

# □ **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY: THE CHANGING ROLES OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

**NEWSLETTER 2 SEPTEMBER 2008**

## **Kia ora**

Welcome to the second of my newsletters to update you on progress with my doctoral research project. This newsletter highlights progress I have made since the last newsletter, circulated in March/April earlier this year. Your ongoing interest and contribution are appreciated. Thank you.

## **RESEARCH OVERVIEW**

My research set out in February 2005, to understand how the roles of councillors were changing in the context of sustainable development and the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002. Through my work in local government it is clear to me that the role of local elected members is critical if New Zealand is to progress towards a more sustainable future. This research project is building on research that has been conducted in Europe, Canada and the United Kingdom to further understanding of governance for sustainability at the local level. In recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi as New Zealand's founding document and the Treaty provisions within the LGA, the research explores on Māori views of governance and sustainability. To my knowledge it is one of the first research projects in New Zealand to focus on the roles of elected members since the 2002 reforms and to recognise the place of the Treaty in this context.

## **PROGRESS TO DATE**

The last 6 months has been extremely busy. In amongst my busy fulltime work commitments I have travelled around the North Island to interview Māori participants and to learn from their experience and views on governance and sustainability. I am relieved to say that this completes the planned data collection for my research.

I have learned that in a research project of this nature, the literature review is never complete. I have continued to review material on governance and in recent months had the great fortune to begin a review of some of the wealth of knowledge that exists around Te Ao Māori, the Treaty of Waitangi, Māori aspirations and Māori governance models.

## **METHODS OF DATA COLLECTIONS**

One of the great experiences has been exploring the different sources of information that contribute to the enormous body of knowledge that exists around governance, sustainability

and Te Ao Māori and the Treaty. The following table outlines the four methods of data collection that have contributed to my research project.

Literature review themes	Local authority case studies	Elected member questionnaire	Interviews with Māori governors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International trends in local governance including Canada, Australia, America, the United Kingdom, Western Europe and Scandinavia.</li> <li>• Sustainable development in local government.</li> <li>• Governance for urban sustainability</li> <li>• The roles of local elected members</li> <li>• Te Ao Māori</li> <li>• Treaty of Waitangi</li> <li>• Māori aspirations and governance models</li> <li>• Maori submissions to the 2007 New Zealand Rates Inquiry.</li> <li>• Reports, Māori submissions and media commentary relating related to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance</li> </ul>	<p>Five of New Zealand's most populous urban territorial authorities selected.</p> <p>Criteria included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predominantly urban population</li> <li>• Significant Maori population</li> <li>• Other ethnic diversity</li> </ul> <p>Case study local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auckland City</li> <li>• Rotorua District</li> <li>• Tauranga City</li> <li>• Porirua City</li> <li>• Christchurch City.</li> </ul> <p>Document analysis of the Long-Term Council Community Plan 2006-16 (LTCCP) and related documents.</p>	<p>A self-selection questionnaire.</p> <p>Administered to elected members from the five urban territorial authorities.</p> <p>Questionnaire explored elected members awareness and understanding of sustainability, along with their perception of the progress being made by their local authority.</p> <p>A total of 30 completed questionnaires were received from across the five case study authorities.</p>	<p>15 interviews with Māori experienced in Pakeha and Māori governance at all levels, from both the North and South island.</p> <p>The whakapapa linkages of those interviewed included the following iwi and hapu:</p> <p>Te Rarawa            Ngati Hine            Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara            Ngati Whatua o Orakei            Ngati Kauwhata            Te Arawa            Rongomai Wahine            Te Whānau-ā-Apanui            Ngati Manawa            Ngati Pukenga            Rangitane            Tuhoe            Ngati Pukeho            Ngati Pikiō            Ngati Pikiha            Ngati Mahanga            Ngai Te Kikiri o te Rangi            Ngati Pahauwera            Ngati Kahungungu            Ngati Porou            Ngai Tahu</p>

## UPDATE ON THESIS TIME LINE

The following table highlights the key tasks completed since my research began in 2005 and those tasks yet to be undertaken. Those undertaken since my last newsletter are shaded green. As you can see my timeline has moved into 2009. This is the result of some interesting findings that have stimulated further desk research. I hope to complete this work and submit my thesis in the first half of 2009.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Research scoped	Transfer to AUT University	Case study overviews	Elected member questionnaire findings recorded and analysed	Referral back to research participants
Literature review started	Literature review ongoing	LTCCPs analysed	Attended Te Reo II: Te Taurapa	Subsequent drafts to be completed
Consultation and networking	Methodology confirmed	Elected member questionnaire piloted, confirmed and administered	Maori interviews completed and transcripts proofed	Thesis to be submitted
Research Seminar - Massey University	AUT Ethics Committee Approval	Maori interviews commenced	Maori views written up	Ongoing contact with research participants to share the findings
Introduction drafted	Literature review chapters drafted	Methodology chapters drafted	Chapter notes to be completed and reviewed	Publication of findings
		Completed beginners paper in Te Reo: Te Tauihu	First draft to be completed	Respond to requests from participants and others to share findings

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES: SEPTEMBER 2008 TO MARCH 2009

The research objectives for the next six months are:

- ❖ Complete write up
- ❖ Consult Māori interview participants and confirm transcripts
- ❖ Review draft chapters and notes
- ❖ Finalise first draft of the thesis
- ❖ Review and rework subsequent drafts

If you have any questions or would like to comment further information, please contact either myself or one of my supervisors. Again, thank you for your help and support to date. Your thoughts and feedback are always welcome.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen W". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

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