



Report **04.384**
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Committee **Ara Tahī**
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Wellington Regional Strategy

1. Purpose

To advise members of Ara Tahī about the development of a proposed Wellington Regional Strategy. To seek their agreement (at this very early stage in the project) that Ara Tahī will provide guidance on all issues affecting tangata whenua, as part of the governance structure of the project. The Project Director will be in attendance to expand on the information in this report and to respond to any questions.

2. Background

2.1 Introduction

The Wellington Regional Strategy is a joint project of the cities and district councils of the Wellington metropolitan region and the regional council. Our aim is to promote desirable growth in order to remain an internationally competitive region.

A core aspect of the Strategy is the bringing together of a number of currently independent processes so that the links between them are better understood and so that they are aligned in a way that has not happened before. For example, the region's infrastructure, including transport and water supply, has tended to be looked at in isolation from land-use and both separately from economic development. Bringing such issues together will have long-term benefits, not only in terms of ensuring that decisions are compatible and sustainable, but also in getting the best value from our investments. The early workstreams will identify those characteristics of the region that are a constraint on growth. They will identify the interventions that will be needed to address those constraints to ensure the city-region's future competitiveness, and examine how those interventions should happen.

While the project will look at issues where regional efficiencies could be made, it will also identify sense of place values that make each district within the region special.

2.2 Governance

The project will be steered by a Joint Committee of elected representatives of the six councils. The Wellington councils' Chief Executives Forum will manage the project

assisted by a Project Executive Group comprising senior staff representatives from each of the participating Councils.

It is suggested that there be two strategic partners' groups to act in an advisory role to the WRS Forum:

- A general strategic partners' forum, with representatives of sectors such as business, infrastructure providers and Central Government.
- Ara Tahi for matters of significance to tangata whenua. It is suggested that Ara Tahi may wish to have a presence at each meeting of the Joint Committee.

3. Comment

This project should have a major influence on the way that the region develops. It is vital that iwi have a full opportunity to contribute, not only on those matters of particular concern as tangata whenua. While Ara Tahi's key role is a forum to work with Greater Wellington Regional Council, it may be appropriate for it to take on this additional role. In order for Ara Tahi to carry out this role effectively additional meetings of Ara Tahi might be required. It is envisaged that all formal reports to the Joint Committee on matters of any significance will be considered by Ara Tahi.

4. Recommendations

- 1) That Ara Tahi receive the report*
- 2) That Ara Tahi accept the invitation to act as strategic partners to the joint committee overseeing the development of the Wellington Regional Strategy*
- 3) That Ara Tahi decide who should attend the Joint Committee on behalf of Ara Tahi.*

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