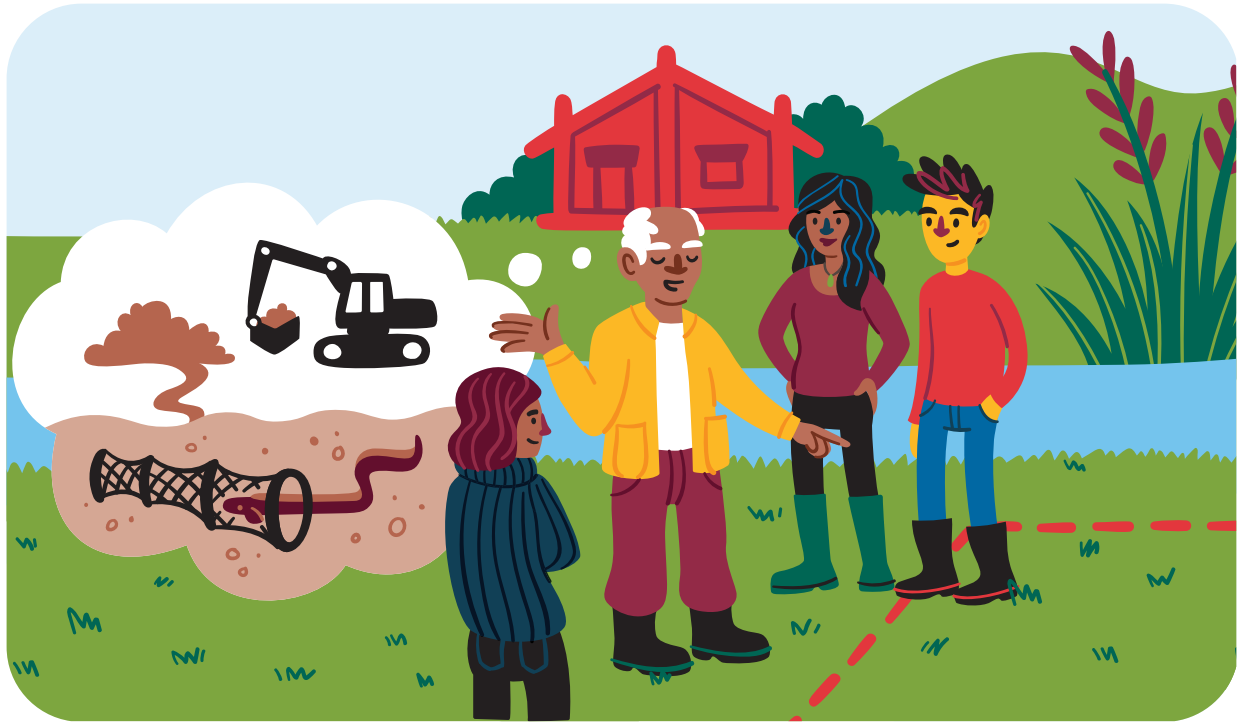


Understanding cultural effects and consulting with tangata whenua is important and valuable



Sustainable environmental outcomes

Engaging with tangata whenua will help you understand and respect the Māori world view enabling more balanced and complementary outcomes. It supports our goal to enhance the management of land and water, while empowering development and infrastructure based on robust evidence while upholding the mana and integrity of the taiao (environment) and mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge).

A Māori worldview focuses on future generations, kaitiakitanga and guardianship takes a multi-generational approach to caring for the environment. This world view aligns closely to the purpose of the Resource Management Act which is to promote sustainable management of the natural and physical resources.

Community outcomes

Consulting with tangata whenua may develop understanding of kaitiakitanga and mātauranga and identify practices that could sustain businesses. Tangata whenua have an intrinsic connection with the land and an understanding of the impacts that activities have on it. They

can provide a perspective that you may not see and identify opportunities you might not have considered. You might come away with a more holistic approach to care for the environment, it may even change your ideas about Māori interests.

