

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND NGA MATAKOKIRI MAORI - HUI

Officer responsible	Author Councillor Sue Wells
Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability	

The purpose of this report is to provide information on two hui attended by Councillor Wells, Nga Matakokiri Maori representative for Zone 5.

I attended two hui in Auckland on 14 and 15 September as the Zone 5 representative for Nga Matakokiri Maori. Nga Matakokiri Maori (NMM) is Local Government New Zealand's Maori Advisory Committee. Councillors will recall that members of NMM were elected at a meeting of Maori elected members at a hui in Rotorua earlier this year, which I attended on behalf of the Christchurch City Council.

The hui on Thursday was for NMM members. We met from 3pm till 8.30pm to address the kaupapa (Terms of Reference) of NMM. It is particularly important at a time when there are reviews of legislation of key importance to Local Government to ensure that the kaupapa is clear.

Friday's hui was extended to Maori elected members from throughout New Zealand. They considered the outcomes of the hui on Thursday, and by consensus we confirmed the kaupapa of NMM which will now be taken back to the National Council for their consideration.

We were also briefed on local government reform, and discussed issues which arose out of that.

Local Government New Zealand will be asked to circulate one of the presentations, "Two Houses" offered by Atareta Poananga as a discussion document to all councils.

NMM and the hui for Maori elected members are proving very useful. Turnout has been strong, and members are finding the opportunity to meet offers both support and the chance to share ideas. For example, there was discussion about how various councils liaise with Iwi/Maori. Some have Iwi/Maori standing committees, some (CCC being one) have Iwi/Maori liaison committees. Having the chance to discuss the pros and cons of the various models is extremely useful.

NMM does not have the chance to meet often because of travel cost. We make use of telephone conferences in between hui, and with the help of LGNZ are working on forming an e-group that will be of use to all but one of the committee.

One theme that arose at the conference included low Maori participation in local government both as electors and representatives, why this is so and ideas for some ways in which this could be improved.

I am happy to discuss in greater detail the kaupapa or the hui with any Councillors or staff who are interested to know more.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.