

# Consensus Process

in Whaitua o te Whanganui a tara

## Session Aims

- High trust collaboration – perspectives and discussion with Ra Smith
- Mana whenua in collaborative processes
- Ways to work through differing perspectives and the level of detail needed to make confident decisions

Items as requested in Committee Meeting 4.

## What is the outcome of Consensus?

Te hononga o nga whakaaro  
hei tuapapa mo te mahi tahi  
tutuki noa to tatou kaupapa

A melding of ideas as a firm  
foundation for combined effort  
and realisation of our  
collective vision



How would you think about the highest possibility or potential of this group in your view?

I had a think about this for myself (Phill Barker) and this spoke to me about the potential/

This statement comes from a project in Kawakawa Northland about a collaborative community development for the town arts and creative centre.

About solution finding and integrating concerns, not compromises down the middle, not bargaining or horse-trading.

Seeing a potential in difference, collaboration, community...

What is the work of collaboration for you?



The Committee has already been discussing principles for How you want to work together and with the Community as written in the Ko Wai document above (in Sharepoint, Meeting 2 documents)

Gabriel had said, perhaps these are ideas you can bring yourself back to to self-evaluate how you are succeeding as a group.

Given these statements in the middle about how you may work together – I see our opportunity this morning is about what do you need to know at this time to move forward with confidence.

# Kawa - TE PŪTAKE

*“Kei te pūtaka o Te Whaitua o Te Whanganui  
a Tara tōna mauri mana motuhake... hei  
oranga mo te katoa”.*

The mauri of Te Whanganui a Tara Whaitua  
and the communities who live within it is  
nurtured, strengthened and able to flourish.



You have also set a Kawa statement which is there to keep discussing how this will guide you

Have heard the journey of ‘weaving’ spoken by Toi Whakaari, National School of Drama as;

From **Koutou** = You, separate from me.

To **Tatou** = We/Us. Each our own selves, but together. A collective comprised of distinct groups

From koutou to tatou.

## High trust collaboration – Ra Smith

- Experiences of Whaitua Collaboration
- Ways to work towards consensus
- Conditions for high trust collaboration
  - With each other, with the project team, with stakeholders and community

See Meeting 5 notes for key points in conversation with Ra Smith.

## Mana whenua in collaborative processes

- A hierarchy of statutory relationships – RPS giving recognition to mana whenua values recognised in treaty settlements, 30 year Ara Tahi partnership
- Continuation of kaitiaki role and tino rangatiratanga

See Meeting 5 notes for specific points of discussion.

See Ngati Toa statement. For expression of tino rangatiratanga

Can endorse the Whaitua Committee's work and contribute to its development

Not a simple answer – also at what level of whanau, hapu and Iwi, decisions

Complex because of rights and interests in freshwater and developing models in co-governance etc

What do you need from this session to have confidence in how you will proceed?

## Decision Rule

- In Consensus this means Unanimity.

But what does this mean to you?

Consent? Full agreement? Can live with it? Best of all options?

- And how will you get there?

Finding solutions? Identifying difference and dissent early? Engagement?



We are talking about decisions because this is where we are heading, however it is good to be reminded that the next six months will mostly be about **exploring, asking questions and understanding the system at play.**

Values show up through the dialogue, we do not always need to have a dialogue 'about values' per se

Silence is not agreement, we should strive for a clear YES.

YES, AND (Additive thinking)

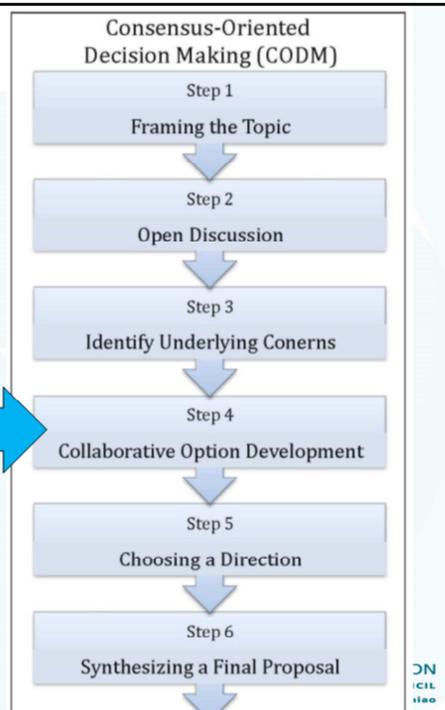
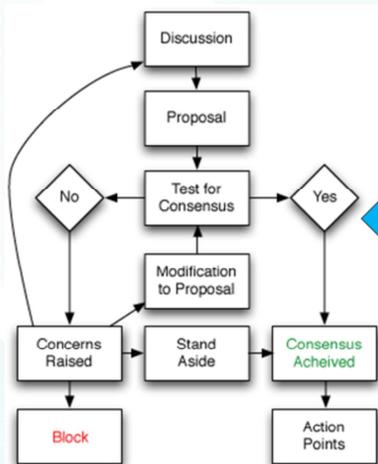
Vs

YES, BUT (Surfacing reservations to improve ideas)

Proposals and Polling help us to surface feedback and reservations to ideas long before calling for a decision.

# Developing and Iterating recommendations

- Consensus-Oriented Decision-making



From the last meeting we have changed tack somewhat in term of how and when we will work on setting and deciding objectives in the process.

We are still working in a Consensus Oriented Decision Making process. Important to have mental model or image of the way you will be working together.

These diagrams are written in a linear fashion but the process of the Waitua Committee and the way in which we work through complex information as far from linear. The Step 4 in the diagram above in fact represents the majority of the Committee’s work through the phases in 2020.

The point is still that Consensus decision making is where we intend to end up but the way in which you work together as a Committee towards this is still very much up to you.

A sep I would like to highlight is the one of ‘making proposals’ as Committee members and how you seek feedback to iterate and develop that proposal multiple times before seeking a final decision.

Proposal is a step toward or draft of a recommendation.

This will become increasingly important in the phase after this.

# Agreement and Dissent/ Difference

You may want to find the language that works for you about working towards solutions and recommendations

- “a Block” - Fundamental disagreement or concern. Identify as early as possible
- “Reservations” – Reservations can be named to improve the proposal or seek information
- “Standing Aside/ Abstain” - Not a strong view either way, not in the best position to decide.
- “Consent” – Can live with the recommendation.
- “Agree” – Supportive of the recommendation as it stands
- Or a spectrum of enthusiasm?

Values will emerge through this work

Tension means something important is being worked on

Recommending options – Where there is fundamental disagreement, there is no consensus and cannot be included in the WIP. Or, offer options and have full agreement to include the options proposed.

People don't veto in consensus, they need to proactively put forward their perspectives so that solutions can be sought.

### Simple possible tools

- **Working questions** – Collect active questions important to decision making for Committee or Project Team to research and respond
- **Making Proposals** – working toward recommendations, incorporating ideas, feedback, concerns etc. to be developed iteratively towards
- **Parking Lot** – a place to name current areas of difference and task people to develop solutions
- **Recommending options** – Where there is fundamental disagreement, there is no consensus and cannot be included in the WIP. Or, offer options and have full agreement to include the options proposed.

These are all simple tools that can come into play as we enter this more investigative phase of understanding the issues and developing your vision.

These are suggested tools to help with the specific part of the process that is about developing and integrating recommendations, the way in which you choose to work through these is for the Committee with the Co-chairs to choose. For instance on Matiu/Somes Island the way of speaking in Hui was offered, that was to incorporate and add on to the ideas of the people who spoke before.

It may be in the way you use your sub-committees, engage stakeholders or work to evaluate peoples concerns.