



Te Hono o Tahu

Between

Hutt City Council

and

**Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui
Trust**



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1. TE HONO O TAHU

Te Hono o Tahu speaks to the deity central to Taranaki narratives—Tāhumāenene (Tahu). Tahu is the atua of tranquility, peace, and unity, serving as the mediator between Tāwhirimātea, Tūmatauenga, and Tāne Mahuta. These atua exist in a constant state of tension, yet when aligned, they form a powerful force for good—creating a thriving and balanced world.

In the context of Te Hono o Tahu, we invoke Tahu not only as a unifier who fosters peace and prosperity but also as the embodiment of the state we seek to uphold. This is a commitment to a shared future, built on collective strength, unity, and a deep responsibility to each other and our environment.

Te Hono o Tahu is a declaration of our intent to actively shape the future we want to create together. It signifies our commitment to mahi tahi, kotahitanga, and a shared aspiration for the wellbeing of our people, our takiwā, and all who reside within Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai.

2. TŪĀPAPA | FOUNDATIONS

Te Hono o Tahu is underpinned by our takiwā, Mana Whenua tikanga, ahi kā, mana kohi, and whakapapa. It acknowledges and strengthens the connection between Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui Trust and Hutt City Council, ensuring that our shared responsibilities and obligations are met with integrity and purpose – being that our communities prosper and thrive.

For Te Hono o Tahu to be successful, every connection, relationship, and responsibility must be upheld with intention and care. This document sets out:

- Who this relationship is between
- The principles that guide us
- Our shared objectives
- The framework for how we work together
- Our respective roles and responsibilities
- The values that underpin our commitment

Te Hono o Tahu is a living commitment—one that calls upon us to uphold the principles of unity, and purpose in all that we do. In times of challenge, we invoke Tahu to guide us, ensuring that we remain steadfast in our collective pursuit against our purpose for present and future generations.

"Honoa ki te mouri o Tahu, kia ū, kia mārō, kia toitū te kotahitanga."
"Bind to the essence of Tahu, so it is steadfast, resolute, and enduring in unity."

3. TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

The purpose of Te Hono o Tahu is to affirm and strengthen the relationship between Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui and Hutt City Council, grounded in our shared commitment to unity, prosperity, and collective wellbeing within our community of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai.

Te Hono o Tahu acknowledges that we are already connected. It represents our collective resolve to actively shape the future we seek to create together, guided by the principles of peace, prosperity, and enduring connection and collaboration.

Te Hono o Tahu establishes our relationship at a governance level, ensuring that our responsibilities to the people and the takiwā are upheld with integrity. Funding and operational arrangements, including those of Kāhui Mana Whenua—a forum designed to enable collaboration and engagement on city development policy and projects within Hutt City Council’s work programme—are addressed in a supplementary agreement.

Bound by the principles of Tāhumāenene (Tahu), this agreement is a formal document; it is a living commitment to uphold a state of mahi tahi, kotahitanga, and collective responsibility for the prosperity of present and future generations within Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai.

TE TAI RANGAPŪ O TE HONO O TAHU | PARTIES TO TE HONO O TAHU

The parties to Te Hono o Tahu are Hutt City Council and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui Trust.

4. TARANAKI WHĀNUI KI TE UPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

The vision for Taranaki Whānui is to ensure that all that we do we are “*Tupuna Guided and Mokopuna Focused*”. Taranaki Whānui represent the interests of its members who collectively belong to the iwi of Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o Te Ika. These iwi include:

- Te Āti Awa
- Ngāti Tama
- Taranaki
- Ngāti Ruanui
- Other iwi from the Taranaki area (for example Ngāti Mutunga)

Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika is a Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE), and Hutt City Council recognises the rights and responsibilities established under the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Act, Claims Settlement Act 2009 and the associated deed of settlement.

5. TE KAUNIHERA O TE AWA KAIRANGI | HUTT CITY COUNCIL

Hutt City Council’s purpose is: A city where all of its people thrive.

Hutt City Council is a territorial authority as defined in the Local Government Act 2002. Its role is to enable democratic local decision-making and action by and on behalf of communities; and to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost effective for households and businesses.

6. HE MIHI | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The parties acknowledge the importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi | Treaty of Waitangi as a founding document of the Government in Aotearoa | New Zealand.

7. TE HONONGA | RELATIONSHIP

As a local authority, Hutt City Council operates within a legal framework that includes provisions for Māori and an obligation to involve Māori in decision-making. While these statutory obligations form the foundation for organisational policy and service delivery, on their own, they do not fully reflect the significance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the principles of partnership, or the transformative potential of a meaningful relationship with Taranaki Whānui.

Hutt City Council aspires to do more—to create a city where all people thrive. This means embracing Te Ao Māori in policies and practices, being responsive to Māori needs and aspirations, and actively fulfilling its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

A strong and enduring partnership with Taranaki Whānui, Hutt City Council's Tākaia Here partners, and ahi kā is essential to shaping a city where whakapapa, tikanga, and mātauranga o Te Āti Awa, Taranaki Whānui are valued as integral to decision-making, growth, and well-being.

