



Office of Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU

08 MAY 2006

Level 1, Te Waipounamu House

158 Hereford Street

PO Box 13-046, Christchurch

Phone 03-366 4344

Fax 03-366 4267

5 May 2006

Chief Executive Officer
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
CHRISTCHURCH

Tēnā koe

SUBMISSION ON CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL LTCCP – OUR COMMUNITY PLAN 2006 - 2016

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga) makes this submission on behalf of the Ngāi Tahu tribal collective, in particular the Papatipu Rūnanga whose takiwā (tribal boundary) is within the Christchurch City boundary. Te Rūnanga both accepts and respects the rights of individual Papatipu Rūnanga to make their own submissions to the Draft LTCCP.

Lack of capacity within the Kaupapa Taiao unit has resulted in this being a broad submission on key points for Ngāi Tahu, rather than a thorough analysis of the Plan and how it will work to deliver for the well-being of Ngāi Tahu.

As you are no doubt aware, Ngāi Tahu has a very important role in managing the natural and physical resources within the Christchurch City area. In making this submission Te Rūnanga notes that planning submissions as a method of engagement, are not our preferred approach to management of these resources and development of our collective well-being, as it puts us into a reactive and potentially adversarial position. Our preference is to have processes which function earlier in the planning and decision-making processes to enable understandings, views and solutions to be explored.

With this in mind, the points made in this submission are varied and reflect the mixed levels of engagement that Ngāi Tahu have had with the City Council through its planning and decision-making processes. We acknowledge that a commitment to improve this has been indicated by the council in the Community Plan, and this is welcomed. However our impression of the Plan overall is that it reflects the lack of early engagement with Ngāi Tahu. For example, the only references to Ngāi Tahu as the tangata whenua in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula are made by way of historic or economic descriptions. The community outcomes are broad enough to include the Ngāi Tahu and Māori community, but give no indication of the living indigenous culture that forms a part of this community today.

We hope that the first step in formalising the relationship and processes between Ngāi Tahu and the Council, as described in the "Other Policies" section, will ensure that future

Community Plans are more reflective of the Ngāi Tahu culture that lives within this city and beyond.

These comments stem from our desire to see the City reflect the unique indigenous cultural heritage and values that Ngāi Tahu bring to Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. A City that values and celebrates cultural diversity would ideally begin with the acknowledgement and reflection of the foundations of the bicultural nature of New Zealand, rather relegating Ngāi Tahu to the position of just one of a range of ethnic minorities. A key element of cultural well-being for Ngāi Tahu is the recognition of our identity and belonging to this area of Te Waipounamu. To see this reflected in the Community Plan would be a good representation of strong and effective relationship between Ngāi Tahu and the City Council, and we look forward to future plans to see the changes that strong working relationship between our two organisations might bring.

Policy on Capacity & Participation

Issues surrounding the desire for, and ability of, Ngāi Tahu to participate in the management of natural and physical resources have been frequently raised with Christchurch City and other councils. We are therefore reassured to read the commitment to engagement set-out in the "Other Policies" section of the Community Plan. Particularly given the lack of depth in regard to the aspirations and well-being of Ngāi Tahu in the preceding sections of the Community Plan.

The description set-out on page 289 adequately reflects our understanding of how this matter would be progressed in 2006/07, and we consider that the mutual commitments of the Council, Te Rūnanga and nga Rūnanga will ensure that the stated "arrangements will emerge".

We do however draw attention to the need to maintain the momentum to progress this and the short term focus of this of the budgetary commitment, i.e., only stated for the 2006/07 year. Te Rūnanga considers it necessary to take a longer term view of the relationship and to provide an indication of a budgetary commitment over a longer period of time. We consider a minimum of 5 years will ensure that processes established in the 2006/07 financial year have sufficient time to establish, operate and be evaluated to determine delivery of benefit to the Council and Ngāi Tahu.

We cannot recommend a specific budgetary figure but any allocation needs to match Council demand for information and advice with capacity to respond and provide such information on a case by case basis.

Policy on Significant Decisions

Te Rūnanga is pleased to see a specific policy directed at significant decisions in relation to land and water important to Māori. We note the need for distinction to be made here between Ngāi Tahu and Māori from other places, as the relationship with land and water in this area is with Ngāi Tahu. We also applaud the intention to take precautionary approach and have a defined procedure for identifying whether Māori will be affected. However Te Rūnanga is concerned at the use of the Māori Liaison Subcommittee as the primary and only mechanism for that advice on the impacts on tangata whenua interests to be obtained. Te Rūnanga previously queried City Council on the Māori Liaison Committee, reflecting our lack of involvement and connection to that subcommittee. This indicates to us that value for bringing information to significant decisions is potentially limited in benefit from a tangata whenua perspective.

Te Rūnanga therefore considers the policy should contain specific wording describing the circumstances for when the advice will be sought, and then have more generalised wording on how and where that advice is obtained. Incorporating general statements about how the advice will be obtained, enables mechanisms other than the Māori Liaison Subcommittee to provide this advice and will align well with the development of capacity and participation processes being developed under the other policy discussed above.

