



MAORI POLICY

1. Goal

To formulate, develop and implement policies and programmes in partnership with Maori of the District which are in accord with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, which reflect the underlying intentions and principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the statutory obligations to Maori under the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991.

2. Strategies and Policies

The South Wairarapa District is rich in Maori history and culture. Some of the earliest known occupational sites exist within its boundaries and for centuries the natural environment has provided both material and spiritual sustenance. Its place in the Maori political history of New Zealand is a matter of national record.

Lake Wairarapa and the South Wairarapa coastline are of immense cultural, spiritual and historic significance to Maori.

The Local Government Act 2002 signals that the social, cultural and economic development of Maori is of particular importance.

The Resource Management Act 1991 places an obligation on the Council to consult with Maori during the planning process. This obligation is in turn derived from the underlying principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, which in this context, refers to:-

- **Partnership** - the development of an active and on-going relationship between the Council and local Iwi.
- **Participation** - a principle which emphasises positive Maori involvement in the business of the Council, and in particular its planning and delivery functions.
- **Protection** - the requirement to ensure that Maori well-being is enhanced whenever possible, and that principles of equity towards Maori are observed in the Council's decision making process.

The Council is committed to engage in active consultation with Maori and to foster positive relationships in pursuance of the partnership envisaged under the Treaty of Waitangi, on matters that affect and concern Maori.

3. Nature and Scope of Activity

The Council has established a Maori Standing Committee comprising

- 2 Representatives from Kohunui Marae
- 2 representatives from Hau Ariki Marae
- 2 Representatives from Papawai Marae
- 1 Representative from Kahungunu o Wairarapa
- 1 Representative from Rangitaane o Wairarapa
- 2 Councillors

Its role is to:-

- a) Advise on tangata whenua and Maori interests in the Council's major areas of activity, and particularly in the areas of:-
 - Economic Development
 - Resource Management
 - Tourism
 - Reserve Management
 - Environmental Health
 - Employment
 - Community Development
- b) Establish a method of consultation, which involves tangata whenua and iwi, on all matters relating to the District's resources, and involving the District's planning processes.
- c) Advise on consultation processes with Maori in the District and assist in the development of consultation networks throughout the District.
- d) Promote the development of processes within Council, which develop policy, processes and guidelines, based on the Treaty of Waitangi principles of participation, partnership and active protection.

Note:

It is envisaged Treaty Settlement with the crown may be reached with Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and will be reached with Rangitaane during this long-term plan period with an Agreement in Principle being signed between the parties in 2014. This will require input and consideration on how SWDC works during and after the transition including a review of the Maori Standing Committee.