

6. PROPOSED CANTERBURY NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL PLAN (NRRP) CHAPTERS 1 AND 2

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The purpose of this report is to notify the Council that the Regional Council is seeking submissions on Chapters 1 and 2 of the NRRP, now with “proposed” status, and to recommend a City Council response.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 1: Overview of the Natural Resources Regional Plan covers definitions and administrative processes, while Chapter 2, Ngāi Tahu and the Management of Natural Resources provides the context within which the relationships of tāngata whenua to natural and physical resources in Canterbury is understood and reflected in resource management activity.

CHAPTER 1 NRRP: OVERVIEW

This chapter is devoted to definitions and administration matters. The schedule provides definitions covering all of the NRRP chapters and is thus of some significance. Suggested comment is attached.

CHAPTER 2 NRRP: NGAI TAHU AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

This chapter draws on the statutory provisions of Te Rūnanga O Ngāi Tahu Act, 1966, the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, 1998, and the Resource Management Act, 1991, to describe the administrative structures that exist within the Ngāi Tahu Whānui and the concepts, principles and values that underlie tāngata whenua relationships with air, land and water. The chapter also sets out natural resource issues of particular significance to tāngata whenua within the Canterbury Region, together with desired outcomes in relation to these issues.

Te Rūnanga O Ngāi Tahu Act, 1966 and Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, 1998

Chapter 2 elaborates on the provisions of these Acts as they impact on resource management within the Canterbury Region. The 1996 Act confers legal identity on Te Rūnanga O Ngāi Tahu representing the total collective of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. It defines the takiwa (area) of each of the 10 Papatipu Rūnanga within the Canterbury Region.

The chapter defines those areas within the region affected by the provisions of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, 1998, in particular:

- (a) **Statutory Acknowledgements** in which the Crown acknowledges the special relationship of Ngāi Tahu to a particular area. In practice, this requires that Ngāi Tahu must be informed of proposals affecting any of the areas and provided the opportunity to respond. It also requires consent authorities to have regard to statutory acknowledgements when making decisions on the identification of affected parties. In Canterbury the areas are: Mount Uwrerau; Moana Rua (Lake Peason); Wairewa (Lake Forsyth); Ōrakipaoa Wetland, Tūtae Putaputa (Conway River); Hoka Kura (Lake Sumner); Hurunui River; Waipara River; Kōwai River; Whakamatau (Lake Coleridge); Hakatere (Ashburton River); Rangitata River; Ō Tū Wharekai (Ashburton Lakes); Hekeao (Hinds River); Takapo (Lake Tekapo); Lake Pūkaki; Whakarukumoana (Lake McGregor); Lake Ōhau; Hakataramea River; Te ao Mārama (Lake Benmore); Mahi Tikumu (Lake Avemore); Waitaki River; Aoraki/Mount Cook; Kurai Tāwhiti.
- (b) **Tōpuni** - landscape features of special importance or value to Ngāi Tahu. Those named within the Canterbury region are: Aoraki/Mount Cook; Kura Tāwhiti (Castle Hill); Tapuae O Uenuku; and Ripapa Island, Lyttelton Harbour. This designation places an overlay of Ngāi Tahu values on specific pieces of land managed by the Department of Conservation.
- (c) **Nohoanga** - temporary campsite areas to facilitate customary fishing and gathering of other resources. Twenty-one such sites have been identified in the Canterbury Region, detailed in Appendix TGW5 of Chapter 2.
- (d) **Taonga Species Management** - recognises Ngāi Tahu association with certain bird, plant and marine species, the aim being to improve Ngāi Tahu involvement in the management of these species through increased consultative requirements with Ngāi Tahu. Some 130 species are identified as detailed in Appendix TGW6, Chapter 2. Chapter 2 also notes provisions of the Fisheries Act 1996 where mechanisms for greater Ngāi Tahu involvement on Customary Fisheries Management are included.

Resource Management Act 1991

Compilation of natural resource matters significant to Ngāi Tahu into a separate chapter reflects the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991, specifically, Part 2, Section 6, Matters of National Importance, Section (e):

“6 Matters of national importance

In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:

- (e) *The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.”*

Section 7 Other Matters

“7 Other matters

In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to:

- (a) *Kaitiakitanga:*

and Section 8 Treaty of Waitangi

“8 Treaty of Waitangi

In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

Concepts and Resources

Chapter 2 describes the concepts that underlie the tāngata whenua relationship to land and water, namely:

Mauri - the life-force in the physical world

Kaitiakitanga - more than guardianship, involves an active exercise of power in a manner beneficial to the resource

Rangatiratanga - is about continuing to have the mana or authority to exercise the relationship between Maori and their culture and traditions with the natural world.

Taonga - things highly-prized and important to Tāngata Whenua including both intangible treasures, eg Tikanga (Maori protocols and customs), te reo (Maori language) and tangible, e.g. natural and physical resources such as Mahinga kai, mountains, rivers and taonga species.

Mahinga Kai - reflects Ngāi Tahu interest in traditional food and other natural resources and the sites where these resources are gathered

Wāhi Tapu - is the term used for all sacred sites associated with tapu or areas held in reverence according to local tribal custom and history.

Issues and Outcomes

Chapter 2 lists the resource management issues identified by tāngata whenua as significant within the Canterbury area, together with desired outcomes. There are no “rules” in the chapter and the means of achieving these outcomes is largely through the objectives, policies and rules contained in subsequent chapters.

Christchurch City Council has been active in the preparation of, and response to, these subsequent chapters and it is through that process that many of the outcomes sought by Ngāi Tahu will be realised.

It is not recommended that the Council make any particular submission on Chapter 2.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council lodge a submission with Environment Canterbury covering the definitions schedule of Chapter 1: Overview, as attached to this report.
 2. That these submissions be combined with those being prepared for Chapter 3: Air Quality and be forwarded together.