



# Iwi Sponsorship initiative

Information and guidelines  
for applicants of the  
Making Good Decisions  
Iwi Sponsorship initiative.



**The intention of the sponsorship is to provide Iwi with an opportunity to build Resource Management Act knowledge and capability and to assist with fostering the capacity of Māori to contribute to environmental decision-making.**

**The initial outlay of the costs will need to be met by the Iwi authority (or their chosen candidate) in the first instance. Sponsorship is conditional upon successfully completing the course (proof of certification will be required). Successful applicants will be responsible for their enrolment on the programme.**

## **About the programme**

The Making Good Decisions Programme helps councillors, community board members and independent commissioners make better decisions under the RMA. It provides RMA decision-makers with the skills they need to run fair and effective resource consent, plan change and designation hearings, and to make informed decisions.

It is designed and promoted by the Ministry for the Environment and Local Government New Zealand. The programme is delivered by WSP (Environmental Training Centre). Certification under the programme is a means by which decision-makers meet the accreditation requirement of the Resource Management Act. The programme has been extensively revised by the Ministry for the environment to accommodate a number of legislative changes, including the expanded scope in accreditation requirements from 2014.

The programme provides the skills needed to run fair and effective resource consent hearings and to make informed decisions. It focuses on the legal, technical and practical skills needed by an effective hearing committee member.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is offering Iwi sponsorship by reimbursing fees for selected iwi members upon successful completion of the Making Good Decisions programme.

For further information and dates for the programme, course outline, or to enrol in the programme, please check the WSP website for upcoming-courses.

## *Qualities of a Hearing Commissioner*

Commissioners are delegated to carry out statutory decision-making duties on a council's behalf. It is vital that commissioners make sound decisions without any conflict of interest that could open the path for challenges. They should have a set of core competencies and skills that enable them to understand the application or issue before them, conduct hearings in an appropriate manner and make sound decisions.

*A resume of the applicant must be provided with their application form.*

## *Core competencies of commissioners*

- Correctly identify the nature of issues arising during a hearing in terms of the RMA and relevant planning documents
- Demonstrate impartiality and integrity
- Demonstrate commitment to appropriately and fairly assess and weigh evidence
- Formulate a reasoned decision independently of others

## *Expertise of commissioners*

- A good knowledge of the RMA and the decision-making and hearings procedures within it
- Knowledge of functions and processes under the Local Government Act and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- The ability to listen effectively, distilling key arguments and facts from the information presented
- An understanding of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, their relevance in legislation and whether/how they may be applicable to the decisions that are to be made
- Understanding of Māori language, tikanga, history and cultural values (such as in cases where Māori heritage, taonga, or ancestral relationships could be affected). An appreciation of potential conflicting or competing interests between local hapu or iwi may also be required.

## *Scope of Sponsorship*

- The scope of Iwi sponsorship by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council involves reimbursing fees for selected iwi members upon successful completion of the Making Good Decisions Programme Foundation Course or to sit the re-certification course.
- The initial outlay of costs will need to be met by the Iwi Authority (or their chosen candidate) in the first instance
- Sponsorship from Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not guarantee selection as an independent commissioner. It is merely an opportunity or a stepping stone towards selection eligibility
- Successful sponsorship applicants may attend any Making Good Decisions programme course held between 1 July 2020 and 25 June 2022 (however any reimbursements forms are due 25 June 2022).

## Reimbursement of fees

Successful participants will be reimbursed course costs, travel and accommodation up to \$2,500 + GST. Successful participants will be reimbursed provided that the participant:

1. Successfully completes the course and gains certification (proof of certification will be required)
2. Produces valid receipts and/or invoices for course costs, travel and accommodation
3. Provides a tax invoice including account details for payment to be direct credited

If you are successful in gaining sponsorship, you will need to provide the documentation above after completing the course.

## Sponsorship arrangements

### *Selection criteria*

The following are the criteria for the selection of nominees;

1. Nominees must be affiliated and/or registered with an Iwi authority within the Bay of Plenty Region
2. Nominees must have endorsement in writing, from the relevant Iwi authority within the Bay of Plenty
3. One candidate will be selected from each of the three Māori constituencies per year. If there are no nominations from particular constituencies, other candidates can be considered
4. Preference will be given to those applicants who reside within their iwi rohe.

### *Selection process and closing date*

The Strategic Relationships director will make a selection based on;

- The background information supporting the application stating why the applicant is suitable for this training (to assist in the selection process)
- The nominee's standing and reputation in the community
- Feedback from the relevant iwi authority on the nominee's ability to successfully complete the programme
- The capacity of the relevant iwi authority in terms of environmental management.

## Enrolling in the Making Good Decisions Programme

To enrol in the Making Good Decisions Programme you can register online at:

[MGD Foundation Course 2021 - WSP New Zealand Limited - Environmental Training Centre](#)

[MGD Panel Recertification Course - 2021 - WSP New Zealand Limited - Environmental Training Centre](#)

For further information contact WSP at [Contact us - WSP New Zealand Limited - Environmental Training Centre](#)

**For more information visit our website**  
[www.boprc.govt.nz/makinggooddecisions](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/makinggooddecisions)

