

15 July 2016

NPS Urban Development Capacity

Ministry for the Environment

PO Box 106483

Auckland City 1143

Tēnā koutou,

**RE: National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity**

I refer to the email received on the 2 June 2016 regarding the Ministry for the Environment's and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's consultation on a National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC).

The response of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga) is that if a NPS-UDC is to be developed provisions should be included that recognises prioritises environmental and cultural values - *Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri, ā muri ake nei – for us and our children after us.*

**Background**

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is statutorily recognised as the representative tribal body of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. The Ngāi Tahu takiwā (region) covers the largest geographic area of any tribal authority in New Zealand (all of the South Island with the exception of the northern end of the island) and therefore includes many urban areas that will be affected by a NPS-UP on Urban Planning.

Given the size of the Ngāi Tahu takiwā and the number of urban centers contained within, Te Rūnanga is actively engaged in the various Resource Management related processes across our takiwā. The management of sustainable urban development is of vital importance to Te Rūnanga and Ngāi Tahu whānau.

Through its commercial activities the interests of Ngāi Tahu in sustainable development also extend beyond the rohe into other urban centres.

**Ngāi Tahu position on Urban Development Capacity**

The Ngāi Tahu takiwā includes the urban centres of Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill, and Queenstown. Any proposed changes to government policy on Urban Planning would have potential impact on the sustainability of land and communities within the takiwā of Ngāi Tahu.

The Ngāi Tahu takiwā covers most of the South Island and within it there is a range of growth scenarios. Therefore it is important that the NPS UDC reflects the diversity not only of each urban area, but also of the different communities that reside in these places, and the issues and their specific needs and priorities. For example there has been significant growth

in Christchurch urban area, as a result of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes which has created a different set of policy and implementation needs. This has resulted in a changing pattern of development in the last five years.

Te Rūnanga are encouraged to see policy being developed to ensure that future development needs are met. However, this must be done appropriately with a focus on sustainability environmental improvement for our future generations.

Whānau have aspirations around the development of their land. Historically planning regulations and policies have negatively impacted and restricted the ability of Ngāi Tahu whānau to develop their lands and achieve their aspirations. It is essential that this policy provide a positive framework for whānau to develop land within urban areas to achieve meaningful outcomes.

***Initial Response:***

1. The NPS-UDC must address and acknowledge the Treaty of Waitangi and the relationship between government (at all levels) and Ngāi Tahu. There is precedent for this as seen in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. Te Rūnanga see this as an opportunity to create a meaningful framework for cooperation between government, both central and local, and iwi in accordance with the principles of a genuine Treaty partnership. It is concerning that it is not currently in the proposal document.
2. Te Rūnanga support the inclusion of the provision for the “social, economic, cultural, and environmental well-being” in the objectives of the proposal. However, there is a need to provide greater detail on these are to be met to ensure that there is absolutely clarity.
3. The inclusion of cultural well-being in the proposal is welcomed and Te Rūnanga would expect early engagement with mana whenua would be an integral step in understanding the cultural needs in relation to development. A meaningful framework of engagement needs to be developed. This should relate to the inclusion and acknowledge of the Treaty of Waitangi and the establishment of a genuine partnership between iwi and regional councils in relation to urban development .
4. There is a need to allow for acknowledgement of traditional areas of significance and occupation are in urban areas and therefore provisions are included in the NPS-UDC where development does not occur at the expense of cultural or environmental degradation. Te Rūnanga support greater integration across the legislative framework to provide for culture and heritage and support the adoption of principles that provide greater level of protection for sites of significance.
5. Te Rūnanga support the need to plan for future generations in any development policy. Providing for intergenerational outcomes is an integral success factor for Ngāi Tahu and New Zealand as a whole.
6. Te Rūnanga believe it is integral that any development policy applies a multifaceted approach to account for the myriad of needs across the iwi boundaries. Within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā there are many urban centres with varying planning needs moving forward and this should be reflected in any policy outcome. Within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā there is major variation in the projected growth between the major urban centres and this growth needs to be managed in a responsible and sustainable manner.

The NPS-UDC needs to provide a balance between economic and environmental outcomes in development. There needs to be a clear outline of the importance of sustainability in development rather than a 'development at all costs' approach.

We trust that these comments will be helpful in the development of the National Policy on Urban Development Capacity. We look forward to remaining actively involved in the development of the NPS-UDC to ensure best policy and implementation are developed.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Te Hau White in the first instance on (03) 9740156 or [TeHau.White@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:TeHau.White@ngaitahu.iwi.nz). Alternatively, I am available to discuss this further at your convenience.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Te Hau White', is positioned above the typed name.

Rakihia Tau

**GENERAL MANAGER, STRATEGY AND INFLUENCE**

**Encl.** Appendix One: Te Rūnanga interests in the NPS-UDC

## **APPENDIX ONE: TE RŪNANGA INTERESTS IN THE NPS-UDC**

### **Treaty Relationship**

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu have an expectation that the Crown will honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty) and the principles upon which the Treaty is founded.
- The management of the environment and resources within the takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui, including the natural environment, for which Ngāi Tahu Whānui have kaitiaki responsibilities and over which Ngāi Tahu Whānui maintain rangatiratanga status, must take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- There has already been acknowledgment from the Crown of the Ngāi Tahu interests within the environment covered by the regulations through Statutory Acknowledgments as set out in the Deed of Settlement.
- Furthermore, agreed settlement outcomes and wider integrity of the Ngāi Tahu Settlement is to be protected and not marginalised or undermined as a result of any reforms relating to Urban Development.

### **Kaitiakitanga**

- In keeping with the kaitiaki responsibilities of Ngāi Tahu whānui, Te Rūnanga has an interest in ensuring sustainable management of natural resources, protecting taonga species and mahinga kai resources for future generations.
- Ngāi Tahu whānui are both users of natural resources, and stewards of those resources. At all times, Te Rūnanga is guided by the tribal whakataukī: “mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei” (for us and our descendants after us).

### **Whanaungatanga**

- Te Rūnanga has a responsibility to promote the wellbeing of Ngāi Tahu whānui and ensure that the management of Ngāi Tahu assets and the wider management of natural resources supports the development of iwi members.

### **Te Pūtea**

- Te Rūnanga through its commercial entities has significant landholdings within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā which we are looking to make more productive within a sustainability framework which will lead best practice. Ngāi Tahu Whānui through a number of land incorporations, also have interests in the productive sector.