

Report 17.166
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Committee Council
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Ara Tahi increase in meeting fee

1. Purpose

To seek Council's approval of an increase in meeting fee for the non-elected iwi members of Ara Tahi.

2. Background

On 5 April 2017 Council approved the terms of reference for Ara Tahi.

The terms of reference make provision for the non-elected iwi members of Ara Tahi to be eligible to receive Council's standard daily meeting fee and mileage allowances (or reimbursement of public transport costs). In effect, each iwi member is eligible to receive a meeting fee of \$235 plus mileage or reimbursement of public transport costs incurred in attending the meeting. This is the same fee applicable to non-elected persons appointed to most of GWRC's committees and advisory groups.

Council officers have reconsidered this fee and recommend it be increased to \$400 inclusive of travel and preparation.

If Council approves this proposal, it would not set a precedent. The proposed fee has already been paid to some other advisory groups (i.e. the Kaitiaki and the Poutiriao Forums).

The rationale for the proposed change is that:

1. The proposed increase seeks parity between Ara Tahi and:
 - 1.1. the Kaitiaki group which provided operational advice on the Natural Resources Plan before being disestablished in 2015
 - 1.2. the Poutiriao Forum which provided operational advice on whole-of-council operational issues before being disestablished in 2017.

2. Ara Tahi is the only Council forum that two of the six iwi Chairs of the Region are actively engaged in. The proposed fee increase may help attract more iwi Chairs and Chief Executives to the table.
3. Ara Tahi is the only forum that enables iwi partners to provide collective strategic advice on whole-of-Council issues of mutual benefit directly to Councillors and the Chief Executive.
4. In the past year, Council has signalled its desire to increase the scope of Ara Tahi. Once Council confirms this approach, members will have a greater sphere of influence that requires greater preparation time and commitment.

An amendment to the terms of reference for Ara Tahi will be required to provide for the change in remuneration. A draft updated terms of reference is attached as **Attachment 1**.

There is no need for an increase in budget as the previous Poutiriao budget will be redirected to Ara Tahi to cover the expected enhanced scope and new fee structure.

3. Communication

Ara Tahi will be advised of Council's decision.

4. Consideration of climate change

The matters addressed in this report are of a procedural nature, and there is no need to conduct a climate change assessment.

5. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

5.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance and engagement policy, and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

A formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is not required in this instance.

5.2 Engagement

Due to its procedural nature and low significance, no engagement on this matter has been undertaken.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves the meeting fee of \$400 for non-elected iwi members of Ara Tahī inclusive of travel and preparation time.*
4. *Approves the updated terms of reference for Ara tahi that reflect the change in meeting fee.*
5. *Notes that no budget increase is required to fund the new approved fees structure.*

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Attachment 1: Amended draft terms of reference for Ara Tahī