Re: Draft National Planning Standards 2018

The Maniapoto Māori Trust Board (the Board) appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft National Planning Standards (the Standards). The purpose of the Standards is to provide greater consistency of Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) plans and policy statements developed in New Zealand.

The Board supports the intention of the Standards which aim to make RMA plans simpler to prepare, and easier for users to understand, compare and comply with. The Board also acknowledges the implementation costs and timing implications for councils, and the requirement to amend plans to fit the framework of the Standards within a five-year timeframe and to do so without any undue delay OR Schedule 1 process. The Standards must provide for existing or pending treaty legislation and regional or local statutory documents (e.g. Waikato and Waipā River Acts).

The reason for our submission is to future proof relationships with central and local government moving forward. Maniapoto would like to activate the Ministry for the Environment Accord, to form part of the strategic joint working group to provide advice in relation to the Standards and integrated wellbeing outcomes. This is vital for Maniapoto as we expect to complete our Deed of Settlement with the Crown in 2019. This will have legislative mechanisms that will provide for an integrated management framework across our tribal rohe, we currently engage with 3 regional councils and 5 district councils. We also have 1 Joint Management Agreement with 5 local government and Accords with 10 central government agencies, of which the Ministry of the Environment is one.

Recommendations

Part one: Acknowledgement of the Treaty of Waitangi and its Principles and Te Reo Māori as an official language of Aotearoa New Zealand

(1). Reference relevant legislative obligations to Māori that may influence decision making processes
(2). Reference relevant treaty settlement legislation that may influence decision making processes
(3). Reference all other legislative obligations to Māori that may influence decision making processes
(4). Underline for emphasis the parts of legislation that is important for the reader to understand.

Part Two:

(1). Acknowledgement of Mātauranga Māori
(2). Acknowledgement of Tikanga Māori to make the planning processes easier to understand by simplifying, standardising and streamlining processes for integrated wellbeing outcomes.
(3). Use of technology - ePlan Electronic Accessibility and Functionality Scale – that identify how iwi planning documents;
   a. form part of the relevant plan OR referenced and how it is;
   b. applied consistently throughout the planning standard processes and;
   c. how it features in all integrated wellbeing outcomes

Ā muri kia mau ki tēnā, kia mau ki te kawau mārō, whanake ake, whanake ake
The Board thanks the Ministry for the Environment for this opportunity in considering our submission. We reiterate our support for the purpose of the National Planning Standards, and look forward to working with the Ministry of the Environment moving forward. The Board also looks forward to the release of the final document and are available to provide input.

Nāku noa, nā

Sonya Hetet – Chief Executive

cc: Secretary for the Environment