



## Consulting with Māori

### Description

Consultation is a meaningful discussion between parties. Consultation with iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups is part of a recognised principle of protection and partnership under the Treaty of Waitangi. Its purpose is to both recognise the rights of Māori under the Treaty and to ensure the views of iwi, hapu and other groups are taken into account in the planning and management of natural areas.

Māori groups that may be consulted could include iwi/hapu/whānau; Māori authorities, Māori trust boards, runanga, Māori incorporations; Marae committees, Māori executives, whānau trusts; and individual Māori landowners.

### How and when the tool is used

Consultation with iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups is a statutory requirement in many cases. For instance, it is required under the Resource Management Act and the Conservation Act. Non-statutory consultation with iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups is increasingly evident, for instance in cases of development in natural areas to establish good relationships.

As with any consultation process, it is important that iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups see how their views have been analysed and reflected in any final decision-making. The inclusion of iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups in evaluations of consultation processes is one way to ensure that those carrying out consultation better meet the expectations of those consulted.

### Application

Those undertaking consultation should have an open mind. That is, they should go into the process prepared to listen and take account of the views of those being consulted, and have no preconceived ideas about what any final decisions might be. They should also ensure that those being consulted have all the relevant information to fully participate in the process.

Conducting consultation with iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups could include the following suggestions. However, there is no set way to carry out consultation and the process may differ from area to area and within different development contexts.

- Preliminary research to identify the appropriate iwi/hapu/whānau and other groups that should be included in the consultation process. This stage needs to be undertaken in consultation with key stakeholders and include identifying the key contacts within the different iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups that need to be contacted.
- Making contact with the people identified to seek their verification that all of those who need to be included are ([stakeholder analysis](#) 🍯), and to identify the appropriate kaupapa for carrying out the consultation. The appropriate kaupapa might include how best to consult, where and when to consult, and when people are available. At the same time, those carrying out the consultation process need to inform those being consulted about the issues/topics that are the subject of the consultation process.
- Provide iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups with the opportunity to comment on the need for consultation, the issues to be covered and the consultation kaupapa to be used.
- Consultation mechanisms used must reflect the identified needs and preferences of iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups ([community needs assessment](#) 🍯) and allow for timeframes that suit their circumstances and needs. For instance, it may be appropriate to conduct the consultation in te Reo, in which case those consulting would need to include a fluent Māori speaker. In addition, protocols of marae or other venues must be followed, and a koha to contribute to hui costs will also be necessary.

### Our evaluation

Often consultation with iwi/hapu/whānau and other Māori groups occurs because the consulting parties are required to do so under statute. However, there is increasing indication that consultation is taking place, especially amongst public agencies, because of a recognition that it leads to better decision-making.