

Appendix V – Te Puni Kokiri Report (August 2005)

Process to Identify Community Outcomes: Focus Groups

Background

The Local Government Act 2002 requires all Local Authorities to carry out a process to identify community outcomes for the medium and long-term future of their district or region.

In 2005, the four Local Authorities in Tai Tokerau – Northland Regional Council, Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei District Councils – agreed to work in partnership on a process to identify desired community outcomes for the region.

Discussions between the CEO of the Northland Regional Council, Warren McLennan and Te Puni Kokiri, identified relationship weaknesses between councils and Māori.

It was on this basis that Te Puni Kokiri offered advice and support to create opportunities for Māori to meaningfully engage and participate in a process.

Project Objective

The overall aim of the process was to:

- Ensure Māori have an opportunity to participate and contribute towards the establishment of a Regional Community Outcomes document
- Create opportunities for improved relationships between Regional Council and Māori in Tai Tokerau

Process

- Convene seven (7) focus group hui in Pawarenga, Kaitaia, Kaikohe, Waitangi, Ruakaka, Whangarei and Dargaville
- Report on community outcomes process and results including:
 - describing the community outcomes
 - identify key themes

Northland Regional Council Role

Northland Regional Council's role with this process was;

- providing Lead facilitation and scribing support
- identifying potential participants
- providing administration assistance
- participating at briefings / de-briefings
- organising venues and catering
- providing analysis, feedback and evaluation
- developing participant satisfaction survey, protocols, etc.

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Te Puni Koiri's Role

TPK's complementary role with this process was:

- providing Co-facilitation and co-scribe support
- identifying potential participants
- recommending venues
- distributing invitations and briefing packs
- participating at briefings / de-briefings
- providing analysis feedback and evaluation
- drafting the final report

Purpose of this Report

This report presents a summary of the seven focus group meetings convened in:

Pawarenga	Pawarenga Community Trust	22.8.05
Kaitaia	REAP Centre	22.8.05
Kaikohe	Kaikohe Memorial Hall	23.8.05
Waitangi	Copthorne Hotel	23.8.05
Ruakaka	Bream Bay Community Trust	25.8.05
Whangarei	Barge Park	25.8.05
Dargaville	Community Library	26.8.05

The purpose of the focus groups was to give Maori an opportunity to have their say about the future of Northland, which signifies a turn from Government (control by state agencies) to Governance (people coming together to address common problems).

The focus group approach encouraged an exploration of opinions, ideas, thoughts and notions about individuals perceptions of "what *their* ideal community might look like in the future".

This exploration approach provided an in depth look at what was also influencing these perceptions.

Focus Group Methodology

Participant Group Selection:

Northland Regional Council and Te Puni Kokiri convened a meeting to select potential focus group participants. A minimum of eight (8) and maximum of fifteen (15) individuals were selected for each venue.

The setting of our maximum number was to allow for a potential "drop off" of participants, which would ensure an ideal participant group of between ten (10) and twelve (12).

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An attempt to ensure that the District’s Māori population was represented at each focus group, by selecting:

- a mix of genders
- a mix of ages
- a range of backgrounds (community experience, skills, occupations, etc.)

Participant Briefings:

A briefing pack which included background information was mailed out one week prior to the focus group meetings being convened. This material included:

- Examples of what community outcomes could be
- Description of focus group process
- How the information would be used, ie. scheduling in the Long Term Council Community Plans
- Issues that may be considered in the focus group sessions, ie. social, cultural, environmental, economic
- Facilitator / Scribe details
- “What do we want for the future of Northland” Community Consultation PowerPoint presentation material

Personal telephone contact was made to those individuals who were known to be recipients of ineffective mail delivery, eg. rural delivery or were personally known to the project team to ascertain availability to participate.

Report Overview

Report Structure

This report is formatted as follows:

- The first section will provide a summary of the main opinions, ideas, thoughts and notions that were consistently raised by the participants
- Following this section, each of the communities, ie. Pawarenga, Kaitaia, Kaikohe, Waitangi, Ruakaka, Whangarei and Dargaville, will be reported on separately. This will enable each District Council to ascertain its “own” communities response to this process. It will also assist with a “customised” approach to solution development as opposed to a “one size fits all”.
- Within each community section, the format shall be as follows:
 - a) description of participant wants for the future

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Repetition is consistently evident throughout this report because most of the desired outcomes identified in one community, were also identified by participants living in other communities.

It is also to be noted that:

- an outcome can be placed in to all “well-being” sections, eg. improved housing is included by some under “social” well-being and placed by others in “economic” well-being.
- The categorised “well-being” sections should be treated as inclusive of each other as they have a direct influence on each other.

