

Tangata whenua

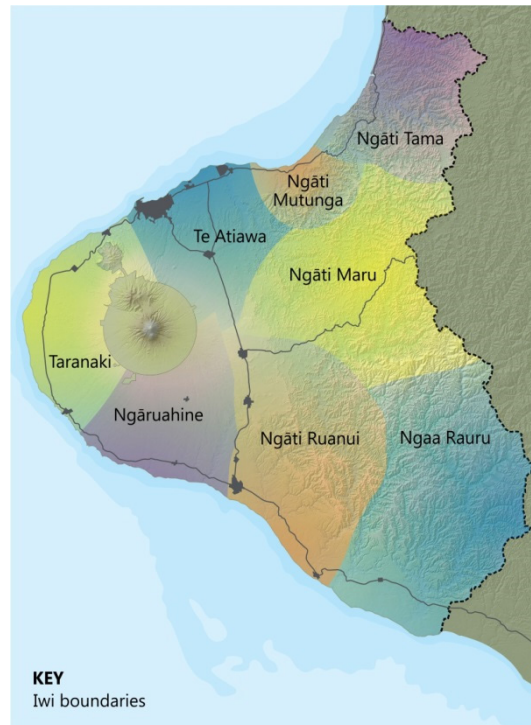
There are eight recognised iwi within the boundaries of the Taranaki region. Four of these have completed Treaty of Waitangi settlements. They are Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Ruanui, and Ngāa Rauru whose settlements were all legislated in 2003, and Ngāti Mutunga whose settlement legislation was passed through Parliament in 2006. At the time of writing, Te Atiawa and Ngāruahine iwi have initialled their respective deeds of settlement and are awaiting legislation to be passed in Parliament. Taranaki Iwi is expecting to initial a deed of settlement shortly, and Ngāti Maru Iwi is in the very early stages of seeking a mandate to begin their settlement discussions with the Crown.

Tangata whenua have a special relationship with the natural and physical world as part of a complete living system. Inherent in this relationship is kaitiakitanga or guardianship, which seeks to maintain the mouri of these resources while allowing their use and development for social, cultural and economic well-being.

Central to the values and the views expressed by iwi is that natural resources are taonga that must be protected for future generations, and balanced with the needs of today. Caring for and protecting natural resources is integral to the identity, spirituality and cultural integrity of tangata whenua. The Council recognises Māori culture and traditions—particularly the role Māori have as kaitiaki or guardians of the region's natural resources, integrating iwi o Taranaki values in planning and decision-making processes. While the values and concepts reflected in Council policy and planning are distinctly Māori, the intent—sustainable management—is clearly shared with wider New Zealand culture, with the responsibility for delivery shared across the whole community.

As a council, we work closely with iwi o Taranaki in planning, decision-making and resource consent processes. In the past five years, the Council has worked with iwi o Taranaki on a wide range of matters, from transport planning to biodiversity, and on resource management policy and planning. We have provided iwi with information on resource consents and resource consent processes and administration—including the opportunity to be involved in resource consent monitoring design and implementation. We have also encouraged resource consent applicants to consult with iwi as part of assessing the environmental effects of activities when iwi may be an affected party, and extended resource consent processing periods to allow adequate consultation and possible resolution of issues with iwi. Iwi o Taranaki have been involved in assessing environmental effects in resource consent enforcement proceedings.

The Council is committed to ongoing work with iwi o Taranaki on a range of fronts; from meeting on matters of mutual interest, to contracting iwi to provide services in a range of specific resource consent compliance programmes. We have also committed to permanent iwi representation on the Council's two main standing committees. This is currently being progressed through Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation.



There are eight iwi whose rohe or tribal area falls either wholly or partially within the Taranaki region.