

Item of business :

Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Bill

Submission name :

Taupo District Council

Comments

Taupo District Council (the Council) is the local authority responsible for the administration of the Local Government Act 2002, Reserves Act 1977 and Resource Management Act 1991 functions in the Taupo District.

The Taupo District has an estimated population of 37,200 spread across a number of urban centres around the District. Ngāti Tūwharetoa represent a significant portion of those people and are a dynamic and important part of the district community.

The Council has a strong relationship with Ngāti Tūwharetoa and expects to grow that relationship further as both parties look to engage in co-governance arrangements.

Ngāti Tūwharetoa are an important and enduring part of the Taupo community and Council is supportive of the settlement outlined in the Bill which will facilitate their collective growth.

Recommendations

Taupo District Council supports the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Bill and the resolution of historical grievances that it represents between Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the Crown.

The Council is supportive of the changing of official geographic place names as identified in Subpart 4. That process will help to strengthen the relationship between the iwi and their ancestral lands. It will also increase the understanding of the wider community with regard to the history and significance of those parts of the district.

Council notes the provisions in section 94 of the Bill as they relate to Parakiri site B. Council is supportive of that land being identified as recreation reserve so that the community can continue to enjoy access to an important part of the Taupo lakefront. Council is also supportive of the provisions allowing for roading and other infrastructure services to be maintained by Council. The ongoing management of this site by Council and Ngāti Tūwharetoa will provide positive outcomes for the broader community and Council is supportive of the provisions (sections 94 and 95) in the Bill that enable this to happen. It is also Council's understanding that any income derived from the use of that land will come back to Council.

The Bill makes it clear that land at Five Mile Bay will be returned to Ngāti Tūwharetoa as fee simple land. That land is currently sitting outside of identified growth areas in the Taupo District Plan. Rezoning of that land to enable future residential use will require public Resource Management Act processes.

Council supports the establishment of Te Kōpua Kānapanapa and recognises that it marks a milestone for the development of co-governance opportunities between Ngāti Tūwharetoa and

Council. The purpose for Te Kōpua Kānapanapa is wide ranging and offers the potential for integrated planning across all dimensions of sustainable management.

Council acknowledges and supports the lead role that the Waikato Regional Council will play in providing administrative support to Te Kōpua Kānapanapa. In addition, Council acknowledges that it will also have a role in providing technical support to assist Te Kōpua Kānapanapa to achieve its purpose.

The creation of Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki will be a significant undertaking for the councils and Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Council wishes to thank the Crown for their contribution toward achieving that as outlined in the Deed of Settlement. It is Council's expectation that the cost of producing that first version will not fall on the ratepayers of the District.

Council has been in discussions with Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Te Rangiita regarding the Motutere Recreation Reserve. Council has reviewed a draft submission made by Ngāti Te Rangiita, and has resolved to support their proposed inclusion of the Motutere Recreation Reserve into the Bill. Council welcomes further discussion regarding this matter.