



**I, Steven May, Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive Officer, hereby give notice that
a Māori Standing Committee Meeting will be held on:**

Date: Thursday, 13 December 2018
Time: 12.30pm
**Location: Council Chamber, Wairoa District Council,
Coronation Square, Wairoa**

AGENDA

Māori Standing Committee Meeting

13 December 2018

The agenda and associated papers are also available on our website: www.wairoadc.govt.nz

For further information please contact us 06 838 7309 or by email info@wairoadc.govt.nz

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- 1 KARAKIA**
- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
- 4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**
- 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A maximum of 30 minutes has been set aside for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda. Up to 5 minutes per person is allowed. As per Standing Order 14.14 requests to speak must be made to the meeting secretary at least one clear day before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Ordinary Meeting - 8 November 2018

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL
MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE TUAHURU MARAE, MAHIA EAST COAST ROAD, MAHIA
ON THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 12.30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Charles (Charlie) Lambert, Mr Kiwa Hammond, Mrs Here Nissen, Mr Paul Kelly, Ms Sharon Cooper, Ms Theresa Thornton, Ms Whaiora Maindonald

IN ATTENDANCE: C Knight (Governance Advisor & Policy Strategist), G Waikawa (Governance Administrator)

1 KARAKIA

Karakia was given by Councillor C Lambert.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2018/67

Moved: Mrs Here Nissen

Seconded: Ms Theresa Thornton

That the apologies received from Cr J Harker, His Worship the Mayor, H Mita, S May and K Tipuna be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following issues were presented from the public:

- No spraying of drains.
- Mowing grass verges.
- Conditions on Papakainga
- Event signs

- Skateboard park
- Mahia Beach Wastewater scheme
- Usage of engine brakes for heavy laden trucks

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2018/68

Moved: Ms Sharon Cooper

Seconded: Mr Paul Kelly

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 October 2018 be confirmed.

CARRIED

8 GENERAL ITEMS

8.1 MAORI RELATIONSHIPS MANAGER REPORT - NOVEMBER 2018

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2018/69

Moved: Ms Sharon Cooper

Seconded: Mrs Here Nissen

That the Māori Standing Committee discuss and resolve to receive the draft Mahi Tahi Agreement between Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori and the Wairoa District Council.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2018/70

Moved: Ms Sharon Cooper

Seconded: Mrs Here Nissen

That the Maori Standing Committee receives the Maori Relationship's Manager report.

CARRIED

Mr Kiwa Hamond presented his Chair's report

Takiwa reports were from:

- Mrs F Wairau (attached to the agenda)
- Mr H Mita (attached to the agenda)
- Theresa Thornton (verbal)
- Mrs H Nissen (verbal)
- Mr Paul Kelly (verbal)
- Ms Sharon Cooper (verbal)

- Mrs Whaiora Maindonald (verbal)

Closing karakia given by Councillor C Lambert

The Meeting closed at 3.10pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Māori Standing Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2018.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

8 GENERAL ITEMS

8.1 MAORI RELATIONSHIPS MANAGER REPORT - DECEMBER 2018

Author: Duane Culshaw, Pouahurea Māori Māori Relationships Manager

Authoriser: Steven May, Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive Officer

Appendices:

1. WDC - Mowing Specifications [↓](#)
2. Productivity Commission Terms of Reference [↓](#)
3. MSC - Chairpersons Report [↓](#)
4. MSC - Rakaipaaka Takiwa Report [↓](#)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides information for the Māori Standing Committee on Council and community activities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Māori Relationships Manager RECOMMENDS that the Māori Standing Committee receives the report.

