



Māori Contribution to Council Decision Making Policy

Governance

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| Policy Owner | Governance and Strategy Group Manager | | |
| Adopted by | Thames-Coromandel District Council | | |
| Description of policy | This policy sets out how Council will meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to Council decision making processes | | |
| Keywords | Māori, decision making, Hauraki iwi, Māori contribution to decision making | | |
| Date policy first adopted | June 2012 | Date this version adopted: | 26 May 2020 |
| This version effective from: | 26 May 2020 | Date of next review: | March 2024 |

Objectives

This policy will guide elected members and staff on providing appropriate opportunities for Māori to contribute to Council decision making processes.

This policy will provide Māori within the Thames-Coromandel District with an understanding of how Council will manage its obligation to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to Council decision making processes under the Local Government Act 2002.

Background

The Thames-Coromandel District Council is obliged to ensure that Māori have the opportunity to participate in Council decision-making processes. The Local Government Act 2002 sets out a clear purpose for local government – to promote social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being through local decision-making and action. Every day Iwi, Hapu, Whanau and Māori communities are affected by decisions made by the Council. Much of what Council does is directly relevant to Māori and requires good relationships at a local level.

The Council is required by the Act to:

- establish and maintain opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes (particularly in relation to land and water bodies)
- ensure processes are in place for consulting with Māori
- consider ways in which they can foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes
- provide relevant information to Māori.

Policy statement

Steps to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making

The Council intends to undertake the following steps, to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to its decision-making processes:

1. the Council will compile a database of those who wish to be considered Māori for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2002. The Council will maintain a process to ensure this database is current and up to date.
2. those who have identified themselves as Māori will be specifically consulted when the Council decides that it wishes to consult. Where specific legislation requires specific consultation with Māori or Tangata Whenua, then the requirements of that specific legislation will override this step.
3. the Council will work with Māori to identify key issues of particular interest to Māori.
4. the Council will gather information on Māori perspectives about Council activities.
5. the Council will consciously build good relationships with all groups of Māori in the district.

Implementation

Implementation of this policy will be undertaken by completion of the steps outlined above at the direction of the Mayor for governance decisions and by Chief Executive for operational decisions.

Measurement and review

This policy will be reviewed by Council before adoption of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.