



Planning Standards  
Ministry for the Environment

By email: [planningstandards@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:planningstandards@mfe.govt.nz)

Rāhina, 13 Hereturikōkā, 2018

### **National Planning Standards**

Tēnā koe,

1. Thank you for providing Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust (TKONT) the opportunity to provide a comment on the proposed National Planning Standards.
2. TKONT's interest in this proposal stems from Ngāruahine iwi having a special cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional association with the environs where resource management and planning practices take place. TKONT, as the post-settlement governance entity for Ngāruahine has a responsibility to ensure that the interests of Ngāruahine are safe-guarded. This includes considering the extent to which the proposed activities, may impact (potential or actual) on the environmental, cultural and spiritual interests of Ngāruahine within its rohe (tribal area); and those areas under statutory acknowledgement and/or Deed of Recognition (Ngāruahine Claims Settlement Act 2016); and the potential or actual risks to the physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual wellness of Ngāruahine (Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust Deed). Therefore, TKONT makes submissions to any policy matters that are relevant to the rohe. This does not prevent the Ngāruahine hapū submitting on their behalf, nor should it be in any way viewed as affecting the mana motuhake of the hapū.
3. Ngāruahine is an iwi of South Taranaki. Ngāruahine rohe extends from the Taungatara Stream in the north west (just south of Ōpunake) to the Waingongoro River in the South (just west of Hāwera), and up to the Kahouri Stream (in the central area of Taranaki just under Mounga Taranaki). The expanse of our tribal area means that the Ngāruahine boundary straddles the four Councils in Taranaki – South Taranaki, Stratford and New Plymouth District and the Taranaki Regional Council.
4. The planning standards direct a standard structure and form and some standard content for RMA plans and policy statements in New Zealand. With our area of interest spanning



four Council structures, some level of standardisation would be helpful. That said, we also want to ensure that the local planning documents are relevant to the needs of the local community.

5. TKONT has reviewed the various standards, but this submission relates only to the proposed tangata whenua standard (S-TW).
6. We agree that tangata whenua standards should apply to all of the Planning documents covered by the standards. In relation to the content we agree with the inclusion of the following:
  - a. Recognition of the Iwi;
  - b. Tangata whenua –local authority relationships;
  - c. Iwi and planning documents; and
  - d. Consultation.
7. What is less clear from the standards is how matter of interest, concern and relevance to Māori are to be included throughout the planning documents. It is also not clear how a standardised structure will help tangata whenua as our areas of interest and concern span across the entire planning and policy framework covered by the Resource Management Act.
8. In regards to the various planning documents, there is merit within each of the planning documents in requiring the Plan authors to identify how the specific theme area impacts specifically on Māori. Māori are perhaps the only stakeholder that is invested in every area of a council planning process and providing a mechanism to have our world view represented with equally weight to Te Ao Pākehā is very important. The development of these standards is a way to ensure this.
9. The purpose of the tangata whenua structure standard is “To provide a consistent way in which tangata whenua values, objectives, policies and methods including rules (if any), and issues of importance in resource management, are considered and presented in policy statements and plans.” The Part 2 (tangata whenua) section within each of the planning documents does not do that, it provides important contextual information, but not a response to our issues. And, as highlighted in the previous paragraph we do not see the plan structures providing for the weaving of our values etc. throughout the plans.



10. In conclusion there is some value in providing a standardised plan structure, but TKONT does not identify that this will provide substantive benefit, nor offer any assurances that the matters of interest and concern to Māori will be addressed sincerely and robustly in Council planning documents.
  
11. We trust that this comment is helpful and look forward to receiving notice about the outcome of this consultation. Should you wish to receive any matters of clarification regarding the perspective offered please contact me at [policy@ngaruahine.iwi.nz](mailto:policy@ngaruahine.iwi.nz)

Naku iti noa nā,

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Pourangahau Matua (Social Initiatives and Policy Manager)