

2 May 2025

Hutt City Council
30 Laings Road
Lower Hutt



By email: district.plan@huttcity.govt.nz

Submission on the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan

1. This is a submission by Wellington Tenth Trust and the Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust (c/- Te Karanga o Te Tui Marino) on the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan 2025.
2. Our email address for service is tekaranga@tekau.maori.nz.
3. The Trusts cannot gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
4. The specific provisions of the proposal that our submission relates to, our submission on those provisions, and the decisions we seek are shown in the below table. We also seek all further, alternative, necessary, or consequential relief as may be necessary to fully achieve the relief sought in this submission.
5. We wish to be heard in support of this submission.
6. If others make a similar submission, we will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

Mana Whenua

7. The Wellington Tenth Trust is an Ahu Whenua Trust and iwi authority constituted by the Māori Land Court in December 2003. The Trust administers Māori Reserve lands in Wellington and Upper Hutt that were set aside for iwi as part of the Port Nicholson Block purchase agreement between the New Zealand Company and Mana Whenua in 1839. The Trust represents nearly 7,000 registered owners and their whānau.

8. The Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust is an Ahu Whenua Trust that originated through an act of the Crown in 1866 when Governor Grey exchanged Te Āti Awa land interests in Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt, with a block of land which is now part of central Palmerston North. The trust represents approximately 1100 beneficial owners and their whanau.
9. The Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust and Wellington Tenths Trust are known as "sister trusts". This is because they emanate from the same parents, that being the land and waters at Te Whanganui-a-Tara.
10. The Trusts represent the descendants of tūpuna of the various hapū of Te Āti Awa, Taranaki (iwi), Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga and other iwi from the Taranaki area who migrated to Te Whanganui a Tara in the 1820s and early 1830s and have maintained ahi kā since then.
11. The Wellington Tenths Trust and the Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trusts were responsible for taking the claim to the Waitangi Tribunal that resulted in the establishment of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, now known as Taranaki Whānui.
12. We are Mana Whenua and hold Mana Whakahaere in the takiwā (region) of Wellington, Lower Hutt, and Upper Hutt cities.

Comment

SASM - Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori Chapter

13. We are writing this submission in complete support of the addition of the SASM - Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori chapter within the proposed district plan.
14. The iwi we represent have been Mana Whenua in this region for 200 years. Our enduring presence in Te Awa Kairangi (Lower Hutt) has forged a deep and inseparable connection between the landscape and our identity as Mana Whenua. This bond extends to significant sites across the region—places where our ancestors lived, worked, played, shared, loved, and mourned. These same ancestors stood on the shores of Pito One in 1839, meeting with the New Zealand Company in negotiations that would shape the foundations of modern Aotearoa.
15. From the early 1840s to the present time, the development of Lower Hutt has erased Mana Whenua cultural landscape elements making it difficult for us to maintain a sense of place or a connection to our history in the city.

16. The sites and areas in this chapter still hold deep cultural importance to Mana Whenua today, despite most of these sites being heavily modified throughout the colonisation process. They potentially hold material of archaeological importance that could help more accurately tell the stories of the region we all know and enjoy.
17. For many years, our trusts have worked tirelessly to uphold our role as Mana Whenua and kaitiaki (guardians) of this takiwā, building strong relationships with councils across the Wellington region. Through this collaboration, we have worked alongside Hutt City Council to ensure the well-being of all who call Te Awa Kairangi home.
18. Sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8 of the Resource Management Act require the relationship of Māori and their ancestral lands to be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance, and for those exercising the functions and powers under the Act to have regard to kaitiakitanga and to take into account the principles of the Tiriti o Waitangi.
19. From our perspective, the inclusion of Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori in the proposed district plan is an extremely positive step and meets the requirements of sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8 of the Resource Management Act. It reflects Hutt City Council's commitment to working in partnership with Mana Whenua, aligning with the spirit and intent of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This recognition not only acknowledges the deep historical and cultural connections we have to this land but also demonstrates a willingness to uphold the principles of partnership, protection, and participation in decision-making.
20. We would like to stress that the inclusion of SASM Chapter in the District Plan **does not** give Mana Whenua rights that supersede private property rights. We have been disappointed to see that social media platforms are being used to spread misinformation about this chapter. The inclusion of the SASM, and associated rules, are in place to ensure that archaeological discoveries are managed effectively, with a view of preserving this history for all people within Te Awa Kairangi. The chapter also opens the ability for Mana Whenua to engage with developers and see if our stories and history can be told as part of developing the whenua.
21. We recommend that Hutt City Council amend the introduction/purpose to the SASM chapter. The introduction/purpose section requires more detail to explicitly address and clarify common misinformation—particularly the misunderstanding that the SASM rules grant Mana Whenua rights over those of landowners. Clearer language would help ensure all stakeholders understand

that the rules aim to protect cultural heritage, not to alter ownership rights or create preferential legal status for Mana Whenua. We believe this will help to alleviate the anxiety residents are experiencing with the inclusion of the SASM chapter.

22. By improving public understanding of what the SASM rules do—and do not—mean, we believe there will be greater acceptance of the chapter. In turn, this can foster more constructive relationships with Mana Whenua and support broader engagement with te ao Māori.

Papakāinga Chapter

23. We support the inclusion of the Papakāinga Chapter and associated rules.
24. We view the inclusion of the Papakāinga Chapter in the district plan as an extremely positive step. As previously mentioned, Mana Whenua have spent generations forging a connection to this land. Our ancestors lived in a way that was in accordance with tikanga at the time, part of this tikanga was the papakāinga living arrangement, where related peoples coexisted in a communal living model.
25. The inclusion of the Papakāinga Chapter speaks to the positive way in which Hutt City Council provides for the needs of their treaty partners. Allowing the development of papakāinga within certain zones promotes the right of tino rangatiratanga (self-determination) as promised in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
26. Māori experience poorer housing outcomes and higher rates of homelessness than the general population. The inclusion of the Papakāinga Chapter provides an avenue for Māori to explore housing options that were previously unavailable to residents in Te Awa Kairangi, as well as a way for Māori to express tino rangatiratanga through determining how and where they live.
27. We firmly believe that providing for the development of papakāinga in the district plan will benefit the wider community of Te Awa Kairangi. Facilitating the development of papakāinga will aid in improving housing outcomes for Māori which may in turn free up housing options for other community members. Furthermore, allowing certain economic activities on papakāinga land has the potential to stimulate economic growth—something that all residents of Te Awa Kairangi will benefit from.

We commend the Council for the work on this Proposed District Plan and look forward to the opportunity to speak to our submission.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Liz Mellish'.

Liz Mellish MNZM
Amokura/Chairperson
Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anaru Smiler'.

Anaru Smiler
Amokura/Chairperson
Wellington Tenths Trust

Chapter	Provision	Position	Reasons	Relief sought
SASM – Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori	Whole Chapter	Support with amendment	<p>We support the chapter overall; however, we believe the introduction and purpose section requires more detail to explicitly address and clarify common misinformation—particularly the misunderstanding that the SASM (Sites and Areas of Significance to Mana Whenua) rules grant Mana Whenua rights over those of landowners.</p> <p>Clearer language would help ensure all stakeholders understand that the rules aim to protect cultural heritage, not to alter ownership rights or create preferential legal status.</p>	Amend the introduction to the SASM chapter to address the misinformation particularly regarding private property rights.
PK – Papakāinga	Whole Chapter	Support	We support the implementation of the papakāinga chapter within the district plan.	Add the chapter to the final district plan in its current state.