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Heretaunga Haukū Nui

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Abstract

Relationships with the environment for Ngāti Hāwea sit at the core of everyday living. Everything is connected. The essence of this philosophy arises from whakapapa, mauri, mana and tikanga. Practices based on an understanding of the environment have supported Ngāti Hāwea in maintaining and sustaining whānau and communities for many centuries.

At present, key natural and physical resource management legislation define obligations and relationships when working with Māori in this space. In Aotearoa New Zealand, the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991 requires engagement and capacity for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of any local authority in its operations.

This project aims to contribute to the bigger picture around engagement with Māori, and furthermore Māori-Council relationships. This project seeks how effective engagement brings with it not only opportunities for Māori, hapū and local government players, but also the different meanings and expectations that stakeholders bring to inclusive practices and the implications for policy engagement. This study is interested in the processes by which Māori and the Hawkes Bay Regional Council engage with each other, and examines the ways in which natural resource management operations recognize and facilitate hapū values, interests and aspirations under statute.

A Kaupapa Māori approach provided a vital lens as a methodological direction drawing upon the synergies and critical qualitative methodologies in relation to creating culturally appropriate research. I was able to explore the mechanisms of engagement and factors affecting the recognition and facilitation of hapū values, rights, and interests aspirations in natural resource management operations in Te matau a Māui tikitiki-a-Taranga. Responses shared by participants in this study highlighted that the mechanisms the Hawkes Bay Regional Council use to engage with Māori need to be reviewed and enhanced as there are issues related to the recognition and integration of hapū values, rights, interests and aspirations in local government resource management operations.

This Thesis offers recommendations to the Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated and Mana Whenua around the importance is recognising philosophical ideologies around the ancestral relationship Māori have with the environment, which are key to asserting hapū values, interests and aspirations over whenua and water. Furthermore, it offers recommendations around effective and meaningful engagement with Māori, and the recognition and facilitation of hapū values, rights, interests and aspirations in natural resource management operations in Te Matau a Māui tikitiki-a-Taranga, Hawkes Bay.

Ngā mihi whakamiha

Ko tō tātau reo Māori te mātāmua, te timatanga me te whakaotinga o te ao Māori. Kāre i kō atu, kāre hoki i kō mai. I konei te waka o ngā tikanga me ngā kawa, ā, me te tāpikitanga o ngā mea Māori katoa. E wānangananga ana ahau i ēnei kupu kōrero tuaukiuki i waiho ai ki te ao turoa e te hunga kua takahi noa atu i te ara ki te kāpunipunitanga o ngā wairua. E nanaioe atu nei ahau ki te aka matua hai hono i ōku whakaaro ki ērā o ōku tūpuna i takatū i te mata o Heretaunga i mua i tōna muinga e iwi kē. Nikā rā ahaku mihi ki ahaku parepare, ki ahaku rangatira kua whakapau werawera, kua manawanui hoki ki tā tātau kaupapa huia kaimanawa nei, ko Heretaunga Haukū Nui. Mei kore ake rātau hai tohutohu mai, hai ako mai i ahau nei kia taea e ahau te tuhi i āhaku mahi rangahau nei.

Dr. Margaret Forster

Ka huri tahaku aro pūkana ki tahaku poutaunaki, ko Dr. Margaret Forster. Nāhana i pakū mai ōhona ringahora kia ahau, kia taea e ahau te hikoi i tēnei huarahi, te whakatinana hoki i ōku whakaaro me ngā kōingo o Ngāti Hāwea. Mei kore ake ia hai tohutohu mai, hai epa wero mai ki ahau. Kāre e ārikarika a whakamiha ki a koe e tahaku rangatira.

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