

# Nga Tauira Mahere Taiao – Maori Planning Models

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**Proposed Theme(s) for Abstract:** *Maori Participation in Planning*

## **Abstract:**

*Prior to the enactment of the Resource Management Act 1991, and under its precursor the Town and Country Planning Act 1977, Maori participation in local government decision-making was limited. The Maori protest movements of the 1970s and 1980s, and Waitangi Tribunal decisions on local government infrastructure projects were a backdrop to the Resource Management Law Reforms. Participation by Maori in local government decision-making and providing for Maori interests have been recognised in statute for nearly 20 years.*

*Maori and Local Authorities have made huge strides in developing and fostering positive working relationships, yet there remains frustration on the part of Maori, and recognition in local government that Maori involvement in planning remains inadequate. Poor understanding of Maori perspectives and knowledge (Matauranga Maori) in local government, limited resources in iwi and hapu, and lack of capacity are significant contributing factors.*

*This paper supports a Foundation for Research Science and Technology funded research programme led by Landcare Research Limited. The research proposes to address knowledge gaps by producing tools and methods to facilitate the inclusion of Matauranga Maori in planning practice. It is proposed to develop a pataka (storehouse of tools and processes) that can be used by planners and iwi/hapu resource managers to plan and evaluate the incorporation of Matauranga Maori in decision-making, policy and plans.*

*This paper reviews the barriers to poor Maori participation in planning, and explores innovative responses to Maori participation in planning practice. Responses vary in their application from Joint Management arrangements over important resources, project management of cultural engagement, to service delivery of cultural advice. These models are not without their challenges, however, there are some key principles and learnings that both Maori and the planning fraternity can draw from.*