

Motiti – Tuhua Plan

Newsletter No. 1

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THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

Kia ora and Welcome

Motiti and Tuhua (Mayor) Islands are two of the most important off-shore islands in the Bay of Plenty.

Motiti because of its farming community and its importance as a home to Ngati Patuwai, Ngati Maumoana and Ngati Tauwhao, and Tuhua for its cultural and conservation values. Both islands are rich in history and have important cultural values.

The islands provide a home, work and a place for play and rest for many people both those living on the islands and those living on the mainland.

The islands are important to many people who recognise their ancestral and cultural connection even though they are now living away from their lands. They offer a place which people may identify with in their family and in their family histories.

Motiti and Tuhua are also part of a small group of islands that are not part of a local authority and are administered by the Department of Internal Affairs.

This has meant that a lot of the advantages and disadvantages of dealing with the local Council has passed the islands by. There are no local rates and currently no dog control, for example. But, on the other hand there is no sewage systems or fire fighting management. In the past all the services have had to be brought to the islands and built up, in many cases, by the residents and their families themselves.

The Department is a partner to the community in providing for the management of the community and the environments of these islands. The Department also has statutory obligations to fulfil. It must complete the duties of a local Council and it must administer the Acts and Regulations of New Zealand as any other Council does.

One of those duties is to prepare a District Plan under the Resource Management Act. This Plan does not change the Department's role in providing for the community or its place as a partner in managing the environment. The Department has hired Beca Planning to prepare the Plan with the community.

This Newsletter is a first step in explaining what the District Plan is, how it will be prepared and its importance to you and the future of the islands. There will be more newsletters and opportunities to provide your input to the Plan and these are also explained in the Newsletter.

At any time, if you have any questions or comments you can call Keith Frenz at Beca Planning on 0800 23 22 00.

We wish you every success with this important project.

Kind regards



Donald Riezebos

For Department of Internal Affairs



What is a District Plan?

A District Plan provides a set of guidelines for the management of a community of common interest. In most of New Zealand that area is a District or City.

The Plan provides for the well-being of that community. It must provide for the health and safety of residents and it must strike a balance between the natural and physical environments and the economic, social and cultural values of that community.

Plans may consist of a number of parts. For example they may include a development plan for industrial or rural areas, a conservation plan for important natural areas or an Iwi Management Plan for areas administered by an Iwi or hapu.

Most importantly the Plan must safeguard the land for our future generations. It is not something that we can take for granted but we must look after it for our children and their children who will follow us.

Who is preparing the Plan?

You are preparing the Plan. No one knows these islands better than you do. Each of you has your own needs and aspirations for the future of the islands and these are the essential basis of any good planning.

But because everyone has their own view on this it is sometimes difficult to reach an agreement on what is best.

Beca Planning has been chosen to bring people together, get their views and write the Plan. Beca is able to bring technical skills and experience to the Plan that will enable the best outcome possible for the islands.

Who is being consulted?

Everyone with an interest in the islands is invited to take part in the preparation of the Plan.

To start the process we are holding a number of hui and meetings with tangata whenua and land owners. Letters asking for meeting dates have been sent out and dates and times will be advised through your interest groups and representatives.

Individuals will be contacted directly and convenient times arranged for meetings.

If you want to be included as an individual or a group and you think you are not on our contact list please call us and we will arrange to meet with you.

How will it be prepared?

There will be a lot of talking.

We want to hear from you and to do this we will meet with all the key groups on the islands and on the mainland in groups and individually.

The programme for the Plan preparation is to have a first round of consultation and discussion in the next 3 or 4 weeks followed by the preparation of a draft Plan based on your comments. To do this we need to know:

- What issues there are on the islands for land management and development – are there concerns for the environment or the community. A suggested list of issues is attached to start the discussion.
- What are the essential parts of the community – people naturally, but also the lifeline links, the airstrip, the landing areas, power and telephone.
- How can we improve things – do some areas need to be protected, do we need to upgrade the essential services.

These are the sorts of questions we need to know the answer to.



How can you contact us?

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We look forward to hearing from you.

