

# Toituu Marae FAQs

## **What is Toituu Marae, and how does it help marae turn priorities into action with Council?**

Toituu Marae is a district-wide forum where marae and Council can talk about shared priorities and work out how to move them forward. Marae can use the forum to raise issues, help shape Council plans and decisions, and connect with the Council teams, programmes, policies or outside organisations that may be able to help. The draft 2026–2028 work programme turns these priorities into practical next steps.

## **How will priorities raised by marae be tracked, progressed and reported back?**

Priorities will be added to the Toituu Marae work programme. As the programme develops, it will show who is responsible and which Council team or partner can help. We will share progress at future Forum hui, through Toituu Paanui and on the planned Toituu Marae webpage, so marae can see what is happening with the priorities they have raised.

## **Who should marae contact when they have a project, issue or idea that needs Council support?**

Marae can raise a project, issue or idea through Toituu Marae or contact Alicia Sunnex in the Manu Taaiko team. Alicia can help find the right Council team, programme or outside organisation to talk to. Marae should not have to work out who to contact within Council on their own.

## **Will every priority be delivered by Council?**

No. Council will not lead every marae priority. Depending on the kaupapa, Council might provide funding or technical advice, manage a regulatory process, bring people together, speak up in support, or connect the marae with another organisation. What matters is being clear about who will do what and keeping the marae updated on what happens next.

## **How will Toituu Marae members and other marae across the district be supported equitably?**

Toituu Marae is a forum for shared decision-making and discussion. However, programmes that are open to marae across the district should also be available to eligible marae that do not take part in the forum. For example, current Marae Resilience information says that all marae in the Waikato District can access the funding programme. Council and Waikato-Tainui are still working out the best way for marae outside Toituu Marae to access this support, so taking part in the forum does not become a condition of access.

## **Te Matatini 2027**

### **What support is available to marae preparing for Te Matatini 2027?**

Council is working with Waikato-Tainui and other partners to help marae prepare for Te Matatini 2027. This includes support with marae readiness, resilience, transport and road management, waste, consents, infrastructure and emergency planning. The Ngaati Aamaru Katoa Trust Marae Capability and Readiness Programme also helps with readiness, governance and infrastructure planning. Marae Resilience funding may help with a project if it improves emergency preparedness and provides a lasting resilience benefit.

### **What is Council's role and what sits with Waikato-Tainui and other partners?**

Waikato-Tainui is leading the relationship with iwi hosts and the wider coordination of Te Matatini, alongside Te Matatini Society. Council will help with the areas it is responsible for or can influence, including infrastructure, regulatory matters, transport, waste, resilience, community readiness and coordination. The different programmes are designed to work together without asking marae the same questions or funding the same work twice.

### **How can marae connect into the different Te Matatini workstreams?**

Marae should not have to find their own way through each Te Matatini workstream. Existing contacts at Toituu Marae, Manu Taaiko, Waikato-Tainui and the relevant Council teams can help. When a marae identifies a need, we will help find the right lead, explain the next step and make the connection.

### **Will Te Matatini support leave a benefit after the event?**

Yes—that is the aim. Wherever possible, preparation for Te Matatini should leave lasting benefits, such as stronger emergency capability, better infrastructure and governance, more prepared communities, and stronger relationships. Te Matatini is an opportunity to create benefits for marae and communities that continue after the event.

## **Marae Resilience**

### **Who can access the Marae Resilience Fund?**

All marae in the Waikato District can apply under the current programme information. The funding is for priorities chosen by marae that help them and their communities prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

### **How much funding is available and what can it be used for?**

Each marae may be able to receive up to \$13,000. The amount depends on the programme criteria, whether the proposed work is approved, how much funding is available and how funding is shared fairly. Funding can be used for emergency planning, training, communications, water security, emergency equipment, backup power, welfare capability, recovery planning and other work that helps a marae prepare for, respond to or recover from an emergency. It cannot be used for general running costs, wages or salaries, routine maintenance, unrelated activities, or work that was completed before funding was approved.

