

Report to Wellington Regional Council
From Councillors Stuart Macaskill and Ian Buchanan

Ara Tahi Meeting – 2 May 2001

1. Purpose

To report to Council the proceedings at the meeting of Ara Tahi held on 2 May 2001.

2. Background & Comment

The Council's representatives, Councillors Macaskill and Buchanan, attended the meeting. Councillors Gibson, Shaw, Shields and Turver also attended.

2.1 *Climate Change*

Representatives from Te Puni Kokiri gave a presentation on the New Zealand Climate Change Project, which is aimed at reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and involves a number of governmental agencies.

The meeting was told of the potential impacts of global greenhouse gas emissions for New Zealand. The two key climate changes predicted for the next 50 years are:

- (a) A 0.5-1.0 degree average temperature increase; and
- (b) An increase in drought conditions for large parts of the country.

In response to such predictions, the NZ Climate Change Project operates on two levels involving the Energy Efficiency Strategy at the domestic level and the Kyoto Protocol at an international level.

It was acknowledged that the new US administration has placed ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in doubt. However, the expectation is that ratification of such a protocol is inevitable. The potential implications of such a protocol are:

- (a) a cap on emissions levels (to 1990 levels under Kyoto);
- (b) an emissions trading regime;
- (c) possible “carbon sink” credits for forests.

Under such a scheme, New Zealand is expected to receive 100 million carbon credits.

Potential implications for Maori due to changes to New Zealand’s climate are:

- (a) Maori land is disproportionately represented in areas of New Zealand that are predicted to suffer from drought,
- (b) Potential changes in flora and fauna (affecting Maori taonga); and
- (c) Potential changes to fisheries due to warmer inshore waters.

Potential implications of ratification of the Kyoto Protocol for Maori are:

- (a) The majority of Maori land (because of the type of land use) will not qualify for the carbon credits;
- (b) It is unclear whether the landowner or the lessee will receive carbon credits. This has implications for Maori as a significant proportion of Maori land is leased;
- (c) Land is likely to incur a debit if forest is cut down and not replanted;

It was agreed that a technical workshop for Ara Tahi be scheduled to further explore these issues in depth.

2.2 *Assisting Iwi to Assist the Council*

Ara Tahi members’ lack of capacity to provide the Council with on-going and consistent input was discussed. A proposal that the Council provide \$15,000 funding for each Iwi, from the Iwi project budget, to build administrative capacity was given general support. This issue will be the subject of a separate report to Council.

2.3 *The Council Website*

The proposal that the Council host Iwi information on its web site was widely supported. Each Iwi will provide general Iwi information and the Council will be responsible for posting this information on its web site.

2.4 *Changes to the Transitional Regional Plan and the Regional Freshwater Plan*

Members of Ara Tahi were informed of the Council’s intention to consult with Iwi in the Region on possible changes to the Transitional Regional Plan and the Regional Freshwater Plan.

2.5 *KPMG Innovation Awards*

An entry for the KPMG Innovation Awards by Ara Tahi was proposed. The entry would be based on the work that the Council and Iwi have done to strengthen their relationship. Further consultation with Ara Tahi will occur prior to submission of an entry in early July.

4. **Recommendation**

That the Report be received and the information noted

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman

IAN BUCHANAN
Chairman, Environment