Te Hono o Tahu – A Commitment Beyond Obligation

Te Hono o Tahu is a commitment to relationships of enduring collaboration, and collective responsibility. It acknowledges that we are already connected and seeks to elevate our relationship from compliance to a shared vision for the future.

Council is committed to ensuring that the right relationships, processes, and structures are in place to enable a true partnership with Mana Whenua. This requires:

- Genuine and meaningful engagement at all levels
- A shared focus on decision-making

The Commitments of Te Hono o Tahu

The parties to Te Hono o Tahu agree to:

- Act as a strategic forum to inform and align efforts across local government
- Maintain a collaborative approach to developing, delivering, monitoring and reporting on policies, practices, systems, investment strategies, capital projects, programmes, and services, ensuring they align with shared values and aspirations
- Advocate for the advancement and well-being of Mana Whenua, ahi kā and Mātāwaka through innovative, values-driven solutions
- Champion the protection, prosperity, and well-being of Te Taiao (te whenua me te wai) through tikanga-led solutions, guided by the knowledge and leadership of Mana Whenua

8. WHĀINGA | OBJECTIVES

The parties to Te Hono o Tahu seek to recognise and uphold:

- The importance of collaboration in the development and delivery of policies, practices, capital projects, services, and programmes that serve our communities.
- Our shared responsibilities as entities that hold significant obligations to the well-being, prosperity, and sustainability of the communities we serve.
- The necessity of working together on agreed and relevant initiatives and projects.
- The need for a governance framework that fosters enduring relationships, supports genuine partnership, and ensures effective decision-making grounded in shared values and aspirations.
- A commitment to proactive engagement ensuring that Te Ao Māori, Mana Whenua perspectives, and tikanga are integrated into planning, investment, and implementation at all levels.

9. POU TARĀWAHO O TE HONO O TAHU | TE HONO O TAHU FRAMEWORK

The parties to Te Hono o Tahu acknowledge that this agreement:

- Gives effect to a meaningful and enduring partnership, grounded in shared responsibilities, mutual respect, and a commitment to collective prosperity.
- Establishes a platform for transparent, open, and continuous communication, ensuring clarity, accountability, and trust between the parties.
- Enables Taranaki Whānui decision-making by ensuring strategic leadership, direct involvement across Council's operational functions, and meaningful contributions to outcomes that reflect shared values and aspirations.

10. HAEPAPA | ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The parties, through joint quarterly hui and other mutually agreed fora, commit to upholding the principles of Te Hono o Tahu by fostering active collaboration, shared leadership, and aligned decision-making. These engagements serve as a

platform to develop, implement, and uphold the aspirations, priorities, objectives, and outcomes that underpin our collective responsibilities.

As a reflection of this commitment, Te Herenga Kairangi, Hutt City Council's first Māori Strategy, and the Taranaki Whānui Strategic Plan to 2040 will play a pivotal role in advancing the outcomes of Te Hono o Tahu. These strategies serve as a key mechanism to embed Te Ao Māori, Taranaki Whānui aspirations, tikanga, and whakapapa-led approaches across Council and Taranaki Whānui operations, ensuring that our shared vision is actively realised.

Through this commitment, we ensure that Te Hono o Tahu is a living and evolving framework, guiding the development of policies, projects, services, and investments that support the well-being and prosperity of our takiwā, our people, communities and future generations

11. UARA | VALUES

Whanaungatanga – Strengthening enduring relationships built on trust, whakapapa, and collective responsibility, with an intergenerational focus on the prosperity of our takiwā.

Manaakitanga – Placing the care of our whānau and wider community at the centre; enhancing mana through excellence, generosity, and hospitality.

Kaitiakitanga – Protecting, restoring, and sustaining our environment, people, and resources, ensuring that our actions today uphold the well-being of future generations.

Whakapono – Acting with integrity, honesty, and transparency, ensuring that our commitment to Te Hono o Tahu is upheld through good faith and accountability.

Kotahitanga – Uniting as one under the principles of Tāhūmāenene, fostering collaboration between Taranaki Whānui, Council and the wider community to achieve shared aspirations.

Whakatau Tika – Making decisions with fairness, balance, and justice, guided by tikanga and the values that uphold peace and prosperity.

Wairuatanga – Recognising and honouring the spiritual and cultural dimensions of our identity, ensuring that Te Hono o Tahu remains a guiding force in times of both challenge and opportunity.

Ahi Kā – Upholding our enduring presence and responsibilities within our takiwā, ensuring that Te Hono o Tahu reflects our ongoing commitment to place, people, and purpose as Ahi Kā.

Rangatiratanga – Exercising visionary and courageous leadership, shaping a future where Te Hono o Tahu thrives as an enduring commitment to unity, peace, and sustainable well-being.

