

Treaty Relationships

Through legislative frameworks Christchurch City Council is obligated to engage with, and strengthen relationships with Māori, premised on Te Tiriti o Waitangi as well as subsequent legislation such as the [Local Government Act 2002](#), the [Resource Management Act 1991](#) and [Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996](#). The Local Government Act 2002 in particular, requires that Māori are afforded opportunity to participate in decision-making in areas of mutual interest.

Combined, these legislative documents set the basis of consultation with Iwi and mana whenua to ensure that the views and values of Māori are considered across Council activities as we make decisions about the city, its resources and the environment. Land, water (all forms) and the natural environment are of significant cultural value for Māori - similarly this is true for the wider Christchurch Community and are mutual areas of interest for Māori and Council.

Enabling access to social housing and papakāinga development (housing developments for Māori on ancestral land) are also fundamental to Māori wellbeing and form a further pou (pillar) in the relationship between Māori and Council.

Strategic

Council directly engages with iwi - Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and six of the Papatipu Rūnanga whom fall within the Council catchment as mana whenua of respective rohe: Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Wairewa Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata, Ōnuku Rūnanga and Te Taumutu Rūnanga.

The six Papatipu Rūnanga collectively formed a body, Te Kahui Kahukura, to engage and partner at the strategic level with Council to advance mutual goals, namely to support environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing for Māori, inclusive of resolving papakāinga development restrictions on Māori land.

Engagement between Te Kahui Kahukura and Council is achieved through committee under the auspices of the Te Hononga - Papatipu Rūnanga Committee which meets quarterly. Te Hononga is underpinned by a relationship agreement signed in 2016 by the six Papatipu Rūnanga of Canterbury and the Council. The Committee enables the Council to strengthen relationships and communication with mana whenua and provides opportunity for Māori to contribute to decision-making.

Operational

At the operational level the relationship is strengthened through the Ngāi Tahu Relationship Team consisting of a Principal Advisor and a Senior Advisor. The Principal Advisor reports directly to the Chief Executive and both advisors operate in the strategic and operational environments. The purpose of this team is to foster working relationships with CCC operational staff, and Papatipu Rūnanga on a daily basis. The team also guide Council operational staff on cultural substance of policies, procedures and strategies set within Christchurch City Council.

The Council provides many different pathways for staff to participate and engage to extend their understanding of Ngāi Tahu cultural values. As well as providing Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshops for all newcomers to the organisation, Council employees can:

- learn te reo.
- learn waiata.
- participate in marae based cultural workshops and seminars.
- attend weekly open sessions to engage with the relationship team.

Externally, the relationship team and Council staff engage directly with the six papatipu rūnanga and mana whenua at the operational level to ensure ngā rūnanga are informed, involved and represented in areas of mutual interest. The range of activity and engagement is broad and covers many facets of strengthening social, environmental, economic and cultural interaction premised on a Te Tiriti based relationship.

Greater Christchurch Partnership

Ngāi Tahu are represented on the Greater Christchurch Partnership (GCP) to collaborate on planning and managing the impacts of growth and development in the Greater Christchurch area. This provides Iwi and papatipu rūnanga further opportunities to actively contribute to and make decisions in areas of mutual interest, as a valued partner at the GCP decision table.

Urban Māori with external tribal affiliations

Whilst the council specifically recognises the special relationship with Iwi and mana whenua, it also engages with wider Māori who are present in the city and whose tribal affiliations are external of Ngāi Tahu through Te Rūnanga o Ngā Maatawaka specifically on urban Māori community matters. Situated at Ngā Hau e Wha Marae - Te Rūnanga o Ngā Maata Waka is a valuable community stakeholder.