2. UPDATES (INFORMATIONAL)

- 2.1 This is an update from the previous minutes (November) of the Māori Standing Committee.
- 2.2 **Client Service Request** – a kindly reminder for Māori Standing Committee members to refer any repair requests or complaints to the Client Service Request form (accessible via the Council website – Request It – Fix-it or Report it). This will ensure a prompt response to any matter.
- 2.3 **Remission of Rates for Land Used for Papa Kāinga Housing** – the draft policy was to be presented to the ordinary Council meeting (27 November), however, it has now been deferred to February 2019.
- 2.4 **Public Participation Requests** – several requests were put forward at the previous hui. We will endeavour to answer most of the queries. Spraying – the Council has a 'No Spray' register. Anyone who wishes to register an area that should not be sprayed can contact Mike Hardie (michaelh@wairoadc.govt.nz) to register their interest. Mowing – we have attached the mowing specification guidelines. Speed By-law Review / Event Signs – there was a request to get event signage including 'tangihanga' for each marae. We have been informed that signage will be erected on request for the duration of any event. The Council is currently undertaking a by-law review of speeding in the district. Once details are available, we will present these to the MSC. Whangawehi Toilet Stormwater Pipe – there was a concern about a pipe that was coming from the toilets at Whangawehi. We can confirm that this pipe is a stormwater pipe that was consented by Hawke's Bay Regional Council. The toilets are self-composting and the stormwater pipe enables drainage from the surrounding area to ensure there is no ponding/flooding when it rains.
- 2.5 **"Culturally Neutral"** – it was raised that the term 'culturally neutral' was being utilised in Council reports. We can now confirm that this term will no longer be utilised.

3. WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL RE-ORGANISATION REVIEW (INFORMATIONAL)

- 3.1 The Wairoa District Council recently underwent a re-organisation review, which came into effect on Monday, 3 December 2018.
- 3.2 The focus of the review was on council efficiency in service provision to rate payers. The final re-organisation resulted in three positions being disestablished, namely the Chief Operating Office, the District Planner and the Engineering Manager. The review also included the Senior Leadership Team reducing from five to four. A new position (Group Manager Community Assets and Services) has been created replacing the Engineering Manager role. This role has been advertised and closes on Monday, 10 December 2018.

4. PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REPORT (INFORMATIONAL / DECISIONAL)

- 4.1 At the November 2018 MSC hui the Policy and Governance Team Leader discussed the Productivity Commission report, we have attached the Terms of Reference for your information. She also sent an email with further details as well as the link - <https://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiry-content/3819?stage=2>.
- 4.2 As discussed at the previous hui, the New Zealand Productivity Commission published an issues paper briefly describing local government in New Zealand and how funding and financing currently works and they now seek submissions on options for the future funding and financing tools. Submissions close on 15 February 2019.
- 4.3 It is recommend that the Māori Standing Committee discuss and resolve what course of action the Committee would like to take.

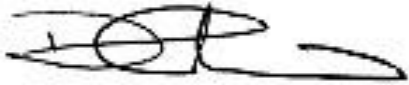

5. SUMMARY

- 5.1 On behalf of the Wairoa District Council we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Māori Standing Committee and your continued commitment to representing your respective takiwā.
- 5.2 We would also hope that everyone has a safe festive season and that we look out for each other of this holiday period.
- 5.3 The Wairoa District Council will be closed from 12.00 pm on 21 December 2018 and re-opens on Monday, 7 January 2019.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Māori Relationships Manager RECOMMENDS that the Māori Standing Committee receives the report.