Tangata Whenua Outcomes

While establishing appropriate processes and support for capacity and participation in local government planning and decision-making, there is a broader purpose for this participation. Ultimately Te Rūnanga is setting out to achieve outcomes for the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of Ngāi Tahu Whānui - outcomes that we consider will benefit Ngāi Tahu and the wider community. Through this submission we therefore wish to ensure that the purpose for our engagement with Christchurch City Council is not forgotten whilst the focus is on building relationships and efficient and effective processes for capacity and participation.

Ultimately we envisage the engagement processes will enable identification of mutually beneficial objectives and the development of key projects, including jointly managed projects, which see improvements in availability, accessibility and/or quality of the environment and services available to Ngāi Tahu. A specific commitment from Council to assist in the development of a Ki Uta Ki Tai (Iwi Management) Plan would greatly assist the capacity of tangata whenua and build the knowledge and understanding of Council on the values, issues and policies tangata whenua have for the management of natural resources and other taonga. A contribution of \$20,000 would match the contributions of Ngāi Tahu to produce such a plan for the district of Christchurch City.

We have presented below some specific objectives and goals that have been taken from the tribal development document called "Ngāi Tahu 2025". We have provided these in prior submissions to the Christchurch City Council planning processes, and reiterate them here to draw the attention of the Council to our aspirations for the four areas of well-being: environmental, social, cultural and economic. We suggest that these aspirations should be appropriately integrated into the community outcomes and council commitments, goals and objectives.

Te Ao Turoa – Natural Environment

1. All wāhi tapu, mahinga kai and other taonga tuku iho are adequately and appropriately protected according to Ngāi Tahu interests.
2. Ngāi Tahu is actively managing a number of sites, resources and areas either in joint partnership with another agency (such as the Council) or as the sole manager. Iwi members are employed in the management of these sites, resources and areas.
3. All waterways are enhanced and restored meeting cultural standards, being void of weeds, having indigenous riparian corridors with water quality and quantity sufficient to support healthy populations of species of cultural significance.
4. Ngāi Tahu fully participates in decision-making processes of resource management agencies.

To Tatou Ngāi Tahu Tanga – Culture and Identity

5. The cultural integrity of our leaders (Ngāi Tahu) is respected, and the expertise to nurture arts, heritage and cultural practises can be found among our own people.
6. Opportunities are created for the celebration of Ngāi Tahu Tanga.
7. The integrity of our culture and all new manifestations of it are apparent to all.
8. Systems are in place to ensure the ongoing protection of taonga and access to these by Ngāi Tahu Whānui.
9. Ngāi Tahu Whānui enjoy all aspects of our culture and a large number are contributing to it.

Te Whaariki - Influence

10. Ngāi Tahu is consulted in the development of all government social, environmental and other policy impacting on Ngāi Tahu Whānui.
11. Ngāi Tahu festivals are part of the national calendar of events.
12. The treaty partnership is specifically provided for in all legislation and implementation.
13. Ngāi Tahu is acknowledged as a significant contributor to the welfare of Te Wai Pounamu.

Whanau – Social Development

14. Barriers that prevent Ngāi Tahu Whānui achieving their full health potential have been significantly removed.
15. Whanau well-being has improved significantly as Whānui are empowered to take charge of their lives – government policies and programmes successfully assist whanau towards these goals.
16. Investments in the education and development of Ngāi Tahu Whānui result in a wealth of opportunities for tribal development and the development of new leaders.

Matauranga - Education

17. Ngāi Tahu is a participant in all innovation/research centres established within its takiwā.
18. There is full participation by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in the international community.

Te Putea – Investment Planning

19. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is recognised as an organisation of excellence and its commercial operations match the best in New Zealand. It is a dominant force in Te Wai Pounamu.

Relationships

It is apparent to Ngāi Tahu that achievement of these objectives will involve engagement and partnership with a range of governmental and non-governmental agencies. Christchurch City Council is a key agency in this, and because the Local Government Act charges the City with a broad role in promoting community well-being, Ngāi Tahu see opportunities for Ngāi Tahu goals to be identified and developed through the City objectives and goals. Ngāi Tahu consider the benefits deriving from such opportunities would also apply to the wider community, including leading key environmental restoration projects

such as the existing project kaupapa kereru on Banks Peninsula or through direct investment via Ngāi Tahu Property.

While the Community Plan includes the primary policy on capacity and participation, the lack of connection between this policy with objectives and goals in the outcomes and strategic directions sections is indicative of the limited engagement with Ngāi Tahu. Through recognising the key points of this submission, particularly capacity building, it would be our aspiration that the next review of the LTCCP will enable Ngāi Tahu to produce, in conjunction with Council, more tangible outcomes that are less process focused.

Ngāi Tahu wish to be heard in support of this submission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D O'Connell', written in a cursive style.

David O'Connell
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS MANAGER