



Report 10.370
Date 29 July 2010
File X/16/02/01

Committee Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Plan Committee
Author Mike Grace, Kaitakawaenga, Māori Liaison

Mana whenua discussion document

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide information supporting discussion of mana whenua values pertaining to soil management in the region.

2. Background – Whenua

Kia ora te wai
Kia ora te whenua
Kia ora te tangata

When the water is cared for the land is nourished
When the land is cared for the people are nourished

(Whakatauki, Iwi Leadership Water Conference 2010)

Whenua/land is the physical embodiment of Papatuanuku, Mother Earth. Consistent with this perspective, Māori have an inherited obligation as kaitiaki to protect the life giving properties of the land, while utilising these resources to provide for the current generations. Kaitiakitanga is a management system based on respect for the earth/Papatuanuku and all natural resources. Managing these resources with respect ensures they are managed sustainably and with ultimate consideration to the underlying health of the resource. Kaitiakitanga is a management system developed from a close association with the natural environment over generations. Maturanga Māori (Māori knowledge) continues to develop and provides relevant understanding, techniques and methods for the sustainable management of our natural resources.

3. Māori values

Iwi Māori maintain a close connection with their traditional lands and all natural resources. Land and soil is highly valued for a range of values, including cultural, social, environmental and economic. Traditionally the survival and success of iwi was closely associated with the productive capacity of the land under the control of the Iwi. Māori in general continue to rely

heavily on the productive capacity of their whenua, and control significant stakes in agriculture as well as a range of other land uses as owners, landlords, developers and managers. For example Wairarapa Moana Inc, a large dairy cooperative owned by descendants of the rangatira, who gifted Wairarapa Moana to the Crown, is one of the largest Māori dairy companies in New Zealand with land holdings in Mangakino and Western Australia. Port Nicholson Settlement Block Trust also controls a range of strategic properties as a result of their Treaty settlement with the Crown.

The amount of land and resources under the control of Iwi will continue to increase as a result of both Treaty Settlements, and direct Iwi investment. Iwi are and will continue to be major stakeholders in the management of all land resources. Their interests come from both direct ownership of land, as well as statutory provisions recognising their interests (e.g. RMA), and continued exercise of manawhenua, and cultural associations with traditional lands and resources.

Kaitiakitanga also acknowledges the inter-related and interconnected relationship between all resources. Therefore soils/land cannot be considered in isolation from the impacts any activity has on surrounding land and/or water and air resources.

Kaitiakitanga creates an obligation for Iwi to ensure that in utilising any resources the overall health and wellbeing of the environment is maintained and enhanced. This applies directly to the use of resources by Iwi, but also importantly is an overriding obligation to ensure the overall environment is being protected and enhanced.

Iwi responses to resource management challenges will continue to be informed by traditional knowledge systems and their obligations as kaitiaki. Iwi interests will continue to include economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspirations.

Greater Wellington needs to increase its understanding of the interests and strategic priorities of its Iwi partners and work with them to ensure they are effectively recognised and provided for through the objectives, methods, and rules of the Regional Plan, and further through the effective implementation of the plan.

4. Regional Policy Statement

The Regional Policy Statement provides an overview of the resource management issues for the region. It states ways in which the integration of the region's natural and physical resources can be achieved. It directs the Regional Council to avoid adverse effects on matters of significance to tangata whenua in a number of ways:

Policy 48 states that when considering resource consents, plans or plan changes particular regard be given to avoiding adverse affects on'

- (a) the exercise of kaitiakitanga
- (b) the mauri, particularly in relation to fresh and coastal waters
- (c) mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes; and
- (d) places, sites and areas with significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage value to tangata whenua.

Policies 20 and 21 require regional and district plans to identify places associated with tangata whenua values, and avoid the destruction of unidentified archaeological sites and wāhi tapu with significant historic heritage values.

Policies 22 and 23 require regional and district plans to identify and protect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.

Policy 24 requires regional and district plans to identify tangata whenua values: Māori values inherent in the feature or landscape add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special place

5. Delivering Positive Outcomes

Both Iwi, and Greater Wellington need to build their capacity to engage in effective management of natural resources in a way that both meets Iwi obligations as kaitiaki, and ensures the Council is delivering on both Iwi, and wider community expectations and aspirations across social, cultural, economic, and environmental measures.

Iwi have a deep understanding of their own cultural landscapes, traditional resources and future aspirations, however the ability to effectively participate in resource management processes is often constrained by a lack of resources. While Greater Wellington provides some contribution towards supporting iwi capacity this is limited and does not provide sufficient resource to ensure Iwi are able to effectively meet either their own, or others expectations.

All iwi in the region are developing data bases of information pertaining to their tribal area. This includes information on wāhi tapu (sacred places) and wāhi tipuna (ancestral places). This information is managed in GIS systems and is used to inform cultural impact assessments and reports in response to applications for resource consents.

Comparatively to Iwi, Greater Wellington has significant resources, but a limited understanding of Māori values, traditional associations, or the aspirations of Iwi regarding the management of the regions natural resources. While ultimately Iwi interests and aspirations are matters for Iwi themselves to determine and advise Council on, Greater Wellington needs to build a greater

internal understanding of Māori values and aspirations, as well as opportunities to support the building of capacity within our Iwi partners to enable them to effectively respond to resource management issues. As well as being Treaty partners, Iwi are significant stakeholders in their own right and it is critical to the success of Greater Wellington that we improve the recognition and provision for Māori values in our resource management decisions.

One way the Council is working to achieve this is through the structured assessment and monitoring of mana whenua values in the Wellington region, although this is in a very early stage of development. Greater Wellington is currently working with iwi in the Wairarapa to assess cultural values in waterways subject to allocation. Commissioners considering an application by the Hutt City Council to discharge wastewater into the Waiwhetu imposed cultural monitoring conditions as a condition of the consent to ensure that impacts on Iwi values would be monitored. There are also two other significant consents currently being processed which will also require cultural monitoring as a condition of consent.

While cultural monitoring is a useful and valid tool, and will over time provide improved understanding of the impacts activities are having on Māori values, greater consideration needs to be given to proactively identifying, and subsequently avoiding, remedying, or mitigating the detrimental effects of activities on Iwi values, rather than just relying on retrospective monitoring.

A recent example of this was the Waiwhetu Stream Project where iwi monitors were employed for the duration of the project, providing on site supervision and support.

Significant challenges for Iwi including changing land use, windfarms, subdivision, large scale earthworks, and forestry all have potential for significant detrimental impacts on mana whenua values.

Run off from land often has significant detrimental impacts on mahinga kai and water quality through nutrient run off, erosion, and sedimentation. The Porirua – Pauatahanui harbour is seriously affected by sedimentation, as is Wairarapa Moana and East coast estuaries. Ecological restoration proposals for both systems include development of regimes to monitor mahinga kai species.

6. Summary

Maori values pertaining to land can be summarised accordingly;

- Māori interests are not just cultural, they include social, economic, environmental, *and* cultural interests
- The health of the land is regarded as fundamental to wellbeing
- Natural and heritage landforms and productive soils require active management and protection

- The cultural landscape is informed by the narrative of Mana whenua history on the land
- Mana whenua have a responsibility to ensure that the life giving properties of the land are sustained
- The relationship between land and water is contiguous and interdependent
- Productive land is fundamental to mana whenua economic independence
- Mana whenua values pertaining to the stability and health of soils can be measured through the health of mahinga kai species (plants and animals) in terrestrial, fresh water and marine ecosystems.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Mike Grace
Kaitakawaenga, Māori Liaison

Riki Ellison
Manager, Māori Liaison

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management