Signatories

	
Author Duane Culshaw	Approved by Steven May

VEGETATION Classification

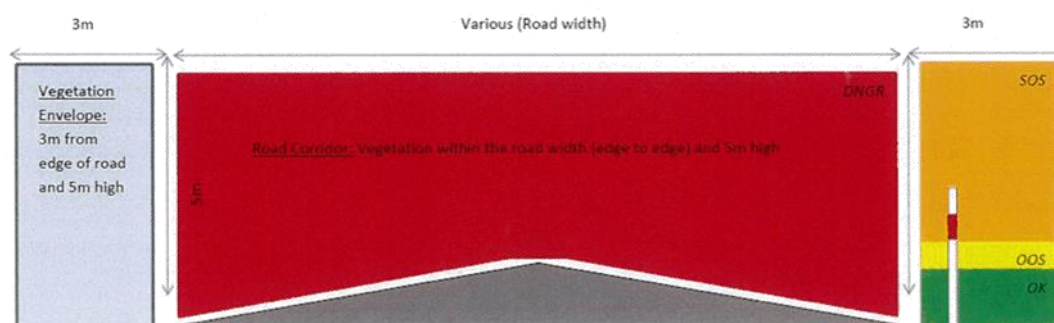


Figure 1: Road corridor classification

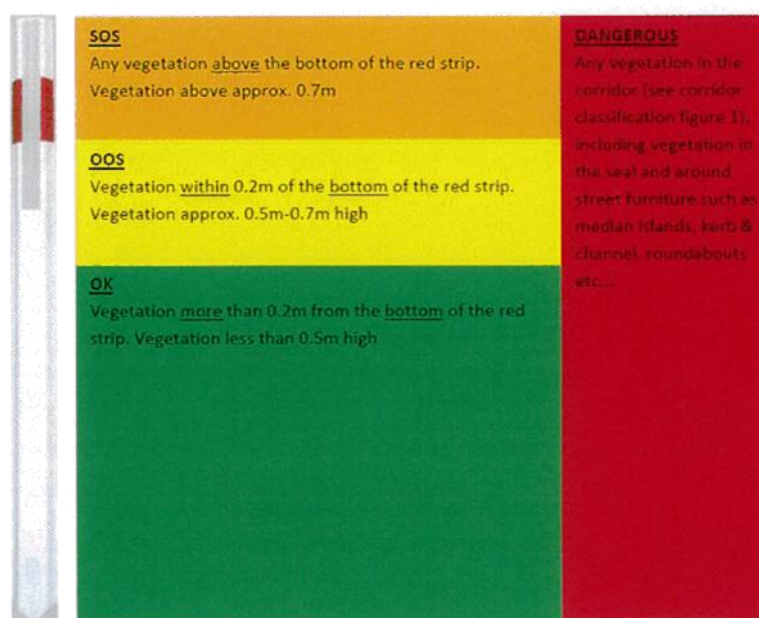


Figure 2: Specification for scoring

Footnote: The 5m high envelope is to encourage the contractor to complete a high cut in areas where small over hanging branches can be mowed/cut prior to becoming larger limbs that require specialist removal. Minimum 4m shall be achieved.

g:_road maintenance management_progm implemntn_management\13_02_network maintenance\ntcs\ntc059_network scoring photos for ntc_2016_05_17.docx

VEGETATION Unsealed Road Surface Scoring

PHOTOS 1 to 2: OUT OF SPEC (OOS) – vegetation between 0.5m and 0.7m high (score = 1)



PHOTOS 1 to 2: SERIOUSLY OUT OF SPEC (SOS) – vegetation > 0.7m high but not affecting road visibility (score = 5)

g:_road maintenance management_progm implemntn_management\13_02_network maintenance\ntcs\ntc059_network scoring photos for ntc_2016_05_17.docx

VEGETATION Unsealed Road Surface Scoring

PHOTOS 1 to 5: DANGEROUS (DGR) – vegetation restricting visibility and affecting driver behaviour (score =10)

***(NB: Dangerous applied to any vege growing in the seal. Not as representing a physical danger to public, is reflecting the physical damage this invasive growth can have on the integrity and waterproofing of the seal)**

g:_road maintenance management_progm implemntn_management\13_02_network maintenance\ntcs\ntc059_network scoring photos for ntc_2016_05_17.docx

Hon Grant Robertson

MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



16 JUL 2018

Mr Murray Sherwin
Chair
Productivity Commission
PO Box 8036
The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6143

Dear Murray

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FINANCING

I am pleased to refer to you the terms of reference for a Productivity Commission inquiry into *Local Government Funding and Financing*.

In the context of a decade after the *Shand* inquiry, and in light of rates increases, limits on borrowing and increased expenditure demands, particularly for infrastructure, the Government has selected this inquiry topic to examine and report on local government funding and financing arrangements.

