabled the Council to have some form of robust input from Maori at the early stages of the regional plan development especially the Regional Policy Statement, as the main mechanism for achieving recognition of *“the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.”*

In recognition of the partnership principles in the Treaty of Waitangi, tangata whenua are expected to have a key role in resource management. This may be through consultation, education, or monitoring and investigations associated with policy implementation. The status of tangata whenua as a Treaty partner with the Crown, distinct from other interest groups and members of the public, is recognised and Maori Kaupapa have been included in appropriate parts of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland (NRC 2002).

## Regional Policy Statement objectives

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for Northland contains the following objective in section 14: Involvement of tangata whenua:

- Involvement of tangata whenua in the management of the natural and physical resources of the region in a manner that recognises and respects tangata whenua and ahi kaa as kaitiaki o nga taonga tuku iho (guardians of the treasures of their ancestors, as handed down).

The objective under section 24: Heritage Protection of the Regional Policy Statement also relates to tangata whenua involvement and cultural significance. This objective is:

- Protection and where possible, enhancement of the cultural, historic and amenity values of heritage features.

## Issues relating to Tangata Whenua involvement

The following are the significant issues relating to Tangata Whenua involvement in resource management identified in the RPS (NRC 2002):

- Recognition of:
  - Tangata Whenua
  - Ahi kaa
  - Tikanga Maori
  - Tino rangatiratanga
  - Kaitiakitanga.
- The historical lack of involvement of Tangata Whenua and Ahi Kaa in resource management decision making, resource consent applications, policy formulation, monitoring and implementation, particularly as they affect their taonga.
- The lack of recognition of tikanga maori in current plans and policy, i.e. management in accordance with tribal cultural and spiritual preferences.
- Inappropriate or lack of consultation with Tangata Whenua and Ahi Kaa.
- Tangata Whenua and Ahi Kaa wish to determine what is appropriate management of their taonga.

Further issues relating to Tangata Whenua involvement in resource management in Northland include:

- Development intensification, subdivisions and redevelopment have increased rapidly in Northland putting pressure on taonga.
- As a whole, Northland remains a relatively economically deprived region.
- The difference in boundaries between Council and iwi. For example the rohe (area of interest) for Ngatiwai and Ngati Whatua sits across two different regions, with multiple districts. At any one time up to seven different councils may approach iwi with regards to resource management and local government issues.
- Differing interpretations (between councils and between Council and Maori) of the Maori terms contained within sections 6, 7 and 8 of the RMA.

## 18.2 Tangata Whenua in Northland

The Northland region, otherwise known as Te Tai Tokerau, stretches from the uppermost point of New Zealand, North Cape (Ngati Kuri), south west to Pouto (Ngati Whatua), and eastward to Mangawhai (Ngatiwai and Ngati Whatua).

In the 2006 census 31.7% of the Northland population (148,000) identified themselves as Maori, compared with 14.6% nationally (Statistics NZ 2006). Half of those that identified themselves as Maori were under 25 years of age. The Far North has the second highest Maori population, for a district, in New Zealand (Statistics NZ 2006).

Within Northland there are 12 iwi whose rohe or tribal boundary falls either partially or entirely within the region, as shown in figure 1 (right). The rohe of Ngati Kuri, Ngai Takoto, Te Aupouri, Ngati Kahu, Ngati Kahu ki Whangaroa, Ngati Kahu/Ngapuhi ki Whangaroa, Te Rarawa, Ngapuhi and Te Roroa are located entirely within the boundaries of the region, while Ngatiwai, Te Uri o Hau and Ngati Whatua overlap into the Auckland region.



Figure 1: Te Tai Tokerau Iwi map (right).

Source: Te Puni Kokiri

Further, there is one Hapu with Treaty Settlement legislation and another Hapu with their Bill before Parliament waiting for it to be passed into legislation. Once this Bill is successful, the two claims will stretch from Pouto in the south to Omapere in the north.

Most of the iwi authorities in Northland have their own informative websites. For more information refer to the links in table 1 (below) or refer to Te Kāhui Māngai: Directory of Iwi and Māori Organisations (a national register maintained by Te Puna Kokiri) at the following link: <http://www.tkm.govt.nz/>

### Iwi policy documents

An iwi management plan is any planning document recognised by an iwi management authority (the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so) (MFE 2003). Regional councils are required to “take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority” under the provisions of sections 61, 66 and 74 of the RMA (MFE 2003).

For more information on iwi policy documents refer to “Whakamau ki Nga Kaupapa – Making the best of iwi management plans under the Resource Management Act 1991” available on the Ministry for the Environment website at the following link:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/whakamau-ki-nga-kaupapa-jun01/index.html>

At June 2008 nine iwi policy documents from various iwi and hapu authorities in Northland have been lodged with the Regional Council, as shown in table 1 (below). For more information on these documents or to obtain a copy please contact the relevant iwi

authority. Iwi groups continue to develop and update iwi policy documents.

