

Statement on Involvement of Maori

Waimate 2020

Statement on Participation of Maori in the Decision-making Process

REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2002

The Local Government Act, 2002, requires all Councils to take specific actions with regard to Maori. The relevant sections of the Act are as follows:

The 'headline' provision referring explicitly to Maori is section 4. It reads:

In order to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to maintain and improve opportunities for Maori to contribute to local government decision-making processes, Parts 2 and 6 provide principles and requirements for local authorities that are intended to facilitate participation by Maori in local authority decision-making processes.

Section 14(1)(d) reads:

In performing its role, a local authority must act in accordance with ...the principle that a local authority should provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to its decision-making processes.

Section 77(1)(c) reads:

A local authority must in the course of the decision-making process, - ...if any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.

Section 81(1) requires that a local authority must:

- (a) Establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to decision-making processes of the local authority; and*
- (b) Consider ways in which it may foster the development of Maori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and*
- (c) Provide relevant information to Maori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).*

Section 82(2) states:

A local authority must ensure that it has in place processes for consulting with Maori in accordance with subsection (1).

WAIMATE DISTRICT COUNCIL INITIATIVES

The Waimate District Council addresses these requirements by actively pursuing the following initiatives:

- The Council will work together with Maori organisations and individuals, to identify citizens who are considered to be Maori with an interest in the Community in accordance with the requirements of Section 81(1) of the Act. This includes all Maori, regardless of tribal affiliation, who reside in the District, who own land within the District or who have a recognised cultural affiliation with the District.

This will also include Maori organisations that are directly involved in the interests of local Maori.

This identified list of Maori will be maintained in partnership with local Maori groups.

- The Council will mail written advice of all issues to be referred to Community consultation to all Maori and organisations who have been identified as in the previous paragraphs, and where a postal address is known. This advice will include an overview of the proposals and instructions on registering submissions. This will be additional to all normal advertising methods employed for the community at large.
- The Council will take note of all issues that may have special importance to Maori as outlined in its Policy document 301, 'Significance Policy', and seek Community consultation on all matters that fit these criteria.
- The Council will continue to invite Maori participation by all Maori groups, in all meetings of its Community Panel which provides direct community advice to the Council elected members and staff.
- The Council will meet with representatives of Maori groups within the District at least twice a year, to discuss current issues and the progress of the Long-Term

Waimate 2020

Council Community Plan. These meetings are in addition to other contact as part of the consultation process.

- The Council will provide meetings, on request, to explain current issues and proposals for consultation specifically for Maori groups, whenever practical considerations permit. These meetings can be, by request, limited to specific Maori group participation.
- The Council will continue to involve tangata whenua in all relevant deliberations with regard to the application of the Resource Management Act.

The Council will adhere to the basic principle that all its citizens are of equal importance in the community and are all part of that community. Accordingly, it will always strive to ensure that the interests of all its Maori citizens are fully addressed and considered in all decision-making processes and recognises the special need to ensure the capacity of Maori to play a full part in the decision-making process.