Regional Overview

Summary of outcome areas

The following is a summary of the outcomes that were consistently advocated at community focus group hui. These statements were provided when asked the question, “what does your ideal community look like in 2015”?

Outcome statements have been reworded or rephrased by the scribes, but where possible, have utilised the phrases and expressions used by participants.

Cultural Outcomes

- Recognition and integration of hapu and iwi in terms of district planning processes
- Practical demonstration of an integrated approach to managing resources between Māori and Council
- Increased promotion of the unique cultural identify of each of the communities
- Respect and recognition of the cultural and spiritual relationship between people and their environments

Economic Outcomes

Business development that compliments or is complimented by our natural environment

- Improved infrastructure with associated services
- Sustainable and creative employment opportunities
- Increased opportunity for Māori business ownership and operation

Environment Outcomes

Partnership opportunities with local, central government for communities to take responsibility for maintaining and preserving their own “clean, green environments”.

- Quality roading, lighting, drainage, waste management
- Promotion of effective pollution control
- Māori / local government have equitable decision-making roles and responsibilities

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Social Outcomes

Opportunities for young Maori people so they choose to stay, live and work in the region

- Access to local health care and emergency facilities
- Improved relationships between hapu, iwi and councils
- Access to affordable, quality housing
- Improved social services support and advice, especially for alcohol and drug abuse counselling

Similarities between communities

Consistent views amongst all the participant communities, are held with particular respect to:

- Increased Māori participation and contribution at council decision-making level
- More opportunities for Māori business ownership and management
- Preservation of the environment for future generations to come
- Improved opportunities and support for youth so that they are able to live and work in their communities
- Affordable and quality housing

Although similar themes emerged, issues pertinent to respective communities was also evident. These were:

Pawarenga

Facilities:

- Improved facilities to accommodate Adult Learning, recreation and leisure initiatives which will target tamariki through to adults. Utilising and building on “what already exists” in the community is important.

Housing:

- Belief that a review of costs for consents and a review of compliance processes is essential. Improved synchronization of information sharing, and servicing between Runanga, communities, council and agencies is a priority.

Resource Management:

- The establishment of a Landcare group that includes the Broadwood community and down needs to be considered
- The revitalisation and resourcing of Hapu Environmental Planning is important for this community. The Pawarenga community want to be appropriately encouraged, developed and resourced to “do things for themselves”.

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Services:

- Assistance with the development of an Emergency response plan is needed as the participants have no faith in emergency services getting to Pawarenga "on time".

Kaitaia

Coastal Development:

- Concerns raised in regards to the continued development when current infrastructure systems, eg. sewage, drainage, were not coping with what we already have. Māori need to be appropriately resourced to participate in the consent process.

Land:

- Land that is currently in council management control should be returned to those who have mana whenua, ie. hapu.

Political:

- Increased campaigns to encourage Māori to vote

Waitangi

Community Enterprise:

- Improved opportunities for communities to manage their own service needs, eg. rubbish collection, park and reserve maintenance, etc.
- Investment in alternative economic opportunities that don't impact on the environment, eg. arts, music, etc.
- Increased investment consideration for low socio economic communities

Relationships:

- Flow of information between communities, local and central government needs to be improved

Decision Making:

- Decisions should not be made with the "one size fits all" approach. All communities are unique and proposed solutions should be customised to accommodate this uniqueness.

Resources:

- Whanau and Hapu to retain and manage their own resources
- Fairer distribution of resources across the Far North District County needs to be taken in to consideration, ie. "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link". Council need to make an improved commitment toward building the capacity of less affluent communities.

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Rating:

- Recognition of continuous land occupation needs to be taken in to account when applying rating and valuation formulae. Acknowledge that Māori have retained ownership for generations and have no intention to sell their land for commercial gains.

Land:

- No more land acquisitions by foreign investors

Ruakaka

Whanau Development:

- Communities need to be supported / resourced to provide and apply their own solutions for social well being of whanau
- Opportunities for voluntary workers to have “time Out” with their own whanau for the purpose of re-energising themselves

Community Enterprise:

- Increased support for activities, programmes that already exist in the community

Whangarei

Education:

- Reintroduction of apprenticeships (trade training) for young people from rural areas. Focus on young Māori males is important, as they are not achieving as well as our girls

Cultural:

- Assimilation is not for Maori

Dargaville

Tribal Boundaries:

- Wananga need to be convened to clarify mana whenua issues, as it is believed that tribal boundaries have become blurred.

Local Knowledge:

- Oral sources of local knowledge and history must be protected

Māori Tourism:

- Need to consider utilising the Northern Wairoa River more for potential regattas, waka ama, etc.

Collaboration

- Information sharing between agencies and Community service providers needs improvement