



TE RŪNANGA O  
TOA RANGATIRA

Ā UPANE KA UPANE WHITI TE RA

## Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan Speaking Notes Hearing Stream One

30 April 2026

Hutt City Council

1. Tēnā koutou thank you for the opportunity to speak to our submission on the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan. **[introduce ourselves]** We are here to represent Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira which is the mandated iwi authority for Ngāti Toa Rangatira.
2. Ngāti Toa Rangatira are mana whenua of Te Awa Kairangi. This responsibility is shared with Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika who are also mana whenua and exercise ahi kā in the district.
3. As reported by the Waitangi Tribunal, Ngāti Toa held ahi kā rights within the Hutt Valley at 1840.
4. The iwi were impacted by the New Zealand Company and the Crown in 1846 which involved colonial military action and multiple breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
5. In 2012, the Crown apologised for these actions and the Deed of Settlement and associated Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014 provides the basis for recognition and partnership relationships in the Hutt Valley, including recognition of Te Awa Kairangi.
6. We acknowledge and appreciate the ongoing relationship that Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira has with Hutt City Council and the opportunities to provide feedback on this important kaupapa. We also acknowledge the engagement with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira on the draft district plan and the drafting of various chapters throughout the plan alongside Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika.
7. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira made a submission on the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan on the 1st of May 2026 which we take as read. The specific provisions of the plan that this submission related to include the Tangata Whenua, Papakāinga and Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori Chapter, as well as District-Wide Matters, Te Awa Kairangi and zoning at No. 30 Benmore Crescent.
8. As this Hearing Stream covers General Definitions and Strategic Directions for Tangata Whenua and Natural Environment, today we will be speaking to



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our submission points on the Tangata Whenua Chapter and the Strategic Direction Natural Environment objectives. We intend to address the other points made throughout our submissions in the relevant hearing streams.

### Tangata Whenua Chapter

9. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira are supportive of the Tangata Whenua Chapter of the Proposed District Plan. This chapter acknowledges the statutory context of engagement and partnership with iwi, recognises the relationship of tangata whenua with the land and resources and articulates matters of significance, as well as important principles and values associated with Lower Hutt.
10. We did notice an amendment that needs to be made in the chapter under *Section 5. Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014*. This section currently refers to statutory acknowledgements under the Act requiring *relevant consent authorities to have regard to Taranaki Whānui's statutory acknowledgements (section 26)*.
11. However, this section needs to be amended to require *relevant consent authorities to have regard to the statutory acknowledgements of Ngāti Toa Rangatira (section 26)*.
12. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira seeks the adoption of the Tangata Whenua Chapter in the proposed district plan with this amendment.

### Strategic Direction - Te Awa Kairangi

13. Te Rūnanga are also supportive of the Natural Environment objectives within the Strategic Direction. Specifically, objectives 1 and 2 which relate to restoring and protecting the health, wellbeing and values of Te Awa Kairangi.
14. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira acknowledges the provisions throughout the plan in the Tangata Whenua Chapter, Strategic Direction and Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori Chapter which acknowledge the significance of Te Awa Kairangi and we are supportive of Te Awa Kairangi being recognised and listed as a site and area of significance to Māori in the district plan.
15. Due to the significance of Te Awa Kairangi for Ngāti Toa Rangatira, we sought better recognition of *Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao* within the provisions of the draft district plan to address and improve the health of Te Awa Kairangi. The provisions throughout the Strategic Direction and SASM Chapter align with our submission on the draft district plan seeking further enhancement and protection of Te Awa Kairangi.

### Conclusion



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16. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira supports the proposed district plan, and we will work in partnership with Hutt City Council to implement provisions which align with the values and aspirations of Ngāti Toa Rangatira. As outlined in this submission, we are seeking the adoption of the Tangata Whenua and Papakāinga Chapters with the suggested amendments as well as the Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori, Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity, Natural Character, Natural Features and Landscapes and Coastal Environment Chapters. We are also supportive of the Strategic Direction specifically as it relates to protection and enhancement of Te Awa Kairangi.