



# MANIAPOTO MĀORI TRUST BOARD

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## SUBMISSION TO THE WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL (WDC) on the LONG TERM PLAN 2015-2025

This submission is from the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board (MMTB) regarding the Waitomo District Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2015-2025. The Maniapoto Maori Trust Board submits as follows:

1. The MMTB notes the significant focus of the LTP on financial impacts over the next 10 years and understands the rationale relating to this focus. It is anticipated that many submissions will comment on these matters and the proposed new/amended/targeted rates. For this reason the focus of this MMTB submission is on other LTP matters specifically relating to Māori/Maniapoto/tangata whēnua.
2. The Council's LTP vision for its strategic direction is "Creating a better future with vibrant communities with thriving business" and from this the Council has identified four outcomes; Vibrant communities, Thriving Business, Effective Leadership and Sustainable Infrastructure. This submission aligns to two of these four outcomes:
  - 2.1 Effective Leadership; and
  - 2.2 Vibrant Communities (including economic development)

### 2.1 Effective Leadership:

The recognition of Maniapoto Iwi as a significant stakeholder group within the community is a useful start in describing the nature of a positive relationship between Maori and the WDC. Suggested improvements in the LTP document in relation to this matter include:

- a. The recognition of the Tiriti o Waitangi as a founding document of New Zealand;
- b. The recognition of Maniapoto Iwi as tangata whēnua;
- c. A narrative regarding the collaborative nature of the relationship between WDC and the Maniapoto Iwi. Examples of collaboration could be the work that has been achieved through the Waipa River Clean Up projects, the MMTB Regional Management Committee's receiving monthly resource consent applications, the Nga Wai o Waipa Joint Committee and the associated joint management agreement;
- d. A commitment to complete the memorandum of understanding with local iwi i.e. Maniapoto, which is noted in the WDC's Governance Statement (March 2014);
- e. A clear statement of the Council's intention to seriously consider the establishment of a Maori Ward(s) as provided for in the LGA 2002. While it is acknowledged that the opportunity to progress this matter for the 2016 triennial elections has passed (as this needed to be done by November 2014 and now may not again be reviewed until 2020) it is again disappointing to note that this matter has continued not to be addressed to the satisfaction of tangata whēnua of whom make up 40% of the WDC population (2013 Census).



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## 2.2 Vibrant Communities:

Further to this there is opportunity to provide more clarity and specificity regarding encourage Maori contribution to decision-making. The key issue being that it is not clear in the LTP as to how this will occur. Suggestions in a past submission highlighted the following

- a. Council member and/or staff training and development in this area
  - b. Involvement of tangata whēnua in the early stages of planning processes rather than only in the consultation phase; and
  - c. Seeking to identify and understand the strategic aspirations of Maniapoto Iwi
3. References in relation to the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act requires further updates to acknowledge the work that has been achieved and proposed between the Council, MMTB and tangata whēnua and the community in this space.
4. Council has predicted population shrinkage for the district and the need to plan for the future needs of our communities to reverse this trend. Understanding this trend is directly related to economic growth and the increase of job opportunities within its constituency, the MMTB submits that it is imperative a collaborative approach is taken in initiating potential future change and therefore submit the following recommendation a third option as an addition to the economic growth component to the LTP review:

### Option 3:

To initiate the development of an Economic Development Forum that incorporates key stake holders within the Waitomo community inclusive of the MMTB. The purpose would be to align economic growth strategies of key stake holders and identify priorities for the next 10 to 25 years.

This option will then in turn give credence to the second key focus as identified by the Council of "Community Connectivity and Development". The forum could in turn help drive an agreed action plan. Further to this this will reduce the cost of establishing a separate trust and therefore costs reduced.

5. MMTB would like to be heard in relation to this submission.

Ngā mihi, nā

R. Tiwha Bell  
**Chairman**  
**Maniapoto Māori Trust Board**