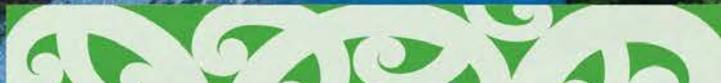
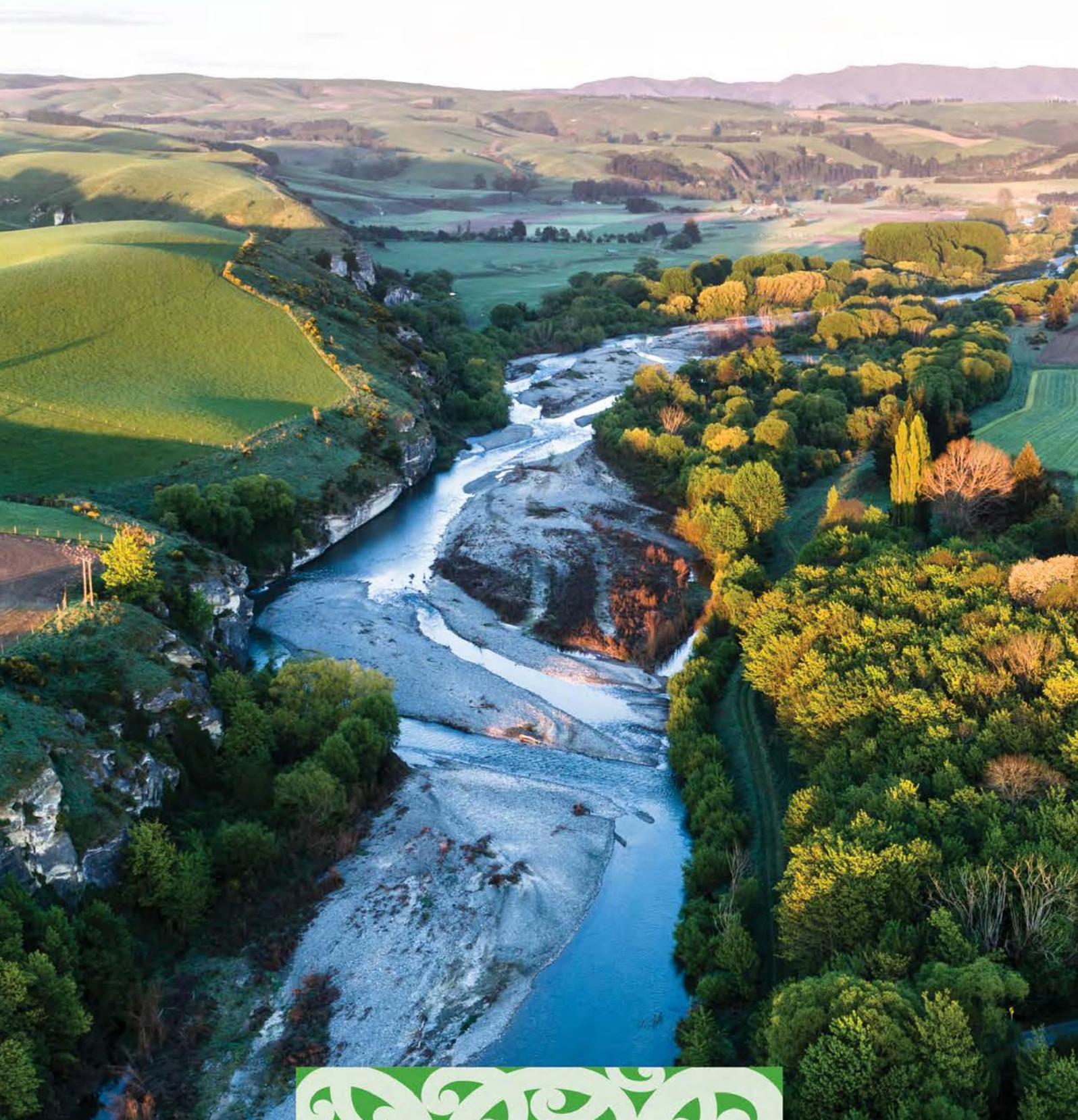


# MĀORI PARTICIPATION POLICY



## Māori Participation Policy

The Local Government Act 2002 provides principles and requirements for local authorities that are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes. This is to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes. The requirement for 'participation of Māori' recognises and respects the mana whenua (customary tribal authority) status of Ngāi Tahu Whānui within the Canterbury region, as set out in section 5 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996.

In addition to Local Government Act obligations, the Resource Management Act 1991 gives regional councils specific obligations regarding kaitiakitanga, the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, and the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga. To give effect to the obligations under both the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act, Environment Canterbury must continue to develop its relationships with all ten Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga in Canterbury and with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu – the iwi authority.

The principles and requirements for participation are outlined as follows:

- *Opportunities for Māori* - a local authority should provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes.
- *Local authority decision-making* - where, in the course of the decision-making process, a significant decision relates to land or a body of water, the local authority must take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga (see below).
- *Contributions to decision-making processes* – a local authority must establish processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes, and also to consider ways to foster the development of Māori capacity.
- *Consultation with Māori* – a local authority must ensure that it has in place processes for consulting with Māori that are in accordance with the principles of consultation as set out in section 82 of the Local Government Act.
- *Working with Māori* – a local authority must work with Māori to further community outcomes.
- *Development of Māori capacity* – a local authority must develop Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority.

Environment Canterbury has a number of processes and projects that give effect to these obligations and facilitate participation by Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga. These include:

- Having two Ngāi Tahu-nominated Councillors
- Meeting regularly at staff and governance level with ngā Rūnanga to share information, discuss key issues and receive Rūnanga advice concerning work programmes across the Council's functions
- utilising and supporting Rūnanga technical advisory services which support the ability of Rūnanga to respond in a timely and effective way to resource consents and other work that requires mana whenua input
- Developing an agreed joint work programme between Ngā Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury
- Ensuring Ngāi Tahu members on the Canterbury Water Management Zone Committees are supported in their roles, including through assistance from tangata whenua facilitators
- Establishing Rūnanga working groups to ensure genuine involvement in RMA plan development
- Providing a small fund to assist Rūnanga in their marae-based projects that contribute to Councils functions

- Providing information to assist in the effective contribution to the decision-making processes of Environment Canterbury including making available resources and information such as maps and technical reports.
- Undertaking ongoing promotion and education of staff and governors to develop skills in Māoritanga and Tikanga Māori, and gain an appreciation of the needs and expectations of Māori in relation to the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act 1991
- Undertaking effective and efficient consultation to improve existing relationships, processes and protocols related to local government and resource management issues.

