

PART 3 MAORI PERSPECTIVE ON THE DISTRICT PLAN

IWI AND HAPU, MAORI CONCERNS, SIGNIFICANT AREAS, WAAHI TAPU

3.1 THE PEOPLE OF WHAREKAWA

Papakura is a name of relatively modern origin. The traditional name for the District is Wharekawa. It has been the home for a number of Maori iwi and hapu, including Ngati Tamaoho, Ngati Akitai, Ngai Tai and Ngati Pou. The people of Wharekawa derived mana from their association with the Manukau Harbour and also from Hunua which supplied all their needs and is a great taonga for them. It is said that in the old days the sound of the kereru in Hunua could be heard as far away as Whatapaka.

Development in Aotearoa since the arrival of Europeans has wrought great changes which have diminished the mana of Wharekawa. Much of the natural environment on which this mana was based has been modified or destroyed.

3.2 SPECIFIC ISSUES OF CONCERN TO MAORI

In addressing the sustainable management of natural and physical resources as required by the Resource Management Act 1991 the District Plan is therefore also helping to preserve the mana of Wharekawa. Representatives of the tangata whenua have raised a number of matters which are of concern to them and which they would like to see addressed as far as possible in the District Plan in relation to development permitted in Wharekawa. Some of these points are common to all parts of Aotearoa. Others are specific to Wharekawa.

The first is the matter of place names. The original name for the District, Wharekawa, has already been mentioned. In addition, a number of local features, e.g Red Hill, Slippery Creek, Hays Creek and Symonds Creek also have original Maori names. While the European names have historical connections the places were already named before the arrival of Europeans. It seems reasonable to consider whether the original names should be reinstated. However, this is not a matter which the District Plan can or should address directly.

The second matter relates to the disposal of waste. The Maori view is that wastes should be returned to land. Thus in the rural area support is given by tangata whenua to measures such as on-site treatment and disposal of wastes. Emphasis should be given to purification rather than discharge of effluent.

A third matter relates to the management of the margins of creeks and streams. The Maori view is that these should be left to revert to their natural state although it is accepted that control of weeds and other exotic vegetation will continue to be necessary. However, Maori consider that spraying (especially of herbicides) should not be permitted close to watercourses.

The fourth matter relates to the need to maintain the rural character of the District. In the opinion of tangata whenua the country areas provide space for recreation and for people to escape the pressures of urban life. They are the “lungs” of the city. Thus support is also given to the concept of protecting the rural character of the area and providing public walkways around the edge of the harbour.

3.3 SIGNIFICANT AREAS

There are also specific areas of significance to Maori. The first is Puke-Kiwi-O-Riki (Red Hill) which is a Crown reserve administered by Papakura District Council. This is an ancient papakainga site which was confiscated and which Maori feel should be returned to Ngati Tamaoho. While this matter is outside the jurisdiction of the District Plan insofar as returning the land to its original owners is concerned, the Maori association with the reserve is significant in framing rules for its future management. section 33 of the Resource Management Act 1991 provides a means by which the Council could transfer its responsibility for the management of this reserve if it considers it is desirable to do so.

The second area of great significance, as already mentioned, is Hunua. This is the area of greatest concern to tangata whenua and which they would like to see looked after (managed sustainably). Specifically, they wish to be involved in any process which is related to the approval of activities in the area.

The third area is the Hingaia Stream and its catchment. This is an area which was, formerly, densely populated by Maori. Hingaia was a chieftainess who is buried at Maketu (near Stevenson's quarry). The stream which bears her name represents her. The stream and the surrounding area therefore have special meaning for Maori. Any further development in this catchment is not supported by tangata whenua who see it as further impacting on the value of traditional land.

3.4 WAAHI TAPU

According to the Huakina Development Trust, the tangata whenua have decided that waahi tapu should not be identified in the District Plan. Tangata whenua intend to protect their own interests in this regard by maintaining a close liaison with the Department of Conservation and by relying on the provisions of section 93(f) of the Resource Management Act 1991 which requires iwi authorities to be notified of resource consent applications. In the light of that decision, no waahi tapu sites are identified in this Plan.

