

Resource Management Committee Annual General Meeting 2023 Report

Tena Koutou Katoa

For the first time in several years, the Runanganui Resource Management Committee is submitting a report for the Annual General Meeting. In part this is because there has been a significant amount of activity across the areas the Committee looks after. This report covers several key areas of activity.

Consultation Framework

Over the past several months, the Committee has been developing a consultation framework geared at helping process the requests received from agencies regarding biodiversity protection and areas of academic study.

The framework comprises four parts:

Principle	Active Considerations
Overarching Kaitiaki Principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support activities that encourage, protect and re-establish the native flora and fauna endemic to our traditional rohe, seeking a healthy, robust and diverse natural environment in balance with Papatuanuku (Papatahuroa), Ranginui (Rangiawatea) and the offspring of nga atua o te Ao Maori. Ngati Hikairo does not cede any of its kaitiaki responsibilities for the taonga in our rohe
Principle of Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We seek to support access that has a low to negligible impact on populations, diversity and environments We seek to be consulted where there is an application to access flora and fauna that are of particular interest to Ngati Hikairo (traditional areas of food gathering, traditional food items, areas of cultural significance and features or taonga of particular note and significance) When reintroducing species to our rohe, we look for populations that have a historical connection to our rohe first, but understand that to ensure genetic diversity and a sustainable population that this may not always be possible We do not support the introduction of non-native species into our rohe When collecting samples they must adhere strictly to the premise that any harvesting will not affect the viability or sustainability of the remaining populations Where possible we return the samples back to where they were collected Ngati Hikairo understands that samples will often need to be included on national databases, however if DNA or samples are to leave Aotearoa we wish to be consulted with before they leave The application of herbicides, pesticides and biological control agents must always be a measure of last resort

Commented [PB1]: Check the Mangakaware CIA Frank call them something else

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Principle of Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valuing traditional knowledge and practices are prominent and primary in evaluation and monitoring of any requests, applications or resource consents Where appropriate we support scientific endeavour, particularly where there is a focus on understanding native flora, fauna, biomes and environments
Principle of Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We wish to be consulted before any commercial activity is agreed or undertaken that will impact on the natural environment within our rohe and the species that are reliant on that environment for sustenance and survival Real and principles based consultation is a fundamental partnership requirement

The Framework is a recent development and will continue to be refined as new applications are received and the Runanganui strengthens its relationship with Government Agencies and reminds them of their responsibility to consult with tangata whenua.

As of the date of publishing this report, the framework has been applied to seven applications from the Department of Conservation (6) and the Waikato Regional Council (1).

Cultural Impact Assessments

A cultural impact assessment (CIA) is a report usually commissioned to identify iwi/hapū cultural values and interests associated with an area or a resource. A CIA identifies the potential impacts of any proposed activity on Māori cultural values in the affected area. CIA's are considered tools used to facilitate meaningful and effective participation of Māori in local government resource management.

Two territorial authorities and one central agency have made formal applications for the Runanganui to provide a cultural impact assessment regarding a piece of work activity they wish to undertake.

Territorial Authority/Agency	CIA Request	Status
Waipa District Council	Lake Mangakaware CIA	Completed
Otorohanga District Council	Water Mains Replacement Project CIA Stormwater Discharge Consent CIA	Completed Proposal Submitted
Waka Kotahi	Puti Culvert Repair and Upgrade	Proposal Submitted

There has been a successful process established to be able to respond to requests for CIAs utilising the skills of key tribal members. However, the increasing number of requests from authorities and agencies will require further planning to ensure the Runanganui is well placed to continue to provide quality and timely responses.

Advisory Committee Memberships

One of the vehicles for ensuring that our voice is heard in the decision making processes for the territorial authorities is to make sure we have a presence on their Advisory Committees

and Boards that they operate. Currently the Runanganui is a member of the following committee and boards:

- *Kawhia Aotea Concept Plan Mana Whenua Representation (Otorohanga District Council)*
- *Nga Tira Matauranga Technical Working Group (Waikato Regional Council)*
- *He Hononga ki Nga Iwi (Otorohanga District Council)*

We are grateful for the support we have been able to draw on from our whanau with deep skills in the areas that these bodies cover. Our thanks to our iwi whanau who help ensure that we are able to have a voice in the management and care of our rohe.

Future Activity

In the next 12 months we wish to undertake two pieces of key strategic work, dependant on being able to secure funding and key iwi resources. Those pieces of work are:

- Update of the Ngati Hikairo Fresh Water Management Plan
- Update of Te Tahuanui: Ngāti Hikairo Heritage Management Plan

Both of these plans are critical and in use by the territorial authorities. They are 15 and 12 years old respectively and require a refresh to take into account developments that have occurred over that period.

Whakamutunga

Like much of the work we do, it would be impossible to complete without the ongoing support of members of the Runanganui and key whanau from the iwi. Our Kaumatua, Kuia and Rangatira are integral parts of our ability to continue to assert our Rangatiratanga as tangata whenua. I and the rest of the Resource Management Committee can only be a success with their ongoing support.

Arohanui

Pipi Barton