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Committee   **Council**
Author   **Councillors Margaret Shields and Ian Buchanan**

Ara Tahi Meeting – 26 February 2003

1.   Purpose

To report to Council the proceedings of the meeting of Ara Tahi held on 26 February 2003.

2.   Background and Comment

2.1   Parks Update – Councillor Laidlaw

Chris Laidlaw updated members of Ara Tahi on some of the work being undertaken by the Landcare Division, namely the management of the Region's parks.

2.1.1   Park Management Network Plan

The final version of the network plan has just been completed and a copy of the plan will be distributed to members before it is sent out for public consultation.

2.1.2   Individual Park Management Plans

Management plans for each of the Council's parks are also being developed. It will take approximately one year to develop and finalise these plans. Officers will be starting with Belmont Regional Park and East Harbour Regional Park.

2.1.3   Council and Iwi - Managing Parks

The Council and Wellington Tenths Trust recently set up a working party to manage East Harbour Regional Park. By 2005 the Council will also control and manage Whitirea

Park. Council will be looking to talk with Ngati Toa about the best way to work together to manage Whitirea Park.

Chris Laidlaw noted that the level of Iwi involvement in managing parks may differ for each park. It is a matter of working together to find the best process on a case-by-case basis.

2.1.4 Wairarapa Wetland Park

It was confirmed that the Council is looking at managing a Lake Wairarapa Regional Park. However, there are high costs involved and the benefits of such a park will need to be balanced with the cost to ratepayers.

2.2 Progress Report from Maori Policy Advisors, Wellington and Wairarapa

2.2.1 Topics for the First Workshops of the Year – 12 March and 19 March

Members of Ara Tahi agreed that the first Iwi workshop for the year on 12 March should discuss the Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). This workshop was rather urgent, as Council is required by the Local Government Act 2002 to have the final drafts prepared for the special consultative process and this process needs to start in early March.

At the suggestion of Councillor Buchanan, members of Ara Tahi resolved to hold a joint workshop with Councillors on 19 March to discuss a framework for how Maori and the Council will work together in the context of the new Local Government Act 2002. This workshop will replace the councillor training scheduled for that day.

2.2.2 Tiriti o Waitangi Framework and the Memorandum of Understanding

Keriana Wilcox advised that a project brief to develop a Treaty of Waitangi analysis framework and consider how to involve Maori in decision-making processes is currently being prepared.

2.2.3 Iwi Projects

Jason Kerehi briefly updated members on each of the Iwi projects. The excavation at Homewood Wetland has now been completed and the wetland area will be left for a year to see how the hydrology flows. Officers will look at what planting is required at that stage. Ngati Kahungunu have agreed on a work programme for Ngawi wetland for the next two years. Rangitaane's GIS project has been very successful and they are currently tidying up loose ends and signing protocols with Council. They are also keen to extend their area of work.

2.3 Farewell to Keriana Wilcox

Margaret Shields advised members of Ara Tahi that this was the last Ara Tahi meeting Keriana Wilcox would be attending, as she would soon be leaving Greater Wellington to work at Manukau City Council.

Flowers were presented to Keriana. Margaret Shields and members of Ara Tahi spoke of their heartfelt appreciation for the work Keriana had done at the Council.

2.4 Ministry for the Environment Initiatives for Maori and the Role of Maruwhenua

Riki Ellison introduced himself to the members of Ara Tahi. He is the manager of Maruwhenua, the Maori policy wing of the Ministry for the Environment. Riki said he would like to work at building relationships with tangata whenua with the aim of identifying priorities and looking at ways of addressing of them.

Members agreed that a hui was needed to consider where and when would be best to meet Riki in the future to discuss issues and explore ways of interacting with the Ministry for the Environment.

2.5 The Local Government Act 2002

Debra Packman (Te Puni Kokiri) advised that it would be best for members of Ara Tahi to read the Act as a whole in order to understand how the legislation provides for Maori and local government working together.

She advised that the new legislation aims to provide scope and opportunities for Maori and local government to forge their own relationships, rather than be too prescriptive. Now is the prime time to make joint decisions on how to work together, while plans and policies are still in the early stages of being defined and developed.

2.6 Update on Greater Wellington's Long Term Community Plan (LTCCP)

John Allard advised that Greater Wellington is continuing to prepare its LTCCP. This must be completed by 1 July 2003. He advised that consultation with members of Ara Tahi on the document would begin at the meeting on 12 March (as agreed earlier in the meeting). He also stressed the importance of keeping a balance between what is to be achieved by Council and the cost to ratepayers when discussing the policies which are part of the LTCCP.

2.7 General Business

2.7.1 Appointment of Chairperson for 2003

After some discussion members of Ara Tahi decided that the current chairperson, Tom Paku, was doing a good job and should continue in this role for 2003.

2.7.2 Ngati Tama Representation on Ara Tahi

Members agreed to leave a decision on this until they have sought the opinion of their own Iwi and reached some conclusions.

2.7.3 The Role of Ara Tahi

Members agreed to set aside an hour at the next Ara Tahi meeting to discuss the continuing role of Ara Tahi.

3   Recommendation

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report approved by: Report approved by:

Margaret Shields   **Ian Buchanan**
Chairperson   Chairman, Environment