

JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

between

Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Taupō District Council



What is it?

The Joint Management Agreement (JMA) has come into effect by the Taupō District Council (TDC) and representatives of Ngāti Tūwharetoa working together to form a better relationship and understanding on resource management matters for Māori Land. The Taupō District is made up of significant tracts of Māori Land and a need was seen to allow better participation by Māori in the decision making process. The JMA with the Tuwharetoa Māori Trust Board is the first such agreement undertaken in New Zealand and is a significant step forward in developing better working relationships with Iwi.

What does the JMA mean for Māori land holders?

The JMA gives the ability to Māori land owners to have their applications heard and decided by a mixed representation of TDC and Tuwharetoa Māori Trust Board commissioners. Before all applications were heard by TDC Councillors only. The new joint panel will provide for an enhanced recognition of relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga are considered fully in the decision making process.

When is it applicable?

The JMA decision making process is applicable on multiple owned Māori land, within the Taupō District, for all notified resource consent applications and private plan changes. Māori land is that which is subject to the Te Ture Whenua Act 1993 and is registered at the Māori Land Court. Multiple owned Māori land is where there are three or more owners of Māori Land.

What do I need to do to have my notified consent heard under the JMA?

At time of application for a notified resource consent or private plan change, Council Officers will give notice to the applicant and the Tuwharetoa Māori Trust Board of the option of having the application heard by the joint committee. The applicant will have 20 days to notify Council that they wish to opt out of the joint hearing process.

When is this likely to apply to me?

The JMA is only used for notified resource consent applications and private plan changes on multiple owned Māori Land. Under the Resource Management Act, any application for resource consent is to be notified if the effects are deemed to be no more than minor or at the request of the applicant. For the majority of smaller applications, it is likely that decisions will still be approved by delegated authority and not have to go through the notified process. An example of an application that would be suitable for the JMA process would be a large tract of rural land being processed as a private plan change for rezoning to residential standards.

Who will be represented in the decision making panel?

Taupō District Council and the Tuwharetoa Māori Trust will each select two commissioners. The chosen commissioners will then select one additional commissioner and identify the chairperson for the panel. In the case of a split vote, the chairperson has the casting vote.

Who do I talk to for more information?

A Taupō District Council Consents Planner will be able to provide advice about the JMA process and if an application for resource consent is applicable.