I wish you all the best as you commence this inquiry and look forward to your results.

Yours sincerely

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

Terms of Reference: New Zealand Productivity Commission Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Financing

Issued by the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Local Government (the "referring Ministers"). Pursuant to sections 9 and 11 of the New Zealand Productivity Commission Act 2010, we hereby request that the New Zealand Productivity Commission ("the Commission") undertake an inquiry into local government funding and financing.

Context

In 2007, the results of the Local Government Rates Inquiry (the *Shand Inquiry*) were reported to the Government. Local Government cost pressures have grown significantly since the *Shand Inquiry*, and local authority rates and payments increases have outpaced increases in the local government cost index.

Local Government plays important roles in New Zealand society. These place-shaping roles enhance and promote local community wellbeing across physical and financial, social, human and environmental capitals. In pursuit of these wellbeing outcomes, Local Government provides essential services, including transport, water and flood protection services, social and community infrastructure services, refuse collection, local planning, regulatory services that assist with public safety, health, environmental protection, biosecurity and economic development and a range of other essential services.

Local Government makes a considerable direct impact on the economy. In June 2016, councils owned \$112 billion worth of fixed assets, employed over 25,000 full-time equivalent staff and had annual operating expenditure of \$9.3 billion and operating income of \$8.9 billion.

The costs and pressures facing local government have increased in recent years, though the circumstances of individual councils vary (e.g. urban and rural communities face differing challenges). Local authority rates increases have outpaced increases in other indices measuring average costs and incomes. In particular, local authority rates and payments increases have significantly outpaced increases in the consumer price index and the independently prepared local government costs index.

Local authorities are capital-intensive businesses. Expenditure on fixed assets has grown significantly in recent years and demand for ongoing capital expenditure is unabated or increasing due to the development, maintenance and replacement of the infrastructure required to support New Zealand's rapidly growing population (including international visitors) and support economic growth.

As a whole, local authority debt has grown steadily since 2006. Some high growth councils are experiencing constraints in their ability to finance further infrastructure investment because they are coming close to covenanted debt limits. At the same time, some local authorities take on very little debt at all.

Major factors that are influencing local authority costs include:

- for fast-growing areas, the need for local authorities to increase the supply of development capacity to address declining housing affordability
- maintaining services in areas with declining populations

- requirements for higher performance, including potentially from fresh water, wastewater, stormwater and flood protection systems to meet environmental and public health standards
- costs of adapting communities and infrastructure to mitigate risks and hazards associated with climate change
- supporting regional development (e.g. growing demand pressures from the tourism industry which may be disproportionate to the number of local residents)
- the need to replace existing infrastructure coming to the end of its useful life.

This mix of factors – rates increases, limits on borrowing, and increased expenditure demands, particularly for infrastructure – creates the need for an independent inquiry into cost pressures, decision making and affordability. Following an objective inquiry into these issues, the Commission is requested to provide an assessment and recommendations of current and alternative funding and financing options for local authorities to maintain and deliver services to their communities into the future.

Scope and aims:

In light of the pressures discussed above, and in the context of a decade after the conclusion of the Shand Inquiry, the Government has selected this inquiry topic to examine and report on local government funding and financing arrangements.

Where shortcomings in the current system are identified, the inquiry is to examine options and approaches for improving the system of local authority funding and financing.

Approach to the inquiry

The Inquiry should:

- Have regard to previous reports, inquiries and reviews, but should also look to bring new and innovative thinking to these issues.
- Complement and receive existing work, (e.g. three waters review, and the Urban Growth Agenda) rather than duplicating it.
- Consult with key interest groups and affected parties including (but not limited to) ratepayer organisations, local business and community groups.
- Work closely with Local Government New Zealand, the Local Government Funding Agency, the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers and the wider local government sector and relevant central government agencies to ensure its findings provide practical ways to improve the funding and financing of local authorities.

