# Development of Māori Capacity to Contribute to Council Decision Making Processes

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The views of Ngāi Tahu and Māori are important to Christchurch City Council. The legislative framework for tangata whenua engagement is conveyed in the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991.

One hundred and seventy eight years on from signing the Treaty of Waitangi at Akaroa, the Council enjoys a strong working relationship with Ngāi Tahu via Te Hononga Council - Papatipu Rūnanga Committee (Te Hononga).

Te Hononga is underpinned by the relationship agreement which was signed in 2016 by the six Papatipu Rūnanga of Canterbury and the Council. It is a landmark in the evolution of civic and tribal diplomacy. The agreement established a firm basis for both Ngāi Tahu and the Council to reinforce the commitment to Otautahi Christchurch. The Committee enables the Council to strengthen relationships and communication with manawhenua. It also improves Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making.

Fast forward to 2018, the Council has worked hard to develop staff cultural capability and awareness. Within the office of the Chief Executive, two new positions have been established:
1.  Principal Advisor Ngāi Tahu; this role services the Te Hononga Committee and provides advice for the Council's strategies to co-create genuine partnership opportunities with ngā rūnanga.
2.  Senior Advisor Ngāi Tahu and Māori; this role provides cultural advice and has oversight of Māori / Ngāi Tahu learning opportunities within Council.

The Council provides many different pathways for staff to participate and engage to extend their understanding of Ngāi Tahu / Maori. As well as providing Treaty of Waitangi workshops for all newcomers to the organisation, Council employees can:
- learn te reo
- join the waiata lunch time group
- request a marae based Ngāi Tahu one day workshop
- request a Māori protocol half day experience at a local marae
- attend a clinic every Tuesday with the Ngāi Tahu / Māori team to discuss any aspects of their project that involves Māori.

Māori specialists' organisations have also been an important part of the Council / Māori relationship. A service level agreement has been signed with Mahaanui Kurataiao, the Ngāi Tahu environmental planning organisation. Another service level agreement is in development with Mataapopore, a

charitable trust that is mandated by manawhenua to provide design, arts and urban planning advice. Their contribution to the rebuild of Christchurch has created a Ngāi Tūāhuriri aesthetic in the city that is exciting and unique.

The Council has also supported the 2017 Ngāi Tahu tribal economies conference and contributed to Ngā Rūnanga resilience activities. Significant dates in the Māori calendar are celebrated such as Waitangi Day, when the Council holds a special citizenship ceremony at a local marae. On these days both the Mayor and manawhenua welcome new citizens to Christchurch. Manawhenua are also represented on the Greater Christchurch Partnership, whose role is to collaborate on planning and managing the impacts of growth and development in the Greater Christchurch area.

Ngā Rūnanga have identified three strategic areas for Te Hononga Committee to focus on:
1. Water
2. Tribal economies
3. Housing and land use on Māori reserves.

These three areas form the basis of the Te Hononga forward work plan.

The Council also has an operational and functional relationship with Mataawaka, who are Māori whose tribal affiliations are from outside of Christchurch and are part of the wider Māori community as residents and rate payers. Situated at Ngā Hau e Wha Marae - Te Rūnanga o Ngā Maata Waka is a valuable stakeholder. Te Rūnanga o Ngā Maata Waka is an urban Māori authority which provides services including education, health, counselling, driver education, advocacy, early childhood education, recreation, sport, justice, courts, legal support, Māori legal services and initiatives in employment related matters.