Summary for the Muaūpoko Tribal Authority

Report Name: Proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development
Ministry or Department: Ministry for the Environment
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Introduction

This submission is provided on behalf the Muaūpoko Tribal Authority for the Proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development.

The Muaūpoko Tribal Authority

The Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Incorporated (MTA) is the iwi authority for Muaūpoko for the purposes of resource management matters. The MTA is a separate legal entity in the form of an incorporated society, registered on 21 August 1997 under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, as well as a charitable organization. MTA is governed by a board of elected representatives (Board) from each of seven Muaūpoko hapū (2 representatives per hapū). The hapū are: Ngai Te Ao, Ngārue, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Pāriri, Ngāti Tamarangi, Ngāti Whanokirangi and Punahau.

In 2008, MTA adopted its strategic plan ‘Muaūpoko 2020’ and vision ‘Whakahono kia tu kaha Muaūpoko.’ Unite, stand strong Muaūpoko. The MTA objective is to protect Muaūpoko identity, assets and to build a stronger economic, social and cultural base for the Muaūpoko people.

Submission

This submission confirms the MTA’s aspiration to be a part of work programme into the future. The aspirations of iwi in relation to economic development and protection and restoration of mana whenua relationships with their lands and traditions are priorities.

As Aotearoa moves to a more sustainable, productive and inclusive economy, cities will play in increasingly important role and the role that iwi play in this regard will be important too. Our cities and towns need to be able to adapt and respond to the diverse and changing needs of all people, whanau, communities and future generations, and achieve a balance will all living things. This is very much the case for iwi living in cities and towns where that are closely located to their natural and cultural heritage landscapes.
When performing well our towns and cities can contribute to the wellbeing of whānau, hapu and iwi/Maori, raise living standards, and ensure we achieve a balance with other parts of our natural world.

**Cultural and Māori elements**

Working towards a culturally-sound urban development system, core elements include:

- recognising and providing for the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- rangatiratanga – finding expression through meaningful engagement with tangata whenua; where Maori values are anchored in decision-making criteria
- working with, and within, the environment
- placing whanau wellbeing at the heart of urban development
- having flexibility to allow Maori (from wherever they come in Aotearoa) to be Maori in their own places and spaces.

We note the proposed National Policy Statement aims to take these elements into account and the MTA is keen to be part of future discussions as it relates to the developments of Horowhenua. We note:

- emphasising the existing obligations on councils under the Resource Management Act 1991 to consult iwi and hapu and extending those obligations to apply to councils’ 30 year plans for development in their urban areas – known as ‘Future Development Strategies’
- requiring councils to take whanau and hapu aspirations for whenua Maori into account when preparing policies, plans and strategies, including Future Development Strategies
- ensuring hapu and iwi concerns and relevant planning documents recognised by iwi authorities are taken into account in Future Development Strategies ensuring Future Development Strategies identify where urban development should be avoided (e.g. sites of significance to Maori including wāhi tapu, highly productive land, and areas of significant indigenous biodiversity)
- aligning with objectives identified in iwi environmental management plans lodged with councils in major urban centres such as:
  - taking strategic approach to planning
  - integrating infrastructure and land-use planning
  - providing high quality open spaces in urban areas
  - restricting low density urban sprawl.