Scope

The inquiry would examine the adequacy and efficiency of the existing local government funding and financing framework. Specifically, the inquiry will investigate:

Cost pressures

- The factors (including the mix of services and investment) that drive local authority costs now and in the foreseeable future. This is to include an investigation of the drivers of cost and price escalation, in particular:

Whether this is a result of policy, and/or regulatory settings.

- The role of growth/decline in population (including visitors and other temporary residents).
- The impacts of Treaty settlement arrangements and costs of climate change on local authorities.
- In addition, the Commission should have regard to current frameworks for capital expenditure decision making, including cost-benefit analysis, incentives and oversight of decision making.

Funding and Financing models

- The ability of the current funding and financing model to deliver on community expectations and local authority obligations, now and into the future.
- Rates affordability now and into the future.
- Options for new local authority funding and financing tools to serve demand for investment and services.
- Appraise both current and new or improved approaches considering suitable principles including efficiency, equity, affordability and effectiveness.
- How the transition to any new funding and financing models could be managed.

Regulatory system

- Any constitutional and regulatory issues that may underpin new project financing entities with broader funding powers.
- Whether changes are needed to the regulatory arrangements overseeing local authority funding and financing.

Out of scope

The Government considers that some aspects of local government finance have been well canvassed and further inquiry into them would not assist in achieving sustainable local government financing. Therefore, the following matters are out of scope of the inquiry:

- The particular mechanisms for rating of Maori freehold land and Crown land.
- The valuation system and practices.
- Substantial privatisation.

The Inquiry is not to make recommendations that would directly affect representation or boundary arrangements for Councils.

Report and Recommendations

The report should build on previous relevant inquiries undertaken by the Productivity Commission, and use the Shand Inquiry report as context.

The final report should provide findings and recommendations directed at central and local government regarding how to improve funding and financing arrangements.

Consultation

The Commission should engage with a broad range of stakeholders, including industry and non-governmental groups, Iwi, and the public.

Timeframe

The Commission should present the final report to referring Ministers by 30 November 2019.

Wairoa District Council Māori Standing Committee**Chairman's Report**

Kiwa Hammond

Thursday, 13 December 2018

Waerea te rangi e tū nei, waerea te papa e takato nei. Waerea, waerea! Waerea ki runga, waerea ki raro, waerea ki waho, waerea ki roto – waerea, waerea!

It is my pleasure to present this Chairman's report for November 2018 with reference to early December 2018 (including this Māori Standing Committee meeting, Thursday 13 December 2018). Over the period that this report covers, in my role as MSC Chairman I was required to attend several meetings requested by WDC or required to represent the MSC at other extraordinary meetings over the past month. These included:

- WDC Workshop on Council Assets – Property (27/11/18)
- WDC Workshop on Waste Options (27/11/18)
- WDC Workshop on District Plan Review Update (27/11/18)
- WDC Ordinary Meeting (27/11/18)
- Māori Standing Committee (13/12/18).

WDC Workshops

These workshops were held in relation to current issues and activities included in the agenda of the WDC Ordinary Meeting. In particular these workshops covered the areas of Council Assets and Property, Waste, and an update on the District Plan Review. The current restructure of the Council and reallocation of some senior roles at WDC plus the Council leadership drive to have greater clarity around a great number of issues has underlined the need for more enquiring thinking and reviewing of processes. While WDC has extensive records the ability of the Council overall to make good decisions and take decisive action is dependant on the quality and quantity of information available and/or sought. Official documents are usually regarded by many as being beyond question and yet unofficial archives and historical narratives should also be considered as these provide the local context that is not immediately apparent. This includes whakapapa, kōrero tuku iho, oral traditions, and whānau archives where appropriate. This is an area where guidance may be sought from MSC by WDC to ensure the absolute best efforts are made to get things right in the future.

