



ERMA NEW ZEALAND

INFORMATION SHEET

NUMBER 17
SEPTEMBER 2006

The HSNO Act and Māori

Introduction

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 and its amendments make specific provision for Māori participation in HSNO decision making by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA New Zealand). The decision making committee of ERMA New Zealand is referred to as the Authority. This information sheet provides an introduction to the mechanisms available for Māori participation, and the initiatives developed to improve the HSNO process in terms of Māori perspectives.

Provisions for Māori Participation

Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao

A statutory advisory committee to the Authority, Ngā Kaihautū is charged with providing advice and assistance on matters relating to policy, process and applications. This advice is given from a Māori perspective as described within its Terms of Reference.

The mission of Ngā Kaihautū is to act at all times to protect and uphold the integrity of tikanga and mātauranga Māori and to ensure it is appropriately applied to HSNO issues. Achieving this role involves:

- providing advice on ERMA New Zealand planning and policy development ensuring it takes account of Māori perspectives and provides for Māori participation
- recommending and participating in strategies to enhance the knowledge, understanding and participation of Māori in HSNO processes
- monitoring decision making by ERMA New Zealand and IBSCs, and
- providing independent reports on applications that involve significant issues for Māori.

For more information on the role and membership of Ngā Kaihautū check out our website or contact us for a brochure.

Policy Sign-posts

Policies and procedures have been put in place to ensure that the Authority receives all the relevant information it needs to make informed decisions. In terms of incorporating Māori perspectives these include policies on consultation, the identification and assessment of potential adverse effects on Māori cultural values, education and awareness, and the active encouragement of relationship development between applicants and iwi/Māori groups.

Of particular interest is a Protocol (part of the ERMA New Zealand Policy Series) entitled *Incorporating Māori Perspectives in Part V Decision Making* which provides a guide to considering Māori issues, and the User Guide entitled *Working with Māori under the HSNO Act 1996* which provides applicants with guidelines regarding identifying issues of significance to Māori and best practice for consultation. These publications are available on our website, or a hard copy can be provided on request.

Mātauranga Māori Development / Input

A proactive programme of direct consultation with Māori on significant issues related to HSNO. This includes hosting at least one wānanga a year on selected issues of interest to Māori (such as precedent-setting applications).

The object of this initiative is to encourage dialogue amongst iwi to help develop mātauranga Māori as it relates to contemporary technologies and contexts, and to inform and assist the Authority in considering and weighing Māori perspectives for specific applications.

Māori National Network

This Network was established in 2002 and its membership includes iwi resource managers and practitioners from around the country. It meets annually to discuss specific issues of relevance including mechanisms for improved engagement, consultative models, relationship development, and iwi specific issues and interests. The Network also provides a forum for disseminating HSNO information and discussing how its members can contribute to, influence and improve the development of policy and operational processes.

Iwi-Based Relationships

The development of iwi/hapū based relationships provides a useful mechanism for building awareness and capability. Working directly with rūnanga, and more particularly iwi resource managers within rūnanga, provides an effective means of ensuring the right people have access and support to HSNO information and resources. It is invariably the iwi resource managers who are responsible for dealing with HSNO applications, consultation and broader environmental monitoring activities. Having professional and personal relationships with these representatives is critical to the effective participation of Māori in HSNO Act decision making.

Capability Development and Direct Participation

The provision of mechanisms to support the direct and practical participation of Māori in HSNO. This is to be achieved through the provision of advice, expertise and financial assistance, including visits to Māori communities with training material, resources and presentations.

The intent of this work is to build capability within iwi, hapū and Māori organisations to enable their proactive and independent participation in HSNO.

As part of this programme, assistance is available to provide direct support to Māori to participate in the consideration of particular applications. Contact ERMA New Zealand (details below) to find out how to access this assistance.

Publications and Other Resources

Developing publications and other resources tailored to both an iwi/Māori audience, and to applicant audiences about Māori issues of relevance to HSNO. A resource kete covering new organisms and hazardous substances issues under HSNO has been developed specifically for Māori community and environment groups.

Here to Help

Kaupapa Kura Taiao is the group within ERMA New Zealand charged with supporting Ngā Kaihautū and managing the initiatives mentioned above. Feel free to contact us for further information on Māori participation in HSNO, or to provide any feedback or comment on the initiatives described above.

ERMA New Zealand publishes information sheets on a range of topics to provide background information on current issue or proposals being dealt with by the Authority. All publications may be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.ermanz.govt.nz or may be requested by contacting ERMA New Zealand, P O Box 131, Wellington. Ph +64 4 916 2426 Fax +64 4 914 0433 Email info@ermanz.govt.nz.