

Iwi/Hapū (Environmental) Management Plans Policy

Adopted: February 2016

Background

Iwi/Hāpu (Environmental) Management Plans (I/HEMP) are resource management plans prepared by an iwi, iwi authority, rūnanga, or hāpu. These plans are an expression of tribal authority (rangatiratanga) to assist with the exercise of stewardship (kaitiaki) roles and responsibilities.

The content of these plans will depend on the priorities and preferences of the iwi/hāpu preparing the plan and will often be holistic documents covering more than resource management issues under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). For example they may cover economic, social, political and cultural issues, or wellbeing, as well as and resource management issues. They are also an opportunity for whanau, marae, hāpu, iwi or rūnanga to clearly state how they intend to participate in the resource management process as presented within the RMA.

I/HEMPs can inform the preparation or change of regional policy statements and regional and district plans and the preparation and assessment of resource consents. They can also provide useful information and insight for Council when carrying out other statutory functions under various statutes, such as the Local Government Act 2002 in providing opportunities for Māori to participate in decision making processes, such as the preparation of Long Term Plans.

Legislative Context

This policy recognises Council's duty under Section 74 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to take into account any relevant planning documents prepared by iwi or hāpu and lodged with Council.

Objective

1. To integrate and consider the views and values of iwi/hāpu regarding the use of natural and physical resources in Council's strategies, plans, and work programs
2. To provide guidance for Iwi and Hāpu in the Far North District in the preparation of planning documents.
3. To guide Council staff when taking into account I/HEMPs.

Policies

1. Council will encourage and support Iwi / Hāpu to develop management plans.
2. Council will make available an internal register of Iwi / Hāpu management plans.
3. Council will take into account I/HEMPs when reviewing or changing the District Plan policy, in the preparation and assessment of resource consents, and when developing other Council policy, strategy, and work programs.
4. Council will ensure staff and elected members understand the views and values of iwi/hāpu and how they should be taken into account as part Council's strategies, plans, and work programmes.