### **What is the process for accessing the funding?**

First, the marae completes a Registration of Interest and explains the resilience project it wants to carry out. If the project is approved, the marae signs a funding agreement and provides the administrative details Council needs to release the funding. The marae can then complete the work and share progress updates along the way. Current programme information asks for a short progress report in January 2027 and a final report in September 2027.

### **Can the funding support Te Matatini readiness?**

Yes, if the project also has a clear resilience benefit. Marae are encouraged to consider projects that help them prepare for Te Matatini and provide lasting benefits for whaanau and communities.

### **Do marae have to give Council their emergency or resilience plans?**

No. Waikato-Tainui and Council have confirmed that each marae owns and controls its resilience or emergency plan. Marae can use an available template or create their own plan, and they do not have to share it with Council. A marae may choose to share information if it wants advice or if the information would help people work together during an emergency. Council does not need to own or keep the plan for a marae to do its own preparedness planning. Funding information should clearly separate the details needed to manage the funding agreement from resilience information that marae can choose whether to share.

### **Why does Council need information from marae as part of an application?**

Council needs some information to check that a marae is eligible, set it up in Council's payment and record systems, confirm who can sign on its behalf, prepare the funding agreement and meet accountability requirements. Council and Waikato-Tainui agree that every request for information should have a clear reason. Managing the funding should not require marae to hand over governance or resilience information that is not needed.

### **How will privacy, data sovereignty and marae control of information be protected?**

The detailed privacy process must be clear before this information is published. Marae information may be held by several organisations and in different systems. Any shared approach must have the right permissions, protect privacy and uphold kaitiakitanga of marae information. Before asking marae for information, we need to explain what we are collecting, why we need it, where it will be stored, who will be able to see it and whether it could be used for anything else.

### **What if our marae is not ready to identify a project yet?**

That is okay. Marae can apply at any time during the programme period, so there is time to work out which project best fits their priorities. Council staff can talk through ideas and help marae consider their options. Under the current programme information, approved projects need to be finished by August 2027.

### **What reporting will be required?**

Reporting should be practical and focus on what the project achieved, rather than creating unnecessary paperwork. Current requirements are progress updates through Toituu Marae where this applies, a short progress report in January 2027 and a final report in September 2027. Where possible, the same information should be used for more than one reporting requirement so marae do not have to report the same thing twice.

## **LTP and longer-term investment**

### **How can marae priorities feed into the LTP?**

Toituu Marae gives marae a shared way to bring their priorities into Council's planning and services. The upcoming LTP process is the first chance to deliberately use the forum's collective voice and relationships in this way. Priorities raised so far include marae infrastructure, road safety, water and flood management, resilience, whenua, Te Taiao and stronger relationships with Council.

### **Does raising a priority through Toituu Marae mean it will automatically receive LTP funding?**

No. Raising a priority through Toituu Marae means Council can understand it, consider it and connect it with the right planning or funding process. It does not guarantee funding. Some priorities may fit within existing Council programmes, some may need to be considered through a future LTP, and others may be better supported by iwi, government, funders or other partners.

### **What happens when a marae priority cannot be funded immediately?**

If a priority cannot be funded straight away, it should stay in the Toituu Marae work programme and progress updates so it is not lost after one conversation. This keeps the door open to include it in future Council planning or connect it with outside funding, investment from partners or another suitable way forward when an opportunity comes up.

### **What is the overall support pathway?**

The support pathway should be simple: **a marae raises a need or opportunity → we listen and make sure we understand what the marae wants to achieve → we find the right kaupapa, Council contact or partner → we check what funding and support**

**may be available → we agree on who will do what and what happens next → we provide practical help → we track progress and report back to the marae and, where appropriate, Toituu Marae.**

Before this information is published, we still need to confirm how marae information and privacy will be protected, how marae outside Toituu Marae can access resilience funding, and who is responsible for some Te Matatini workstreams. Sharing these draft answers with marae and our partners will help us check that the information is clear, accurate and useful.