21 October 2026

His Worship the Mayor, Taupō District Councilors and Julie Gardyne, CEO
Taupō District Council
Taupō

TŪRANGI CO-GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – RETENTION OF SHARED DECISION-MAKING AND LEGISLATIVE EXEMPTION

On behalf of Ngāti Tūrangitukua, we strongly support Taupō District Council pursuing protection for the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee's existing voting and quorum arrangements following the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026.
We ask Council to recognise the Committee's distinctive foundations and, where necessary, seek an exemption under section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002.

A partnership with enduring foundations
Ngāti Tūrangitukua are ahi kā roa and mana whenua of Te Mataapuna and the surrounding rohe, with enduring responsibilities to our whenua, wai, taonga and people. Our relationship with Council has developed through many years of kōrero, including the Wai 84 claim, the Ngāti Tūrangitukua settlement arrangements and commitments arising from them.
These foundations were given practical expression through the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreement, formalised at Hīrangi Marae in 2022.

The Agreement is a deliberate commitment to genuine partnership, mutual respect and shared outcomes. Crucially, clauses 10.1 and 10.2 expressly establish the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee to govern implementation of the Agreement, facilitate joint governance and communication, and exercise its prescribed functions.
The Committee is therefore not simply an advisory forum established at Council's discretion: it is an integral part of the agreed partnership framework.

The Agreement provides for four Ngāti Tūrangitukua and four Council representatives, including the mayor, with a Co-Chair from each partner. Delegated functions encompass reserves, community facility design and location, infrastructure oversight and local priorities. Under clause 10.5, all members are to act in the interests of the whole community.
The Committee operates within Council's statutory, financial and accountability framework.

Shared governance delivering benefits for Tūrangi
The value of this relationship is evident in tangible outcomes for hapū, residents and visitors. Through the Committee and the wider Mana Whakahono partnership, the parties have advanced:

- Community facilities and recreation – the Te Kapua Park papatākaro upgrade, Tūrangitukua Park–Te Mataapuna shared clubrooms, and public wharepaku facilities nearing completion, improving places for tamariki, whānau and visitors.
- Reserves and community priorities – joint work on the Tūrangi Reserves Management Plan, community priorities and practical reserve issues, including kōrero concerning Taupahi Reserve.
- Water, infrastructure and the environment – hapū involvement in Three Waters planning, resource consent processes and cultural monitoring, bringing local knowledge and kaitiakitanga into decisions affecting waterways and public services.

- Rangatahi and capability – the Mana Whakahono internship programme, including three rangatahi placements in 2024/25, alongside cultural inductions for elected members, Council staff and contractors.
- Planning and stronger relationships – input into the Tūrangi Spatial Plan, regular joint working hui and early engagement, improving how shared concerns are understood and resolved.

Not every operational initiative requires a formal Committee resolution. Collectively, however, these outcomes demonstrate the practical value of the partnership the Committee was expressly established to govern.
Shared governance combines Council's expertise and resources with the mandate, knowledge and responsibilities of mana whenua, producing more informed decisions, stronger relationships and better outcomes for the whole community.

Why an exemption is justified
We acknowledge the importance of democratic accountability. Equally, the Committee warrants distinct consideration because of its settlement-related history, express establishment under the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreement, equal representation, delegated responsibilities and demonstrated public benefits.
Ngāti Tūrangitukua representatives are not simply stakeholders invited to comment; they are hapū-mandated partners in an agreed governance arrangement.
Removing their voting rights while allowing them to attend would fundamentally change shared decision-making into consultation without an equal say.
Presence without a vote is not an equivalent partnership. Such a change risks weakening trust, shared accountability and effective problem-solving developed over time.

The Ngāti Tūrangitukua Claims Settlement Act 1999, particularly section 28 and Schedule 2 concerning settlement reserves, is relevant to the Committee's functions. Council should first assess whether the Treaty settlement protections in Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 apply to the Committee or appointments. Where those protections do not clearly preserve voting or quorum participation, Council should seek an exemption under section 260A.
These are complementary pathways, not alternatives to be assumed without assessment.
Council's responsibilities to provide opportunities for Māori participation under sections 4, 14(1)(d) and 81 of the Local Government Act 2002 further support careful consideration of the consequences of changing an established partnership.

Our request
Ngāti Tūrangitukua seeks assurance that:

1. Council will expressly identify the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee and the four Ngāti Tūrangitukua appointees, including their voting and quorum participation, in its decisions and any section 260A request.
2. Council will provide a written assessment of the Treaty settlement exceptions in Schedule 7, clauses 23(5)– (6), 30A(6C)–(6D) (if applicable) and 31A (2)– (3) and seek a section 260A exemption wherever protection is not established.
3. Council will expressly assess its obligations under sections 4, 14(1)(d) and 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2002, together with section 28 and Schedule 2 of the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Claims Settlement Act 1999, the Deed of Settlement and the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe.
4. Ngāti Tūrangitukua will be directly involved in reviewing the committee's terms of reference, appointments, settlement reserve delegations and supporting material. Any proposed change

to voting, quorum or settlement reserve responsibilities must be assessed against those statutory requirements and discussed with us before Council determines its position.

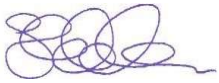
Our Mana Whakahono ā Rohe expresses the shared aspiration: "Nā te mahi tahi tātou e auaha ai te taurikura mō Ngāti Tūrangitukua." This relationship has been built through years of commitment and has already delivered meaningful benefits.

We ask Mayor and Councilors to stand alongside us to preserve the substance of that partnership so it can continue to serve Tūrangi and future generations.

Nā mātou, nā



Amy Walker
Chairperson, Ngāti Tūrangitukua Māori Committee
For and on behalf of Ngāti Tūrangitukua hapū



Lauren Fletcher
Chairperson, Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust



Tina Porou
Chairperson, Ngāti Tūrangitukua Environment Committee