

# POLICY ON MAAORI PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

## Introduction

The Local Government Act (LGA) 2002, Section 81 (1), requires councils to:

- a. establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Maaori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and
- b. consider ways in which it may foster the development of Maaori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and
- c. provide relevant information to Maaori for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).

Section 82 (2) of the LGA further requires that a local authority ensures that it has processes in place for consulting with Maaori.

Council has obligations under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement 2009 and the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012 to enhanced and meaningful working relationships with Waikato-Tainui and the Maniapoto Maaori Trust Board to ensure the enhancement of the health and well-being of these tuupuna awa.

## Policy

In order to meet its statutory obligations and in recognition of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Waikato District Council will strive to ensure the following in its decision-making activities:

1. Recognise the cultural significance of the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers and their tributaries by ensuring meaningful engagement in decision-making and the co-management of these awa.
2. Maintain and enhance the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of Maaori by ensuring that the values and aspirations of iwi, hapuu and Marae are understood and taken into account.
3. Work actively with iwi / Maaori to develop arrangements and protocols that will ensure that they are included in Council decision-making.
4. Work actively with iwi / Maaori to foster the development of capacity to participate in Council decision-making.