MSC Purpose and Future

Following the last MSC meeting held at Tuahuru Marae, Te Mahia, an article appeared in the Wairoa Star where questions were raised about the future of the Māori Standing Committee. As Chairman I would like to state categorically that this MSC is not at risk of being disbanded nor is any other committee of Council. Let us be reminded that Council has 8 committees that have specific functions delegated to them by Council.¹ The committee structure is reviewed at the start of each triennium (post local body election). For our specific role:

The Māori Standing Committee is a committee of the Council. The Māori Standing Committee acts as a check and balance on Council processes, especially on those matters requiring a Māori perspective, as well as an advisory body for Council on matters requiring a Māori perspective. This includes the development and revision of Council policies and strategies. Tangata whenua can take issues to their takiwā representative or the Māori Standing Committee, who can then advocate for the tangata whenua to Council or to other bodies (if appropriate).²

¹ <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/about-committees/> (Sourced 30 November 2018).

² Ibid.

As the Māori Standing Committee our purpose is to:

1. consider the role of Māori in protecting and enhancing the future wellbeing of the whole Wairoa District.
2. consider governance issues relating to Council obligations to tangata whenua.
3. Investigate and report to the Council on any issues that the Māori Standing Committee considers necessary that may have an implication for tangata whenua.³

This is not a role that can be carried out by any external body (such as iwi organisations or PSGE's). Likewise it is not a function that can be fulfilled by elected officials, that is Councillors who have been elected at large. Nor does MSC as a body interfere with the affairs or politics of any iwi, hapū, marae, or Treaty claimant and must at all times remain neutral and above reproach in the manner in which it interacts with the Council and the community. Why? Because it is the marae of our district that charge MSC with the responsibility of carrying out the purpose and functions stated above.

It is also timely to point out that through the guidance of the Māori Standing Committee the Wairoa District Council has a strong reputation throughout local government for leading the way in te reo Māori (see WDC Māori Language Policy) and Māori stakeholder engagement (see WDC Māori Policy).

At many events I attend around the country I regularly receive feedback from our counterparts in both local and central government in praise of Te Wairoa and how envious they are of how the MSC is selected and operates, and the benefits to WDC and the community. This not as the result of savvy marketing or self-promotion, but rather it due to being noticed for what is being achieved. We have an expression which I believe reflects this:

E kore the kumara e kōrero mō tōna reka (The sweet potato speaks not of its sweetness)

With that in mind MSC must turn its attention next year to assisting the Council and community to properly understand the implementation of Māori wards. Currently there is misunderstanding of how the Māori and General ward system will work – meaning there is a potential risk of misinformation. We are better than that. Te Wairoa is better than that. The rest of the country is literally looking to us to lead the way. This is bigger than politics and personalities. This is about nationhood because if Te Wairoa can get it right the rest of the country has no excuses. However, if we do not get this right for Te Wairoa then the same applies – we will have no excuses.

Digital Te Wairoa

Recently Wairoa iSite played host once again to the App Lab where several members of our community were able to advance their knowledge in using digital technology to create their own authentic App Projects. Further to this Hohepa Spooner and his amazing team took a group of students (who were not able to attend the previous two-week workshop) to AUT to experience the AUT tertiary environment as well as catch up on their learning. By the time this MSC meeting is held a celebration of the achievements will have been held along with the official launch of the Wairoa App and those App's created by Wairoa community members. Around this time Takitimu-Waihirere-Sir James Carroll Memorial Marae hosted a very successful Wānanga Pūtaiao working with around 50-60 rangatahi from Te Wairoa to uncover the mystery and discover the wonder of science in a uniquely Māori way. Along with local initiatives such as the increasingly popular Salute Wairoa touch table, the soon to be completed roll out of broadband fibre, and local schools and kura working toward the implementation of the Digital Technology and Hangarau Matihiko curriculum in 2020 – it is clear to see that confidence and competence in digital technology is essential for the future education, economic, environmental, and enterprise aspirations of this district.

³ Ibid. See also <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Our-Council/Committees/Maori-Standing-Committee-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>.