Table 1: The 12 registered iwi authorities in or partly in Northland region and their relevant iwi policy documents at June 2008

Iwi authority	Website	Iwi policy documents (current at June 2008)
Ngāi Takoto	<a href="http://www.ngaitakoto.com/">http://www.ngaitakoto.com/</a>	
Ngāpuhi	<a href="http://www.ngapuhi.iwi.nz/">http://www.ngapuhi.iwi.nz/</a>	Ngati Rehia Environmental Management Plan, 2007. Ngati Kuta ki Te Rawhiti Hapu Management Plan, second edition. An introductory perspective to resource management planning, Te Runanga o Ngatihine, 1990. Kororareka Marae Environmentml Policy Statement. <i>Draft Ngati Korokoro, Ngati Whaarare me Te Pouka: Hapu Environmental Management Plan, 2006.</i>
Ngāpuhi/Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa	<a href="http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi.aspx?id=6">http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi.aspx?id=6</a>	
Ngāti Kahu	<a href="http://www.ngatikahu.com/">http://www.ngatikahu.com/</a>	
Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa	<a href="http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi.aspx?id=7">http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi.aspx?id=7</a>	
Ngāti Kurī	<a href="http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi.aspx?id=2">http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi.aspx?id=2</a>	
Ngāti Wai	<a href="http://www.ngatiwai.iwi.nz/">http://www.ngatiwai.iwi.nz/</a>	Te Iwi o Ngatiwai Iwi Environmental Policy Document, Ngatiwai Trust Board, 2007. Ngatiwai Aquaculture Plan, June 2005. <i>Draft Te Whanau o Rangiwahakahu Iwi Management Plan</i> (currently being updated).
Ngāti Whātua	<a href="http://www.ngatiwhatua.iwi.nz/">http://www.ngatiwhatua.iwi.nz/</a>	
Te Aupōuri	<a href="http://www.teaupouri.iwi.nz/">http://www.teaupouri.iwi.nz/</a>	
Te Rarawa	<a href="http://www.terarawa.co.nz/">http://www.terarawa.co.nz/</a>	
Te Roroa	<a href="http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi.aspx?id=12">http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi.aspx?id=12</a>	<i>Draft Nga Ture mo Te Taiao o Te Roroa: Te Roroa Iwi Environmental Policy Document 2008.</i>
Te Uri o Hau	<a href="http://www.uriohau.com/">http://www.uriohau.com/</a>	

### 18.3 Tangata Whenua and the environment

Ko te whakapapa tenei  
 Mo nga taonga tuku iho a Io Matua Kore  
 Ka moe a Papatuanuku ia Ranginui  
 Ka puta  
 Ko Tanemahuta, ko Tangaroa  
 Ko Tawhirimatea, ko Tumatauenga, ko  
 Haumie-tiketike  
 Me Rongomatane  
 Ko enei nga taonga tuku iho o Ratou Ma  
 Ko matou nga kaitiaki mo enei taonga.

Genealogy recites for us our divine Inheritance,  
 Through the union of Earth Mother and Sky Father  
 Who gave birth to our resources  
 And entrusted their care into our hands,  
 The land and the sea  
 The forests and the birds,  
 The animals and plants,  
 All these treasures, bestowed upon us as nurturers...  
 To sustain the people.

This statement highlights the cultural perspective of tangata whenua on the importance of the natural resources of Northland and links Maori to Papatuanuku and Ranginui through genealogy. For Maori, this link shows that they are part of a complete living system. The close attachment of Tangata Whenua to their ancestral lands and resources stems from the belief in their common origins and from occupation of the land and use and establishes tribal identity and continuity.

The traditional concept of Kaitiaki and Kaitiakitanga is part of a complex social, cultural, economic and spiritual system that is established through the long association Maori have with lands and waters (Kowhai Consulting Ltd 2002). The very basic meaning of 'tiaki' is to guard. It also means to preserve, to keep, conserve, nurture, protect and watch over. Kai denotes the agent of the action (tiaki). Therefore Kaitiaki is the preserver, the keeper, conserver, nurturer, and protector. The addition of tanga indicates preservation, conservation and protection.

In their delegated authority in managing the natural and physical resources of a region, district and regional councils must provide for Tangata Whenua involvement in resource management, particularly where it affects their taonga. Councils have a duty to protect and provide for the sustainable management of these taonga.

#### **Whenua (land)**

The connection between Maori and land is not restricted to land currently owned by Maori, it includes lands traditionally occupied by iwi and hapu. Maori have a deep seeded relationship with the land so in managing the effects on the use of land then recognition must be given to the relationship of Maori with their ancestral lands and the need to protect sites and resources of particular cultural and spiritual value.

Te Rerenga Wairua (or Te Reinga), Cape Reinga is of significant interest to all iwi in Northland and undoubtedly, to all iwi around New Zealand.

#### **Wai (water)**

To Maori, wai (water) in all its forms is descended from Papatuanuku and Ranginui. Tangata whenua value water for the life giving force it is and for food resources it provides, including watercress, eels (tuna), and whitebait.

