

Motiti – Tuhua Plan

Newsletter No. 2

March 2005



Te Tari Taiwhenua

Kia ora

Since the last newsletter sent out in November 2004, we have met with some of you to begin the process of preparing plans for Motiti and Tuhua.

Around 60 people attended the hui held at Motiti Island on a sundrenched Saturday afternoon in January. There were a number of interesting issues raised and the meeting was very productive. For many tangata whenua this visit to the island was their first, and one of the highlights was an informative tour around the northern end of Motiti provided by Nepia Ranapia.

We were also given a tour of the southern end of the island by Vernon Wills and Ali Martin, who showed us the extensive avocado orchard of Motiti Avocados Limited. Productive discussions have been held with both of these groups.



There has also been a preliminary meeting with the members of the Tuhua Trust Board, to explain in more detail the process of preparing a plan for Tuhua and the statutory responsibilities of the Department of Internal Affairs.

Currently the various iwi and hapu groups are digesting the information that was provided to them at the various hui and are considering the wide range of items raised. Shortly we will be engaging in consultation with you all again, to begin preparing a vision for each of the islands and to establish some of the issues that arise from that vision. In the mean time, we encourage you to think about the following:

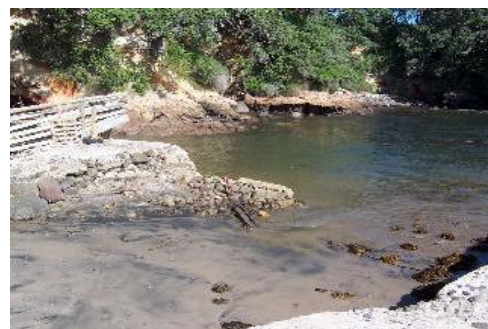
- How can things be improved – do some areas need to be protected, do essential services need to be upgraded? Or:
- What are the essential parts of the community – people naturally, but also the lifeline links, the landing areas, power and telephone. For Tuhua, an essential part of the special character of the island is to maintain protection of the conservation area.
- How can things be improved – do some areas need to be protected, do essential services need to be upgraded or should the islands be kept as they are?
- What is the best way to achieve the vision?



What are the advantages of having a Plan?

The RMA in general sets up the processes by which all activities may be judged with the purpose of the Resource Management Act in mind. The purpose of the Act is to promote:

“Sustainable management of natural and physical resources”.



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THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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To achieve this the plan will identify issues of concern, objectives and policies to resolve those issues and methods of implementing the Plan or Vision you have for your island. One method of doing this is to nominate permitted, controlled, restricted discretionary, non-complying and prohibited activities. Permitted activities can be done as of right and prohibited activities cannot be done at all. The ones in between require some form of consent. Other methods may include conservation covenants or trusteeships.

The advantages of the Plan is that it is:

- Legally enforceable with serious consequences for knowingly breaking the rules, for example visitors bringing dogs and cats onto Tuhua.
- Provides certainty in terms of activities that the community believes should be regulated.

What now?

Before we move forward the following question needs to be looked at:

What issues are there on the islands for land management and development – are there concerns for the environment or the community?

We welcome any informal feedback you can provide us with during this formative stage of preparing the plans. We encourage you to contact us any time with any questions or comments you may have.



How can you contact us?

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Kind regards

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