WDC itself made a significant leap through the establishment of its digital hub where it now stores many meeting agenda's, minutes, presentations, report, and related documentation. Councillors have benefited from this new system and it is now the norm to see Councillors accessing their meeting documents on the digital hub through their iPads and tablets. Until recently, however, MSC members have had to make do with hard copies which may suit some members but as WDC acknowledged some time ago this practice is costly to the environment and adds to administration costs for WDC. It is for these reasons that MSC has actively investigated adopting digital tools to enable it to act more efficiently, followed a robust process of enquiry and resolution, and been able to do so well within its budget and in accordance with its delegation of authority.⁴

Summary

Finally, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer period. May your barbecues be hot, your food be delicious, and your rest time be restful. Next year is going to be an interesting time so relax, refresh, and reset.

Nō reira, kia waerea te ara ki pae tawhiti, kia waerea te ara ki pae tata, kia waerea te ata te ara takatū, whakaputa atu ki te whaiao, ki te ao mārama. Hui e! Tāiki e!

Nāku nei,

Kiwa Hammond

(Te Wairoa Hōpūpū Takiwā)

Chairman, Māori Standing Committee

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

⁴ See Terms of Reference, Wairoa District Council Māori Policy.

Wairoa District Council Māori Standing Committee
Rakaipaaka Takiwā Report
Henare Mita
Thursday, 13 December 2018

Fundraising

Most of the marae in Nuhaka have been busy fundraising. Manutai marae for instance recently organised a breakfast meal hosted at Taihoa marae, while Te Rehu marae is planning to complete six wānanga, organised by means of a Wairoa Taiwhenua grant. Te Rehu marae will need to sit down very soon too with other Nuhaka marae to organise wānanga through Te Wānanga o Awanuiarangi. A very positive meeting was held last month with Te Umuariki Te Kani (Awanuiarangi Facilitator for the Tairāwhiti district). A lot was said about how marae are working together to mitigate costs, limited student numbers and busy work schedules. There were some interesting ideas raised, providing much food for thought for all in attendance. Currently both Tānenuiārangi and Te Rehu marae are running raffles, Tane is drawing their raffle this Friday (7 December 2018), while Te Rehu will draw ours on the 19 December 2018. This year especially has been hard for us.

Te Rehu Marae

On the 17 November 2018, Te Rehu held our tri-monthly trustees meeting and a number of changes to the make-up of our marae committee occurred. For some time now, I have had to help out with the mowing of our marae lawns, as our caretaker has been very busy with his farm. The lawns, especially over the summer period, takes up a lot of my time and it has become clear that I can't mow our lawns and remain as our chairperson. At the meeting I stepped down as chair and was replaced by interim chairperson, Charlie Smith. It was a great relief to me that Charlie so willingly accepted this new role. A number of maintenance issues were discussed and as a consequence it was decided to begin some serious fundraising activities. Early next year we will hold a weekend working bee to tackle some of these maintenance problems. Our buildings are old and require our attention.

That same weekend a relative living in Auckland came through to fumigate Te Rehu and Manutai marae. A pest officer in the greater Auckland region, he came through free of charge to donate his services. We were all greatly appreciative of what he did for his Pomana and Smith relations and were a little embarrassed that all we could offer him were petrol vouchers. He appreciated this gesture and with his father-in-law, enjoyed the weekend he had here. A South Island relation has donated a commercial gas oven for our marae and will bring it through over the Christmas/New Year period. This is an amazing gift and we are humbled by their generosity.

Wairoa District Council Māori Standing Committee Future

I have attended a few gatherings recently, where the long-term future of the Maori Standing Committee has been raised. Some argue that the MSC is protected under legislation, and that it seems implausible to them that three Maori Ward representatives could possibly speak on behalf of all the whānau/hapū in Wairoa. They spoke with a great deal of passion and determination. It is heartening to see that there is support for our committee and the role it is charged with in our community.

Nāku noa, nā

Henare Mita
MSC Rakaipaaka Takiwā