Awa (rivers) represent the tupuna (ancestors) of the tangata whenua. Water and river therefore have their own mana (integrity). Water also has its own life force (mauri) and spirit which are linked to mana. Spiritual qualities (mauri and wairua) can be adversely affected by the taking, use or diversion of water and discharges of contaminants to water.

In Northland there are many rivers that are of special significance to the iwi and hapu in the surrounding rohe. For example, Rangatira (Kerikeri Inlet) has special meaning to Ngati Rehia, as does Oruawhara for Te Uri o Hau. For Te Uri o Hau, those rivers that flow into the Kaipara Harbour play a significant role in their history and in their future.

As a water source, roto (lakes) are also of great significance to Maori. They too have mauri which can be impacted on by the take, diversion and use of, and discharges to them. Like rivers, lakes were utilised as a food source and recreational area. As with other natural resources the protection and sustainable management of lakes ensured their health and the health of those resources within them were maintained for future generations.

One of the most significant lakes in Northland is Lake Omapere. Not only is it the largest lake in Northland, it is the only lake; (the lake bed, water and resources in the water), owned by Maori. The remnant settlements which lie on the shores of the lake show the historical landscape and how much interaction there was between Maori and the lake. It provided not only a freshwater source, but also an abundance of freshwater mussels, fish and tuna (eel) to sustain the many hapu who lived near or travelled regularly to the lake. The photograph below shows the archaeological site of Mawe Pa located on the shores of Lake Omapere.



Lakes can be linked to culture and tradition for other reasons. For example, another significant lake is the home of a traditional Maori waka, which is submersed in its water for protection. For the local hapu, the protection of this lake is not only linked to the mauri of the water but also to the preservation of an extremely important taonga from their whakapapa (ancestry).

### **Hau (air)**

According to Maori the sky is Ranginui, father of Papatuanuku's earthly progeny and therefore is tapu or sacred. The emission of contaminants to air may therefore have adverse effects on the spiritual values associated with the sky, atmosphere and associated celestial bodies which are the source of light and life.

### **Tahati (coast)**



The coastal environment and its resources are of great cultural, spiritual and economic value to all Northland iwi. As kaitiaki (guardians) of traditional fishing grounds and reefs, iwi and hapu have a responsibility to safeguard these resources for the future. This guardianship role is reflected in customary practices such as rotational or seasonal harvesting, the use of rahui (prohibition) on seafood gathering to prevent over exploitation and the avoidance of contamination of coastal waters and habitat from human and other wastes.

Northland's coast is rich in tribal history with many sites and features of significance to tangata whenua. These include coastal wahi tapu, battlegrounds, urupa (burial sites), tauranga waka (ancestral canoe landing and launching sites) and toko taunga ika (rocks marking fishing grounds).

For example, Te Oneroa a Tohe (90 Mile Beach) and the long association Te Aupouri (along with neighbouring iwi) have with this beach, through to Hokianga Harbour and the landing of Kupe.

### **Archaeological sites**

Early settlement in Northland, especially in coastal areas, means that the region is rich in archaeological sites, as shown in figure 2 (below). New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) has a national inventory of all sites of significance that have been recorded and registered with them; this is known as the NZAA Site Recording Scheme. In total there were more than 11,480 sites in Northland recorded in the NZAA recording scheme at August 2007, of which approximately 10,530 (92%) are related to Maori occupation. The Maori sites include wahi tapu sites, middens, terraces, pa sites, battle grounds and urupa.

