

Reference Number: 2023/1011

28 September 2023

Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 5 September 2023. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

“As part of the treaty claim process for Ngati Raukawa, Te Kenehi Teira, Des Kahotea and I are doing a research project on the protection (or lack of protection) of wahi tapu and wahi tupuna within our tribal rohe, particularly Manawatu and Horowhenua.

While we've looked on the HDC website and seen the Horowhenua District Plan 2015, and Plan Change 1 - historic heritage, decision July 2018, adding further buildings and places to Schedule 2, we would like to know of earlier policies and listings which are also relevant.

When did the HDC first have a policy about protecting historic heritage, what was that policy, and how has that changed over time. Has there ever been a policy of listing Maori heritage places separately? Has there been discussion with hapu or iwi representatives about this?”

Historic Heritage under the Horowhenua District Plan

The Horowhenua District Plan has included a list of protected heritage buildings and sites, along with supporting rules, objectives, and policies since September 1999. This was the date the first District Plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991 became operative (took full legal effect). Additional buildings and sites were added to this list when the District Plan was reviewed in its entirety in 2015 (note: this process commenced in 2013 and was completed in 2015). Further sites were added in 2018 via Plan Change 1.

At present, the District Plan does not list any specific Māori heritage or wahi tapu sites. This was discussed with Iwi and Hapū at the time the District Plan was reviewed in its entirety. At this time, different Iwi groups were at different stages in terms of being able to identify the sites they wanted protected in the District Plan. The Iwi representatives involved determined it most appropriate to wait until all Iwi were in a position identify their sites before listing and protecting such sites in the District Plan, to avoid a situation where some Iwi's sites were protected while others were not.

As part this process, the Iwi representatives involved (from Muaūpoko, Rangitane, Ngati Raukawa, and Ngati Apa) jointly prepared Chapter 1 'Matters of Importance to Tāngata Whenua' of the Horowhenua District Plan, which includes a statement from each Iwi, and objectives and policies

covering a range of matters deemed significant by Iwi. This chapter expresses the intention of both the Council and the 4 Iwi involved to continue working towards ensuring appropriate protection of sites of cultural significance, wāhi tapu, wāhi, tūpuna and other taonga.

The link to that document can be found [here](#).

Also, as a supplementary question, has the HDC received any documents about wahi tapu and wahi tupuna from Ngati Raukawa - either from the Runanga or any whanau or hapu representatives?"

Council has not received a finalised list of wahi tapu and wahi tupuna from Ngati Raukawa. Council has received documents such as Cultural Impact Assessments about particular projects which may include details on sites and has also received a draft Environmental Iwi Management Plan which includes information about cultural sites and was provided to Council for informational purposes. However, as far we understand this document has not been finalised.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the LGOIMA Officer on LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz

Ngā mihi



Monique Davidson
Chief Executive