

TAIAO, TAIORA

Taiao, Taiora is the name given to the Iwi Environmental Management Plan being developed for the Taranaki Rohe.

What is an Iwi Environmental Management Plan?

An Iwi Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) is a document produced and endorsed by an iwi concerning environmental matters in the iwi rohe. An iwi management plan will assist Taranaki Iwi in their role as tangata tiaki or kaitiaki, as it sets out positions on environmental issues that are important to Taranaki iwi. Taiao, Taiora is to be developed at the iwi rohe scale with marae and pā to ensure that it includes positions specific to hapū or marae or specific locations within the rohe. There is no set format for these plans. The structure and approach will be determined by the iwi so that it best suits requirements of the land and the people of Taranaki Iwi.

Who will use Taiao, Taiora and what for?

Taranaki Iwi will be able to use *Taiao, Taiora* to articulate the Taranaki Iwi vision for the environment, describe the environmental issues in the Taranaki Iwi rohe – both iwi-wide and at a marae/pā level – and outline the Taranaki Iwi positions on and desired outcomes for those issues.

Taranaki Iwi will also be able to use *Taiao, Taiora* when responding to resource consent applications and district or regional council plan changes or reviews, to express the Taranaki Iwi view on the matters in question and seek particular outcomes through those processes. Having an IEMP means that Taranaki Iwi will be able to respond to such processes more efficiently and consistently.

District and Regional **Councils** will be able to use *Taiao, Taiora* when changing or developing regional or district plans. Under the Resource Management Act, councils must 'take into account' IEMPs when changing or developing their regional and district plans. Councils also must take IEMPs into account when making decisions on some resource consent applications. The councils will be able to use *Taiao, Taiora* to better understand the Taranaki Iwi viewpoint in these processes.

Applicants will be able to use *Taiao, Taiora* when developing a resource consent application for subdivisions, discharges, water takes or other forms of development. For those developments where it is important for applicants to talk to iwi, the Iwi Environmental Management Plan provides a good first indication of the expectations of Taranaki Iwi. It will also be useful for applicants to better understand the cultural impacts of the activity they want to undertake. Ideally applicants would alter their application to cater for iwi concerns having read *Taiao, Taiora*.

As they relate to Councils and Applicants, Iwi Environmental Management Plans are not an alternative to consultation. Instead they are an upfront statement about the iwi's environmental expectations, so that when consultation occurs it can proceed more efficiently. *Taiao, Taiora* would not replace the need for people to talk directly with Taranaki Iwi, marae and pā.

Taiao, Taiora will be a self-determination tool that will allow Taranaki Iwi to publicly state their important issues, values and outcomes relating to environmental management.

Why is Taiao, Taiora important?

Iwi Environmental Management Plans are an important statement from iwi. They place a stake in the ground and provide a mandated position on environmental matters.

Because they have a status under the RMA, they are an important tool for iwi to take leadership in resource management processes and have their views recognised.

On a practical level IEMPs also have the additional benefit of saving time and energy for iwi staff in charge of resource management matters, and give these individuals the safety net of mandated, recorded iwi positions on environmental issues when responding to resource consent and concession applications.

As such, *Taiao, Taiora* will be an important tool in resource management processes for Taranaki Iwi, marae and pā.

Developing Taiao, Taiora.

The development of *Taiao, Taiora* has just been initiated. Wānanga and hui will be held in the coming months at the iwi level and also with marae and pā.

To be ready for that kōrero, iwi members should to start to think about those environmental issues in the rohe which are important to them. They should also start to think about what their environmental vision is for the rohe, now and into the future.

For more information about *Taiao, Taiora* please contact Puna Wano-Bryant at puna@taranaki.iwi.nz.