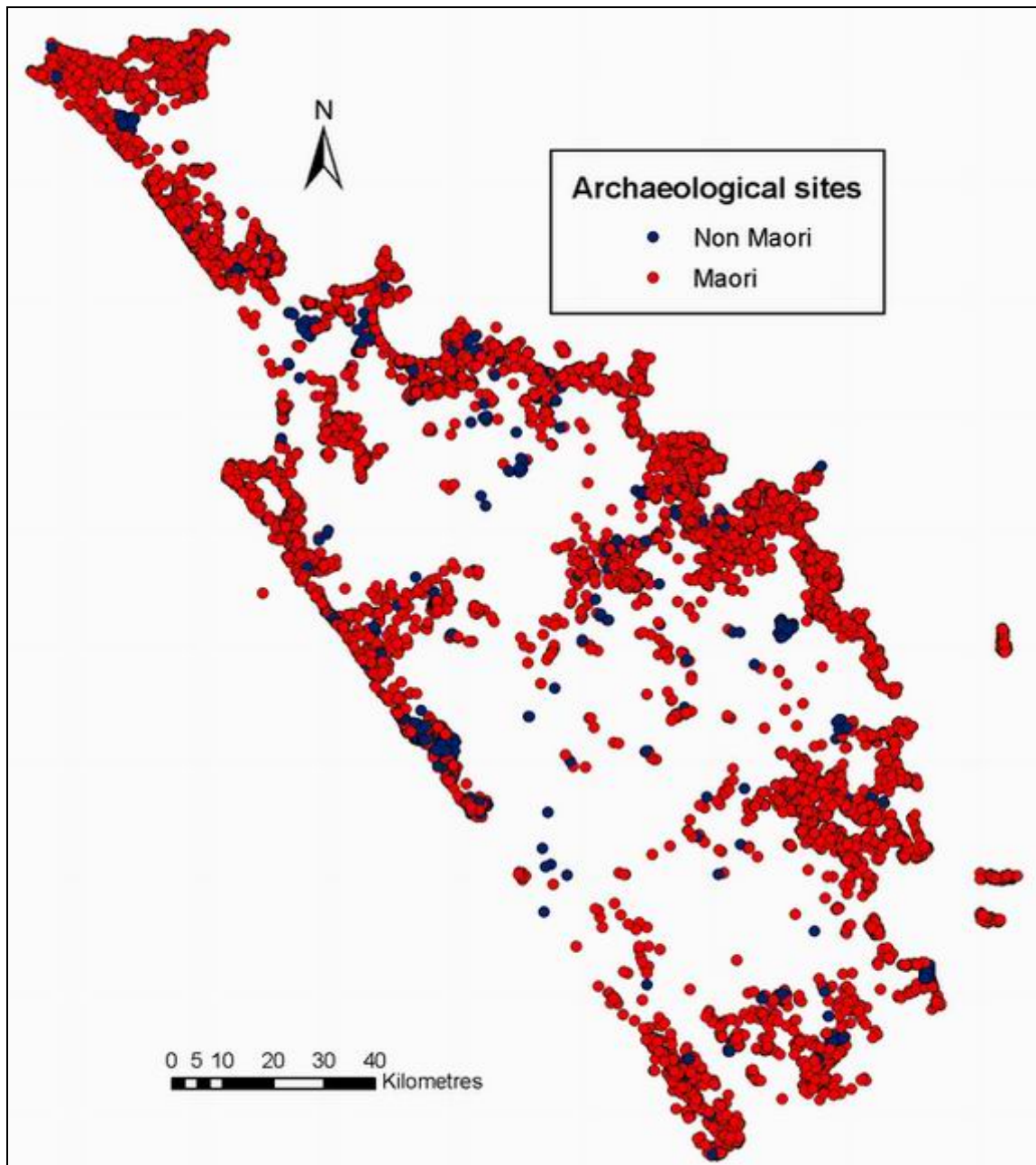


Figure 2: Archaeological sites in Northland registered on the NZAA database at August 2007. Data source: New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) Site Recording Scheme.

## 18.4 What is being done?

### Policy

#### **Regional Policy Statement**

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for Northland (NRC 2002) contains the following objective in section 14: Involvement of Tangata Whenua:

- Involvement of tangata whenua in the management of the natural and physical resources of the region in a manner that recognises and respects tangata whenua and ahi kaa as kaitiaki o nga taonga tuku iho (guardians of the treasures of their ancestors, as handed down).

The objective under section 24: Heritage Protection of the RPS, also relates to tangata whenua involvement and cultural significance. This objective is:

- Protection and where possible, enhancement of the cultural, historic and amenity values of heritage features.

For more information refer to the Regional Policy Statement on the Council's website at the following link:

<http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Resource-Library-Summary/Plans-and-Policies/Regional-Policy-Statement/Regional-Policy-Statement/>

In the 2006/2007 financial year the Council had a contractual arrangement with Te Roopu Piritahi to act as policy advisors on new and plan changes to Councils resource policies and plans. They were also engaged to make recommendations on consultation and to assist with facilitation of wider Maori consultation.

The Council continues to develop a Best Practice document, which will outline a transparent and consistent process of consultation with regards to planning and policy development.

### **Council functions**

The Council maintains a register of relevant iwi planning documents. The Council is required under section 66(2A)a to *“take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with the Council, to the extent that its content has a bearing on resource management issues of the region”* when preparing or changing a regional plan. These documents do not take the place of direct discussion with Maori.

The Council are also guided by relevant iwi policy documents when assessing and processing consent applications. Likewise, legislation such as the Te Uri o Hau Claims Settlement Act 2002, is carefully considered and adhered to as a statute, when processing applications for resource consents.

The Council circulates non-notified consent applications to provide Maori the opportunity to show whether they are an affected party.

### **Information sharing**

The Council continues to distribute a panui (newsletter), Purongo Putaiao to those Maori on its database. The panui outlines activities of interest to Maori and opportunities for

involvement in Council projects and processes. The panui has regular updates on the resource management plans, and encourages participation in local body elections (during election year) and input into the Annual and Long Term Council Community Plans.

For more information refer to the latest panui available on the Council's website at the following link:

<http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Resource-Library-Summary/Newsletters/Purongo-Putaiao/>

The Council also contributes funding towards workshops/wananga on Council activities and processes. The Council continues to participate in workshops on request on any matters relating to Council business. For example, the Council was invited to a Kaitiaki Wananga alongside other groups and individuals such as Gail Tipa, author of the Cultural Health Index, Far North District Council and Department of Conservation.

