

10 May 2022

Marlborough District Council
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Tēnā koutou e ngā Rangatira

SUBMISSION – MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2022-23

This submission is made on behalf of the Rangitāne o Wairau Group (comprising Te Runanga a Rangitāne o Wairau Trust, Rangitāne o Wairau Settlement Trust, Rangitāne Holdings Limited and Rangitāne Investments Limited) and relates to Marlborough District Council's 2022-23 Annual Plan.

This submission is made in the context of Central Government embarking on a number of major reform initiatives that will impact iwi, Council and communities. These include initiatives, in which Rangitāne are engaged in, across health, infrastructure, workforce planning, education, local government, resource management, climate change, stewardship lands and more. On top of this, locally, Council is working through a number of projects which require iwi engagement, including the Wairau River Regional Park, the Blenheim Sewage Treatment Plant consent process and the Marlborough Environment Plan (particularly the aquaculture provisions). These are on top of the "business-as-usual" engagements, such as iwi engagement on consent processes, Council projects and cultural support. In short, our capacity to meaningfully engage and provide input is limited. We remind Council of its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 to "*consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity*" to contribute to decision-making processes.

There are a number of initiatives that we propose Council adopt in order to:

- Meet its obligations as a partner to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Build the capacity of Māori to contribute to Council's decision-making processes
- Meet the current and future needs of Māori in relation to local public services and regulatory functions and processes

Our submission is as follows:

1. Iwi Capability Funding

There are examples across Te Tauīhu where Councils resource iwi to attend the many and varied consultation and engagement hui, process/review consents and

provide cultural advice on Council projects. During 2021, Rangitāne was regularly provided with lists of consents for review, which during the course of the year totalled 1075 consents. We conservatively estimate that 95% of these only need cursory investigation, taking no longer than 10 minutes, with 5% requiring investigation and feedback requiring, at times, many hours of investigation.

We therefore estimate that this equates to approximately 170 hours carrying out cursory investigation of consents and a further 180 hours on those which require many more hours of investigation, follow up and engagement. At our standard cost recovery rate of \$80/hr, this totals some \$28,000 of time essentially gifted to Council in reviewing consents. This cost is currently met by Rangitāne from the resources we derived through our Treaty Settlement for historical grievances. This is not consistent with a partnership approach. Council has an obligation (under Local Government legislation) to enable local decision making and action, and Rangitāne believes Iwi Capability Funding will support Council to achieve this.

Council's Māori Capacity Development Policy states: *"Council needs to find out how it can help with resourcing so that iwi can better engage in Council processes and decision-making"*.

The Report of the Resource Management Review Panel (June 2020)¹ identified *"the lack of adequate funding and support as one of the main reasons why resource management outcomes for mana whenua have not been delivered"*. The report went on to note that *"participation by mana whenua in resource management processes should be supported by central government and local government funding and capability-building assistance"*.

To address this issue and inequity, we propose that Council provide iwi capability funding of \$20,000 each year to Rangitāne (and other iwi) in recognition of the work undertaken in the Taiao space in relation to consent processing, with funding from general rates. This approach is not inconsistent with how other Councils operate and support iwi capability in resource management issues².

2. Blenheim Sewerage Treatment Plant (BSTP)

Rangitāne are engaged with Council in relation to the BSTP and future discharge options. We request that Council include provision in its planning processes to meet the aspirations of iwi in terms of the discharge options. Rangitāne records that it does not support the status quo discharge option, which sees treated effluent enter the Wairau River adjacent to Te Pokohiwi.

¹ New Directions for Resource Management in New Zealand. Available at <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Publications/Files/rm-panel-review-report-web.pdf>

² Data collected by the Ministry for the Environment show 53 per cent of councils provide budgetary support for iwi/hapū participation in planning. See data from National Monitoring System 2018/19 available at www.mfe.govt.nz.

