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2. Paragraph 1.2 "Stewardship for the Councils Natural Forested Areas". Here again we have a situation where we have not been involved as a Runanga with the planning in respect to vegetation and pest management monitoring in forested areas. Given the strong and continued Maori interest and usage of herbs and other plant life in the Regional Park Forest, it would be a positive move by the Council to undertake serious discussion with us. This would also apply to the issues of management related to paragraph 13.
3. In respect to paragraph 1.4 "Encouraging Community Involvement", the statement "developing closer links with an involvement by iwi in the parks and forests" is certainly a proposal strongly supported by the Runanga.

#### THE WATER GROUP OPERATING PLAN – UTILITIES SERVICES DMSION 2000 - 2 0 0 1

The Runanga certainly supports the "public ownership" (3.7) of the water supply system. It does however support a request from the Waiwhetu Maori community to be supported in obtaining access to its traditional artesian water supply. This is a request, which we submit should be part of the Wellington Regional Council plans.

In regard to paragraph 1.5 "Business Efficiency – long term performance indicator", there does not seem to be any record of a discussion on whether or not metered water has been seriously considered for long term conservation of the asset. To give balance to the plan and integrity it would be important in our opinion to ensure such a discussion is undertaken.

#### ENVIRONMENT DIVISION OPERATING PLANS 2000 – 2010

Reference 2.5 "Working with hi". The Council plan to continue with the aratahi design is to be commended. Nevertheless there is doubts as to the effectiveness of improving the relationship and outcomes for each specific iwi. Nevertheless, the aratahi as a "principles setting group" does provide councillors with a collective Maori view on some strategic and high-level policy matters. It should be supported on the condition that the activity proportionately should be no more than 5% of the total Maori relationship activity of the Regional Council. At least 90% of resources and time should be spent on specific iwi issues. Issues relating to a specific tangata whenua locality.

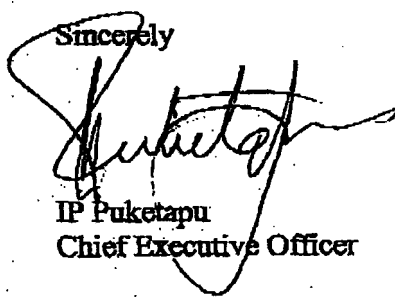
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**Reference 3.5 "Working with Iwi".** The **Rumanga wishes** to make the point that members of the **iwi** are also **ratepayers**. They are part of the **public good responsibility** carried by the **Regional Council**, but the point is well made in the plan of the **inability** of iwi to participate in a **meaningful way** without assistance.

The proposal which had been put to the Council some years ago was that in the case of the **Rumanga**, there should be financial resources of at least \$45,000p.a. to equip one FTE totally responsible for **Regional Council** business.

**Reference 1.3 "Promoting Good Environmental Management".** We are not confident that the **Regional Council** discharges the integrity and **responsibility** encased in "promoting **wise environmental management practices**". The experiences with the objection by their **Rumanga** to grant a resource consent to "**Living Earth**" to use sludge for garden manure is an example of why we raise such a **concern**. The **Council** should make a "**declaratory statement**" supported by public opinion in respect to such **issues**. In that regard **1.5** collecting unwanted agricultural chemicals / domestic hazardous waste – quotation "in 2003, we intend to begin a collection of household hazardous waste", the **Council** does declare that it **must** "do something about" actual or potential **environmental** problems. The **Rumanga** views that it has the power **not** to support cases as that of the "**Living Earth**". It would seem that the **Regional Council** should now take action to reverse that resource consent. A further significant reference is at **4.1.2 "Defuse Accumulative Influences on the Environment**.

Sincerely



IP Puketapu  
Chief Executive Officer