### **Other involvement**

The Council encourages Tangata Whenua involvement in the management of Northland's natural and physical resources by:

- Providing for Maori representation on the two Council standing committees, with decision making powers.
- Carrying out specific Maori consultation processes relating to resource management plans.
- Having policy that requires the circulation of all resource consent applications to Maori. For example, currently the Council, over and above requirements to circulate all notified consents to Maori and statutory responsibilities under the Te Uri o Hau Claims Settlement Act 2002, circulates for their information, non-notified consent applications to Maori who have expressed an interest in an area.
- Formalised working relationships with Maori through Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) such as the MOU between Te Uri O Hau Settlement Trust and the Council.
- Appropriate recognition of Settlement Acts and Maori Policy and Management plans such as Te Uri o Hau Claims Settlement Act 2002 and the Ngatiwai Aquaculture Management Area Policy.

The Council also recognises the value of education and advocacy through:

- The Council's environmental education programme, in which the Council and Kura Kaupapa Maori work together on environmental projects and the environmental education school curriculum guidelines.
- Specific funds available for schools/kura in order to implement environmental education projects.
- The Council offers free workshops on the Resource Management Act and the Council's consent, planning and monitoring processes for Maori.
- Treaty of Waitangi and basic Te Reo and marae protocol training for Council staff to ensure awareness of Maori culture and issues.
- A series of brochures on the consent application process that encourages applicants to consult with Maori before lodging consent applications.

## Funding for Tangata Whenua

Where and when appropriate, the Council will contribute funding to tangata whenua through the Hapu Management Plan and the Joint Iwi Monitoring Funds.

### *Iwi/hapu environmental management plans*

Iwi environmental management plans are a vision of how the management and protection of natural and physical resource can be achieved based on cultural and spiritual values of tangata whenua. (Ministry for the Environment, Te Raranga A Mahi 2000)

The Council supports the preparation of iwi/hapu management plans by providing advice and an annual contestable fund of \$20,000 that iwi groups can apply to for the development of the environmental component of Iwi/hapu Management Plans.

More information on hapu management plans is available on the Council website at the following link:

<http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Working-with-Maori/Iwi--Hapu-Management-Plans/>

### *Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund*

This fund which was established in 1996/1997 aims to provide Maori with the opportunity to undertake monitoring projects within Northland. It is an annual contestable fund of \$10,000.

Previously funded projects include studies on freshwater macroinvertebrates, water quality monitoring (shown in the photograph right), kokako monitoring and shellfish surveys. See some of the examples below for more information.



### **Whenua (Land)**

There are some Iwi groups who have worked with the Council in past years to eradicate pest plants and animals. Te Rarawa worked with the Council to gain *Growsafe* qualifications, which then allowed them to tender for various pest animal eradication programmes. Within this Iwi (Te Rarawa) there was a group on the west coast who worked to establish the Herekino Ginger Landcare Group. This has grown to encompass the wider community.

### *Nga Whenua Rahui*

Nga Whenua Rahui managed by the Department of Conservation funds the protection of indigenous ecosystems on Maori land. This includes biodiversity and ecosystem protection and can be used to meet the costs of survey work, fencing, plant nursery development, and pest and weed control. The land area in Northland protected under Nga Whenua Rahui is approximately 5,400 hectares as of November 2007.

One of the latest projects to be funded by Nga Whenua Rahui is fencing and management to exclude stock from Lake Omapere and associated waterways on Maori owned land in the Lake Omapere catchment. This project started in 2006 and includes 102.3 hectares of land. This funding was partly progressed through the Lake Omapere Restoration and Management Project, a joint project between the Lake Omapere Trust

and the Council to restore the mauri of the lake.

### ***Kokako Monitoring***

Te Mahurehure Roopu Whenua Taonga Trust received funding from the Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund to carry out kokako monitoring in the Waima area from 2002 to 2004. This group has continued on with kokako monitoring and has carried out rat, possum and mustelid control in the areas where kokako populations are known.

### ***NZ Archaeological Association site recording scheme***

The New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) has a national inventory of all sites of significance that have been recorded and registered with them, known as the NZAA Site Recording Scheme (SRS).

In 2001 the NZAA began a national programme to update the information on the SRS. By 2004 the Council had joined with the Whangarei District Council to look at an upgrade of the Whangarei district records.

The initial stage was a desktop review of the Whangarei district, from which NZAA were able to determine which sites needed revisiting to ensure accuracy and validity of their records. The second stage of the upgrade involved visiting sites which required validating, which was carried out jointly by local iwi representatives and an archaeologist for NZAA, with funding assistance from both the Whangarei District and Regional Councils.

When this project was completed, work began on the desktop review of the Kaipara and Far North districts. As the Council was the only organisation funding this project, only the initial stage was completed for both districts.

Section 24 of the RPS for Northland discusses Heritage Protection. One of the methods of implementation for section 24 is to *'assist iwi authorities to establish appropriate recordings systems for waahi tapu and other features of cultural significance.'* During 2007 the Council seconded a senior policy analyst to work with Te Uri o Hau to extrapolate information from their Waitangi Tribunal reports. This information related to sites of significance and cultural landscapes. An inventory was created which catalogued and referenced material making it readily available for use by Te Uri o Hau.