12. KŌRERO WHĀNUI | GENERAL TERMS

a. Nature of Te Hono o Tahu

Te Hono o Tahu:

- is freely entered into by all parties in a spirit of good faith and partnership;
- is a statement of good intention based on the respective roles and responsibilities of each party; and
- can only be realised by an ongoing good relationship between parties.

Te Hono o Tahu comes into force on the date of signing.

b. Relationship Management

Regular meetings between the Chief Executive, Mayor (relevant councillors), Board members, and relevant staff of both organisations will be held as agreed.

Hutt City Council recognises the importance of the relationship between Hutt City Council and Taranaki Whānui. Taranaki Whānui will be accorded special rights in Hutt City Council Standing Orders in terms of agenda items and speaking rights at Hutt City Council meetings (refer current relevant clauses in Hutt City Council Standing Orders Provisions for Tangata Whenua).

c. Term and Review

The objectives recorded in this document shall commence on the date it is signed by all parties and last until Te Hono o Tahu is replaced or terminated. To ensure Te Hono o Tahu remains relevant and current for both parties, it will be reviewed annually by relevant representatives from both party organisations.

d. Termination of Te Hono o Tahu

Any party may terminate its participation in Te Hono o Tahu by giving the other parties at least 30 working days' notice of an intention to terminate.

Signed on 17/03/2025 2025 for and on behalf of Hutt City Council by:



Campbell Barry

Koromatua I Mayor

Signed on 19/05/2025 2025 for and on behalf of Taranaki Whānui
ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui (Port Nicholson Block Settlement) Trust by:



Te Whatanui Winiata

Heamana I Chairperson

13. ĀPITI HANGA 1 | Appendix 1

Taranaki Whānui Ki Te Upoko O Te Ika A Māui

Working together in partnership to ensure key outcomes and priorities are supported and provided for, these include:

Hōniana Te Puni Local Purpose Reserve

The fee simple title ownership of the Hōniana Te Puni Reserve transferred to the Taranaki Whānui Settlement Trust on 2 September 2009 with Hutt City Council appointed as the administering body in accordance with the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Act. The parties commit to the development and implementation of a reserve management plan for Hōniana Te Puni Reserve, cognisant of the aspirations of Taranaki Whānui, which establishes a framework for how it will be managed and developed and will evolve. Hutt City Council also commits to working together in future years with Taranaki Whānui to explore opportunities to enhance the recreational, cultural and community amenity of reserve noting its significance as an entry point into our city.

East Harbour Regional Park

The historical association and relationship of Taranaki Whānui to this area and specifically the fee simple ownership of the lake beds of Lake Kōhanga Piripiri and Lake Kōhanga Te Rā. The parties commit to ensuring the Mana Whenua interests, aspirations and practices are supported and mutually enabled through our shared association with the East Harbour Regional Park. Hutt City Council also commits to providing Taranaki Whānui with access to Burdan's Gate.

Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi

Taranaki Whānui continues to be actively involved in the Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (Te Awa Kairangi) project. Hutt City Council commits to continue working with Taranaki Whānui in delivering key components that relate to Hutt City Council's activities and projects within the programme, including the wastewater and stormwater upgrades associated with the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund programme.

Cross Valley Link / Petone to Grenada

Taranaki Whānui is working with the New Zealand Transport Agency on the Cross Valley Link / Petone to Grenada. Taranaki Whānui understands that Hutt City Council has clear interests in this project. Hutt City Council commits to work collaboratively with Taranaki Whānui in support of the delivery of this project in so far as it relates to the roles and responsibilities of Hutt City Council.

14. ĀPITI HANGA 2 | Appendix 2

Taranaki Whānui Ki Te Upoko O Te Ika A Māui

Working together in partnership to ensure key outcomes and priorities are supported and provided for, these include:

a. Statutory Acknowledgements

As part of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Act there is an obligation to recognise the association that Taranaki Whānui has with areas of traditional, historical, cultural, and spiritual significance within their rohe. Areas that require statutory acknowledgements relevant to the Hutt City Council include Wellington Harbour, Hutt River, Waiwhetū Stream, Riverside Drive Marginal Strip, Seaview Marginal Strip, Remutaka Forest Park, Wainuiomata Recreation Area and the Tūrakirae Head Scenic Reserve.

b. Rights of First Refusal

Hutt City Council must obtain written approval from Taranaki Whānui when the Council intends to acquire, dispose of, or redevelop assets of which Taranaki Whānui hold a right of first refusal (RFR) option over, noting Taranaki Whānui's dislike of the Public Works Act and its processes, as they are not reflective of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The RFR schedule recognises the importance for Taranaki Whānui in rebuilding their land holdings and their relationship to the land as Mana Whenua. Council recognises the significance of the RFR schedule and agrees to work collaboratively with Taranaki Whānui to protect and/or grow their interest and investment where Council has the means to do so.