



Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreement with Ngāti Tūrangitukua

Councillor Workshop • 20 May 2026



Statutory Framework

- **s58L – Initiation**

Iwi authority may initiate a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe with a local authority by written notice

- **s58M – Contents**

Specifies mandatory and discretionary matters that may be included in the agreement

- **s58N – Guiding principles**

Good faith, enduring purpose, partnership, and open communication between parties

- **s58O – Mandatory matters**

Iwi participation in plan preparation, consultation, monitoring, and dispute resolution

- **s58Q – Discretionary matters**

Consent processes, notification, information sharing, and other mutually agreed functions

- **s58R – Process**

Timeframes, hui requirements, and obligations for completing the agreement

Continuity through legislative transition – Natural Environment and Planning Bills carry forward initiated MWaR agreements



- April 2025**
MWaR initiation received from Ngāti Tūrangitukua
- May 2025**
Initial hui held under s58R RMA
- June 2025-May 2026**
High-level assessment of proposed matters completed
- May 2026**
Councillor workshop (current stage)
- May-June 2026**
Initial MWaR draft preparation
- July 2026**
Legal review of draft agreement
- August 2026**
Draft MWaR presented to Council
- October 2026**
MWaR finalised by statutory deadline

Progress Timeline

Formal MWaR initiated by Ngāti Tūrangitukua on 7 April 2025, with statutory deadline of 7 October 2026

- **Early engagement phase completed:** Initial hui in May 2025 established scope and expectations, with Ngāti Tūrangitukua seeking to build on existing TDC MWaR while addressing regional council-specific functions
- **Assessment phase concluded:** Staff conducted comprehensive high-level assessment of proposed matters from June 2025 through May 2026, evaluating statutory fit, operational implications, and reform durability
- **Current governance stage:** Today's workshop provides opportunity for councillor feedback on proposed elements ahead of detailed drafting, with Tina Porou representing Ngāti Tūrangitukua perspective



Reform Context and Future Alignment

Resource Management Reform

- **Legislative transition underway:** Resource management system reform with Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill
- **Existing arrangements protected:** MWaR agreements already initiated continue during transition, providing certainty
- **Defined timeframe context:** Government confirmed specific timeframe for WRC's institutional role

Local Government Reform

Unitary model transition anticipated

Single successor entity for WRC/TDC functions

- **Alignment opportunity identified:** Single successor entity would assume both WRC and TDC functions
- **Focus on enduring mechanisms:** An agreement that emphasises relationship frameworks rather than provisions tied to current structures



Proposed Matters: High-Level Assessment

Mandatory RMA elements

Discretionary matters

Matters for exclusion

New WRC-specific provisions

- **Mandatory RMA elements**

Participation in plan making, commissioner appointments, monitoring, conflict management, and dispute resolution. These align with existing council practice and can be carried forward into a WRC-specific MWaR with appropriate modification

- **Discretionary matters**

Engagement processes, information sharing, and topic-specific areas of interest. MWaR provides an opportunity to bring greater clarity and consistency to these arrangements

- **Matters for exclusion**

Matters outside WRC's statutory role, not anticipated under the future resource management framework, or not sought by Ngāti Tūrangitukua for inclusion in a MWaR with WRC

- **New WRC-specific provisions**

Additional matters specific to WRC's regional functions, tailored to the council's distinct statutory responsibilities

This high-level assessment is preliminary and indicative only. Relevant staff responsible for each area have provided input. Detailed drafting is yet to occur; staff are presenting this assessment to bring councillors up to speed, seek comment, and answer questions ahead of detailed drafting.



Tongariro River Flood Management

Priority area identified by Ngāti Tūrangitukua

MWaR opportunity for structured engagement

- **Ngāti Tūrangitukua priority**

Tongariro River flood management identified as a priority area for inclusion in the MWaR, reflecting a significant and appropriate focus given Council's flood protection and river management responsibilities within the catchment

- **Council alignment**

Strengthening engagement in this area is desirable from a Council perspective, as effective delivery of flood protection and river works depends on timely engagement, land access, and clear communication with affected parties

- **Structured engagement framework**

The MWaR provides an opportunity to establish a more structured and reliable framework for engagement, including clearer expectations around timing, communication, and issue resolution

- **Operational benefits**

Potential to reduce delivery risk, improve certainty in annual work programmes, and support more consistent and effective implementation of flood management activities



Capacity & Engagement and Resourcing

TDC MwaR includes ongoing resourcing provision

WRC focus on operational delivery support

No standing funding commitment created

- **Established approach at TDC**

TDC MwaR includes ongoing resourcing provision to support Ngāti Tūrangitukua participation in Council processes, reflecting established approach to enabling effective statutory engagement

- **WRC operational focus**

Resourcing for iwi engagement focused on enabling effective engagement where it directly supports operational delivery, particularly for Tongariro River flood management

- **Delivery-driven engagement essential**

Consistent engagement supports work planning certainty and reduces delivery risk, particularly where delivery depends on coordination with Ngāti Tūrangitukua and landowner access

- **Flexible resourcing approach**

Current requirements accommodated within existing budgets through reprioritisation; additional resourcing subject to standard Annual and Long Term Plan processes, with no binding funding commitment



Principles for Drafting

- All provisions designed to support operational delivery rather than create burden, with focus on mechanisms that facilitate council functions
- Every clause must align with WRC's statutory responsibilities, avoiding provisions outside council's mandate or capacity
- Alignment with TDC commitments in core principles and engagement processes, recognizing future unitary model

Practical and enabling

Provisions support operational delivery

Statutory alignment

Aligned to WRC responsibilities and context

TDC consistency

Consistency with existing commitments where appropriate

Role clarity

Clear delineation of roles and responsibilities

Avoid duplication

No conflicting or redundant obligations

Appropriately resourced

Deliverable within available resources

Durable and adaptable

Effective through reform transition