## **Wai (water)**

### ***Freshwater macroinvertebrate monitoring***

The Ngatiwai Trust Board has carried out and reported on the health of waterways around Whangarei several times over the last 10 years, using freshwater macroinvertebrates. Their first sampling and report was on the Whangarei Harbour catchment in 1996/1997. This work was successful due to the assistance of volunteers with technical expertise, the involvement of many local iwi and financial support from several sources, including the first year of the Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund.

Ngatiwai Trust Board has since carried out freshwater macroinvertebrate monitoring every year from 1999 to



2003, extending their monitoring to include more sites within their rohe.

Ngatiwai have used the findings from this work to identify areas with impacted water quality and in turn consulted with the Council about these findings and their concerns.

### ***Water quality monitoring***

The Utakura Environmental Monitoring Group was established by local iwi concerned with the water quality of the Utakura River, especially as it has been severely affected by the weed infestations and algal blooms in Lake Omapere (Utakura River is the only outlet from Lake Omapere).

This group has been successful at gaining funding twice from the Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund and in total have carried out 12 months of water quality monitoring in the Utakura catchment between 2003 and 2007.



The group has used the knowledge gained and the results from this monitoring to increase awareness of water quality issues and encourage riparian management within the catchment.

### ***Lake Omapere Restoration and Management Project***

The aim of the Lake Omapere Restoration and Management Project was to develop and implement a voluntary lake management strategy that works towards improving the health of the lake and to help establish the Lake Omapere Trustees in their role as Kaitiakitanga. This was a joint project between the Lake Omapere trustees and the Council.

For more information refer to Case study 1: Lake Omapere Restoration and Management Project.

## **Tahati (coastal)**

### ***Shellfish surveys at Matapouri***

Te Whanua O Rangiwakaahu Maori Committee have carried out surveys of the pipi beds in Matapouri Bay on the east coast of Northland because of concern that pipi sizes were so much smaller at Matapouri Bay than those close by at Ngunguru. One pipi survey was carried out each year from 1999 to 2002, in both Te Wairoa and Parangarahu River, with support from the Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund.

In 2002 Te Whanua O Rangiwakaahu completed a hapu management plan to guide the development and protection of their resources, including all kaimoana.

### ***Whangarei Harbour Kaitiaki Roopu***

The Whangarei Harbour Kaitiaki Roopu arose from a hearing as part of the resource consent process for Northland Port Corporation's application to construct a deep water port at Marsden Point.

The Hearing Commissioners recommended that the Northland Regional Council:

*"i. In association with Rangiora Marae, work with all interested parties to develop an overall Kaitiaki harbour management structure to give practical effect to the Applicant's financial offer to initiate improvements to Whangarei Harbour. It is further recommended that consideration be given to providing statutory authority for this management mechanism by means of the Regional Coastal Plan."*

Added to the above recommendation were the following conditions in Northland Port Corporation's resource consent, which state (in part):

*"10 The Consent Holder shall pay to the Northland Regional Council up to \$25,000 per annum toward scientific studies for the purpose of monitoring the effects of the development on the water quality and ecology of the Whangarei Harbour....."*

*"11 The Consent Holder shall pay to the Northland Regional Council \$50,000 per annum for 10 years .....The purposes for the fund are to enable improvements to the health of the Whangarei Harbour, and should include:*

- *re-seeding shellfish beds*
- *study of New Zealand Dotterel nesting/roosting/feeding areas*
- *creating new feeding habitat for New Zealand Dotterel*
- *concerns of tangata whenua."*

One of the objectives of the roopu was to establish ways to minimise any adverse effects of the deep water port (including its construction) on the adjacent communities. Matters on which the Kaitiaki Roopu were expected to provide input included enabling the improvement of the health of the harbour, and the study and/or mitigation of the effects of the port development on waahi tapu, taonga and features of special interest to tangata whenua. Therefore the improvements, studies and/or mitigation include the concerns of Tangata Whenua and include shellfish reseeded, studies of the NZ dotterel and maintenance and enhancement of habitat of the dotterel and other shorebirds.

Roopu members and others counting cockles during shellfish surveys (right).



The roopu makes recommendations for funding from the annual Whangarei Harbour Health Improvement Fund and also has input into the Scientific Fund.

The Kaitiaki Roopu and Whangarei Harbour Health Improvement Fund have carried out and contributed to extensive work in the Whangarei Harbour over the past seven years. The Kaitiaki Roopu has actively been involved in shellfish reseeded trials (and the subsequent reseeded programme) and the ongoing monitoring and re-establishment of seagrass beds. The roopu has also made recommendations for other groups to receive funding such as the Friends of Matakohē/Limestone Island for composting toilets and lizard translocation. There has been a range of enhancement projects supported through this fund, as shown in table 1 (below).



Table 1: Summary of historic and proposed Whangarei Harbour Health Improvement Fund projects.

