



Report 06.191
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File E/06/18/03

Committee Environment Committee
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Management

Ara Tahī representation on the Environment Committee

1. Purpose

To recommend that the Environment Committee seek approval from Council for an Ara Tahī representative to be given the delegated authority to become a formal member of the Environment Committee, with full voting rights.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3) (b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

At the 19 April 2006 meeting of Ara Tahī, agreement was reached that a formal request would be made for a member of Ara Tahī to formally sit on the Environment Committee. A formal resolution was passed that Jack Rikihana be nominated as the first Ara Tahī representative for appointment on the Environment Committee, with full voting rights. A further resolution was also passed that Ara Tahī request the Environment Committee to consider this appointment.

The Committee should note that the original recommendation proposed at the Ara Tahī meeting supported that any formal appointment should not be accompanied with voting rights. However, as a result of discussions at Ara Tahī, and with the commitment of the Chairman of the Council, it was agreed that any Ara Tahī representative should in fact have full voting rights. This is reflected in the recommendations provided as part of this paper.

Ara Tahī representatives would also receive payment for sitting on the Environment Committee in a similar way to an appointed member.

Council committees are also reviewed at the start of each triennium, and any review of the Environment Committee could also potentially cover Ara Tahī membership issues.

It is also noted that Jack Rikihana's proposed appointment was a result of formal nomination by Ara Tahi. It is anticipated that Ara Tahi will simply nominate another representative to the Environment committee at a relevant stage in the future, if and when appropriate, to ensure this partnership continues.

4. Comment

There has always been a synergy between the work of the Environment Committee and that of Ara Tahi. Environment matters were, (and remain), the focus of Council/iwi discussions at Ara Tahi and only after the review of the Charter of Understanding in 2000 did Ara Tahi's discussions widen to include all of the Council's functions. In addition, the Chairperson of the Environment Committee has remained as one of Council's two elected representatives of Ara Tahi, enabling a clear line of communication between both committees.

The issue of formal Ara Tahi representation on the Environment Committee has been raised a number of times over the years, and the Chairman of Ara Tahi has also for some time periodically attended and participated in Environment Committee meetings on an informal basis. While there has always been a general level of support for formal Ara Tahi representation on the Committee, until now a formal Ara Tahi request for representation has never eventuated.

Given the background to this issue, the resolution passed by Ara Tahi on 19 August 2006 is consistent with discussion relating to formal representation on the Environment Committee. It is also consistent with Greater Wellington's terms of reference for Council and Standing Committees which states that a standing committee may *recommend for consideration by the Policy and Finance Strategy Committee, where appropriate, appointment of persons who are not regional councillors and who have a knowledge that would assist the working of the Committee.*

5. Communication

Any communication on this matter should await the decision of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receives the report;*
2. *recommends to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee that an Ara Tahi representative, as nominated by the Ara Tahi Committee, be given formal membership to the Environment Committee, with full voting rights; and*
3. *notes that Ara Tahi have nominated Jack Rikihana to fulfil the role of Ara Tahi's inaugural representative on the Environment Committee.*

Report prepared by:

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