3. Iwi Mapping Project

As expressed above, Rangitāne engage across all levels of Council operations on consenting issues. A particular resource heavy aspect of this is engagement with Council over various locations where wāhi tapu or sites of significance for Rangitāne be located. Rangitāne propose that Council provide support (both financially and operationally) to iwi to map our sites of significance on a platform suitable for our needs.

4. Resolving misappropriated spelling of Māori Street Names and Catchments

As part of the Long Term Plan process, Rangitāne submitted requesting that Council undertake work to resolve misappropriated spelling of Māori Street Names and Catchments. Some work has been done, and we thank Richard Coningham, his team, the Road Naming Committee and Council for their efforts in this work.

However, there remains outstanding work to be done to review catchment and catchments that use Te Reo Māori for their name. We continue to recommend that Council takes steps to address misspelling of Te Reo Māori words and phrases and propose that a resourced Working Group (comprising of Council, Marlborough Roads staff and iwi partners) be established to appoint suitably experienced Te Reo Māori practitioner(s) to support the correction process.

In addition to the above, we expect Council to make provision on the Street Naming Subcommittee for Rangitāne representation and for this representation to be resourced.

5. Kaihautū (Manager Māori Partnerships) Role

We support the provision of funding for the Kaihautū (Manager Māori Partnerships) role. This is a key leadership role, desperately needed within Council to support it in its iwi/Māori partnerships. We encourage you to ensure that this role remains strategically focussed.

6. Ngā Wairau o Ruatere

Rangitāne have long held aspirations to construct an architecturally significant Cultural Heritage Centre in the Blenheim CBD, which enables the safe return of all artefacts and taonga to Wairau, and provides opportunities for Rangitāne, Māori and the public to learn more about the birthplace of Aotearoa through interaction and engagement with the Wairau Bar and its taonga.

We have been working through initial assessment works for the project, and are now at a point where we need to move to formal, full scale feasibility works for the proposed Whare Taonga/Cultural Centre (including Project Establishment,

Information Gathering, Consultation, Site Assessment, Concept Development, Feasibility and Economic Analysis). To enable this to proceed, we are seeking a contribution from Council of \$100,000 towards the feasibility works.

Wairau Bar is arguably New Zealand's most important archaeological site, recognised as one of the earliest places of settlement. We see the feasibility study as an opportunity to unlock further funding, to help Rangitāne to achieve its vision and its objectives, and to deliver a world class centre that tells the story of the birthplace of our nation. From our perspective, the critical seed funding to progress feasibility will be an enabler to allowing us to proceed to next steps with this project. We have wide support from a range of prominent and influential New Zealanders and we have had promising conversations with Government Ministers and Agencies around the initiative.

We humbly ask for your support to help us in our pursuit of this kaupapa. We will present further, in person, when hearings are held.

7. Te Mana o Te Wai Funding

We support the provision of funding for Te Mana o Te Wai processes.

8. Horahora Kākahu Lookout – Port Underwood

On 17 June 1840 the Rangitāne rangatira Ihaia Kaikoura signed the Te Tiriti o Waitangi on Horahora Kākahu Island in the Port Underwood. Horahora Kākahu is visible from Port Underwood Road, and given the historical significance of Horahora Kākahu to local iwi, and indeed the wider community, we would welcome the opportunity to work with Council and other interested stakeholders on the development of a lookout and storyboards to tell the unique history of our region. Horahora Kākahu is now jointly vested in Rangitāne, Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Rārua. We encourage you to direct staff and/or the relevant subcommittee to pursue this project.

9. Council Staff Training and Cultural Capability

Throughout the course of our engagements with Council staff, at all levels of the organisation and in different teams, we encounter a range of different levels of understanding in terms of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the role of iwi as Council partners. We encourage you to make provision for further staff training in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and cultural capability.

We consider that there are a range of areas where Council is greatly let down by a lack of awareness and understanding in this space, despite good intentions. For us, this needs to be a key area of focus for Council and its officers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit. We would welcome to opportunity to discuss our submission further with Council.

Ngā mihi nui, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Corey Hebberd', written in a cursive style.

Corey Hebberd
General Manager