Year	Applicant	Project
2001/02	Auckland University	Subtidal benthic ecology survey
	DoC	Shorebird enhancement works
	Friends of Matakohe Island	Composting toilet development
	Kamo High School	Assistance with notification costs of marine reserve proposal
2002/03	NIWA	Shellfish reseeded investigation
2003/04	NIWA	Shellfish reseeded trial
	NIWA	Seagrass restoration investigation
	Ornithological Society of Northland	Shorebird habitat enhancement
2004/05	NIWA	Shellfish reseeded trial continuation and expansion
	Volunteer workforce costs	Reimbursement of costs for monitoring of shellfish reseeded trials by volunteers
2005/06	NIWA	Shellfish reseeded trial continuation and expansion
	NIWA	Seagrass restoration trials*
	Volunteer workforce costs	Reimbursement of costs incurred to volunteers
2006/07	NIWA	Seagrass restoration trials
	Friends of Matakohe Island	Lizard Translocation: Year 1
	Volunteer workforce costs	Reimbursement of costs incurred to volunteer workforce
2007/08	<u>Proposed</u> : NIWA	Shellfish Restoration; Completion of Parallel Trials and Project Synthesis.
	<u>Proposed</u> : Friends of Matakohe Island	Lizard Translocation: Year 2
	<u>Proposed</u> : Meryl Carter	Environmental Education at Takahiwai.

\*This work was not undertaken, as a funding application to the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund was declined.

### ***Monitoring for viruses in shellfish***

Local Maori had raised many concerns about the state of traditional shellfish beds and collection sites in and around Waitangi and Te Haumi. This was partly as a result of sewage pipe breakages and spills in the Bay of Islands over a number of years. A monitoring forum was set up by a group of local Maori, concerned for the health of locals who were dependant on the shellfish as a food source. The forum sought to have the area monitored with the view of restoring the mauri of the coastal area.

The Council established a monitoring programme for viruses in shellfish with technical expertise from the Institute of Environmental and Scientific Research (ESR). Shellfish from the Bay of Islands were studied between January 2004 to February 2006 to determine whether shellfish were contaminated with human enteric viruses from sewage (Greening and Lewis 2007).

The study showed that shellfish beds were frequently contaminated with human viruses over the two-year period. At two traditional shellfish gathering areas, human enteric viruses were detected in 19 of 49 shellfish samples. This is of concern as shellfish are a significant source of food for the local community. It was intended that further investigation and routine sampling would be established at selected sites in the future.

The Council has been working with local Maori collecting shellfish samples for testing. This has been an ongoing project with funding being granted to Te Pataka Matauranga Charitable Trust from the Council's annual Joint Iwi Monitoring Fund to assist them with sample collection costs.

For more information refer to the detailed report available on the Institute of Environmental Science and Research's website at the following link:

<http://www.esr.cri.nz/competencies/foodsafety/SafeguardingHealthandAccessforNZfoods.htm>

## 18.5 Where to from here?

There are several ways that tangata whenua involvement in the management of Northland's environment can continue and be improved, including:

- The filling of 'cultural seats' on Council committees. The Council committees have been restructured with the Planning and Policy, Landcare and Hearings committees combined and renamed the Environmental Management Committee. There remains a position for one 'cultural seat' on this committee. The Regional Land Transport Committee has a requirement under legislation to make provision for a cultural seat (this has been temporarily filled). The intention is to discuss committee representation at the Council/Iwi CEO's forum to progress the filling of these positions.
- Formal and enduring relationship between governance and executive management of both Councils and iwi authorities across the region.
- Develop and maintain a process to engage Maori at an early stage in the preparation of the Long Term Community Plan and/or any plan changes in relation to regional plans.
- Improve Council's capacity to engage with Maori through ongoing education on the Treaty of Waitangi, Maori culture and Maori issues.
- Encourage more collaborative partnerships and projects between Maori and the Council, raising the capacity of Maori to participate in future projects.
- Develop a process which shows and documents how Council will take into account environmental management plans which have been developed by Maori.
- Ongoing review of policies and objectives as set out in the Regional Policy Statement, to ensure the Council is achieving targets.
- Undertake a contractual agreement with a Maori technical forum to use in policy guidance and formulation.
- Protection of archaeological sites of cultural significance through district plans. FNDC have an action in their Draft Annual Plan 2008-2009 (FNDC 2008, pg 67) to support tangata whenua in the identification of sites of cultural significance to Maori and ensuring that appropriate protection of those sites is in place, for example through inclusion in their District Plan.
- The Council will continue with the development of a best practice document, which will outline a transparent and consistent process of consultation with regards to planning and policy development.
- There should be more awareness and implementation of cultural environmental monitoring methods in Northland such as the Cultural Health Index (MFE 2003 and MFE 2006b).

