

Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui

Submission Reference	Request	Recommendation	Comments
Landcare Division 1.	East Harbour Regional Park	No change to Draft Operating Plans	<p>This is an existing regional park, listed in the Local Government Act. The Landcare Division is well aware of this area's significance to Maori.</p> <p>The Long-term Financial Strategy (LTFS) proposals provide for an initial planning period focusing on access issues, leading to a substantive review of the Park Management Plan. We have only just begun working through the access options (following agreement on a programme from the Landcare Committee, 99.352). The proposed LTFS will accelerate this through the next financial year, with the expectation of a new management regime being in place from 2003/04.</p> <p>Staff are only aware of relatively informal communication from Iwi on their interest in the Park. At this point DoC, not WRC, administers the Lakes. Nevertheless, when the Regional Council is ready to commence a formal review of the Park Management Plan, we will most certainly expect a close involvement with Iwi.</p> <p>However, at this stage our focus has largely centred on whether there are realistic access opportunities to enable the regional community to fully appreciate this area.</p>
2.	Serious discussion with the Runanga in respect to vegetation and pest management monitoring in forested areas	No change to Draft Operating Plans	<p>This responsibility comes from the Water Board Act. Some areas are managed directly by the Landcare Division others are deemed a water production asset currently maintained by Landcare under an annual service contract to the Water Group.</p> <p>The guiding Council policy document (covering Landcare and Utility Services operations) is the Forest Lands Interim Management Plan</p>

			<p>(1996). We are not sure about the level of Iwi involvement in the preparation of the base document. However, the plan contains strong statements on heritage and cultural values, and the expected future involvement of Tangata Whenua in forest lands management planning.</p> <p>There have been regular informal discussions between the Council Chairman and Kara Puakatapu on management and pest control issues for the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Catchment; the question of cultural harvest has been mentioned. <i>This may well be a suitable project (subject to Water Group approval) for consideration under the \$300,000 iwi projects budget.</i></p> <p>A full review of the Forest Lands Plan is programmed for 2000/01. This will be a major community consultation exercise and will undoubtedly involve Iwi. A Councillor workshop is proposed (April?), to establish the baseline principles.</p>
3.	Develop closer links with an involvement by Iwi	No change to Draft Operating Plans	Support noted.
The Water Group	Support a request from the Waiwhetu Maori community in obtaining access to its traditional artesian water supply	No change to Draft Operating Plans	<p>The Regional Freshwater Plan contains a number of provisions that are relevant to obtaining access to traditional artesian water supply. Its policies include:</p> <p><i>To have regard to the values and customary knowledge of the tangata whenua, where these have been identified by the tangata whenua, when assessing resource consent applications for the use and development of water bodies and river and lake beds;</i></p> <p>And</p> <p><i>To not restrict tangata whenua initiatives for the use or development of freshwater resources subject to the provisions of this Plan and the Act.</i></p>

			The Regional Freshwater Plan also identifies the Lower Hutt Groundwater Zone as a key resource for public water supply, which is already fully allocated. Because the Zone is fully allocated, an application for a resource consent is required from any person who wants to take water from it. Any such application would have to be made to the Environment Division of the Council and would be considered having regard to the above policies and the other provisions of the Plan.
	Discuss metered water		In the past the Wellington Regional Council has supported metering of water as a conservation method and also from a pricing equity point of view. However, all our current projections indicate that the availability of water from our current sources should meet demand well into the 2020s at least. As a result, the significant cost of installing and reading those meters cannot be justified at the present time. Metering however will continue to be an option when a new source of water comes closer to being necessary.
Environment Division	90% of resources should be spent on specific Iwi issues relating to a specific tangata whenua locality	No change to Draft Operating Plans	The Council's proposal for strengthening its relationship with the tangata whenua of the Region provides for the continuance of the collective forum, while providing for more emphasis on individual relationships with Iwi. The Council's draft Operating Plans provide for a total of \$492,000 specifically for Iwi related matters. This is spread over several departments and includes allowances for Ara Tahi, technical workshops, liaison and advice, training, iwi projects, and non-notified consents contracts. About 13% of the budget is for collective Iwi activities, 84% for individual Iwi activities and 3% for training. Approximately 80% of the total is budgeted for payment to Iwi, the remainder being staff time.
	Financial resources of at least \$45,000 p.a. to equip one FTE totally responsible for Regional Council business	No change to Draft Operating Plans	The Council has allocated \$300,000 to support Iwi projects. This is in addition to the allowance for non-notified resource consent contracts. Depending on the priorities of the Iwi, there is potential for some of this money to be allocated in a generic contract for providing input to Council projects.
	The Council should make	No change to Draft	The Council in effect makes "declaratory statements" in its Regional

	declaratory statements	Operating Plans	Policy Statement and Regional Plans. These documents are developed under the Resource Management Act 1991. Iwi have had the opportunity to help shape the documents. On-going review will provide future opportunities to make changes where these are considered necessary to better meet the purpose of the Act.
	The Council should take action to reverse the “Living Earth” consent	No change to Draft Operating Plans	This particular consent was the subject of considerable scrutiny, including an appeal by the Taranaki Whanui to the Environment Court (which was withdrawn by the Whanui). The Council has no legal ability to reverse the consent.