## 18.6 What can you do to help?

There are many ways and opportunities for Tangata Whenua to be involved in environmental management in Northland, such as:

- **Benefit of understanding the Maori world view** – tangata whenua have a long-standing association with the natural environment. Understanding these cultural values and interests can result in improved projects and resource consent applications (MFE 2006).
- **Benefit of having a relationship with tangata whenua** – If a community or school is initiating a project in its local community, then it should consider building a relationship with local tangata whenua and involving them in the proposal. This can add value and depth to the project as well as gaining wider support and participation (MFE 2006).
- **Only in New Zealand** – Enhance proposals through the participation of tangata whenua in the resource consents process where kaitiakitanga and other Maori concepts, that are unique to New Zealand can be fostered (MFE 2006).
- **Who do I talk to** – Often in communities people may know the local kaumatua (elder) who may be able to assist with whom to talk to. Speciality Maori teachers in local schools may be able to offer advice and guidance. Otherwise local iwi authorities can be contacted via the Te Kahui Mangai website <http://www.tkm.govt.nz/> or contact your local Council.
- **Environmental management plans** – Many Iwi and hapu groups have compiled environmental management plans which clearly show issues of concern to Maori in regards to the natural environment. These are a wealth of information, which can help with the foundations of relationship. For more information refer to the following link on the Council website:

<http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Working-with-Maori/Iwi--Hapu-Management-Plans/>

For help on developing iwi environmental management plans either contact the Council or refer to '*Te Raranga a Mahi: Developing Environmental Management Plans for Whanau, Hapu and Iwi*' (MFE 2000) available on the Ministry for the Environment's website at the following link:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/treaty/te-raranga-a-mahi-aug00.html>

- **Already involved in an iwi group** – Already involved in an iwi group but want to know more about the Council's functions and activities, contact the Iwi Liaison Officer. There are many ways that people can be more involved such as attending a workshop on Council processes, being included in the Purongo Putaiao (Council panui) circulation list or applying to the Joint Iwi Monitoring and Environmental Management Plan Funds.

## 18.7 Case study 1: Lake Omapere Management Project

The aim of the Lake Omapere Restoration and Management Project was to develop and implement a voluntary lake management strategy that works towards improving the health of the lake and help establish the Lake Omapere Trustees in their role as kaitiakitanga.

The project had six major components, including:

- Development of a Lake Management Strategy
- Assist the Lake Trustees in their role as aitiakitanga
- Integrated catchment management
- Water quality monitoring
- Development of a weed management programme
- Enhancement of indigenous biodiversity

The project includes ongoing community involvement to identify the issues affecting the lake and develop and work towards a goal for the future of the lake.



This project was a joint initiative between the Lake Omapere Trustees and the Northland Regional Council, and was funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund. Other key stakeholders who were involved include landowners in the lake catchment, local iwi and hapu, Far North District Council, Department of Conservation, local schools and the local community.

### Restoration and Management Strategy for Lake Omapere

The Lake Omapere Trustees and the Northland Regional Council prepared a joint management strategy for Lake Omapere and its wider catchment. The Trust's and the Council's Chairmen formally signed the 'Restoration and Management Strategy for Lake Omapere' on 29 September 2006, at a ceremony held at the Parawhenua Marae near the lake.



*Tiakina a Ranginui raua ko Papatuanuku kia a ora te mauri o nga taonga tuku iho  
If you look after the lake, it will look after you*

The document is a management strategy that works towards improving the health of Lake

Omapere while re-establishing the role of the Lake Trustees as kaitiaki. It is envisaged that if water quality in the lake can be improved other flow-on benefits and purposes will result in time, for example, improved biodiversity or opportunities for economic development and use of the lake.

Issues, visions and aims for the future of the lake were sought at hui, public meetings and through one-on-one meetings with adjoining landowners. These issues, visions and aims were incorporated into the strategy, and long term actions to address these are also being developed. Actions such as aquatic weed management, integrated catchment management programmes, environmental farm plans, as well as biodiversity enhancement and water quality sampling are some of the tools that will be used.



Photograph (left to right): Mark Farnsworth (Chairman of Northland Regional Council), Amanda Turner (Ministry for the Environment) and Mike Kelliher (Chairman on Lake Omapere Trust) at signing ceremony.

### **Other components of project**

Significant efforts in integrated catchment management including farm and nutrient management plans, fencing, seed collection/propagation and planting. The Lake Omapere Trustees and local iwi have been intensively involved in this entire process. For more information refer to Case study 1 of the Land and Soils chapter.

There have also been many other components of this project, with Tangata Whenua also involved in research into and monitoring of freshwater mussels and fish populations in the lake, water quality monitoring and aquatic weeds surveys. For more information refer to the Council website at the following link:

<http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Council-Projects/Lake-Omapere-Restoration-Project/>

### **Future work**

The Lake Omapere Trust and the Council will continue to work together on the restoration and management of Lake Omapere in the future through implementation of this strategy. This includes reviewing the strategy annually, ongoing water quality monitoring and information gathering, and ongoing restoration work in the catchment, such as fencing, planting and seed collection and propagation.

## 18.8 References

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<http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Resource-Library-Summary/Plans-and-Policies/Regional-Policy-Statement/Regional-Policy-Statement/>