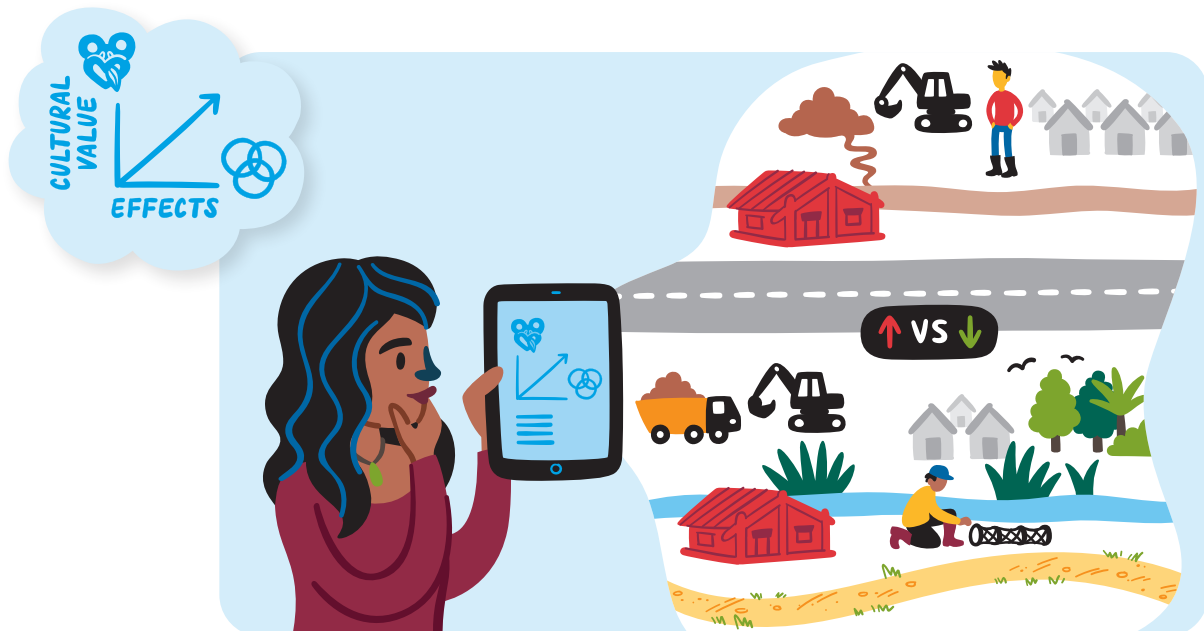
Consulting with tangata whenua recognises their ancestral connection to and spiritual value of te taiao (the environment). It is an important part of supporting a values-based relationship to attain mutual environmental outcomes, as opposed to viewing it only as a resource.

Fundamentally, it will help you prepare an application that reflects a truly wider community view. We believe that having Māori involved in decision-making secures rather than undermines our democracy.

Smoother process

Consulting with tangata whenua gives the applicant the opportunity to build a relationship with iwi and hapū, develop an understanding of their relationship to the area and also give them an opportunity to understand in more detail the activity you are proposing to undertake first hand. As an applicant you have the opportunity to engage early and gain the support and understanding of iwi partners.

Understanding cultural effects and consulting with tangata whenua is important and valuable



If the proposal raises concerns, you can work together to identify ways to address or manage these at the outset. It is common for many earthworks consents for a tangata whenua representative to be on site during earthworks to immediately address any koiwi (human bones) or cultural artifacts unearthed during works. This can significantly reduce any costly delays for the applicant.

The old adage 'you don't know what you don't know' applies here and it is better to find out early rather than later in the process once commitments have been made to particular designs or approaches.

It is a requirement

We think it is a worthwhile process that will deliver a number of good outcomes but if all of the above is not reason enough, you just have to. Consultation with tangata whenua delivers numerous positive outcomes and is also mandatory. Tangata whenua are government partners under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and therefore have a legal right to be involved in decision making.

Section 6, 7 and 8 all require that managing the use, development and protection of the environment needs to be

done in way that recognises and provides for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites waahi tapu and other taonga, and the protection of customary rights. Regard shall be given to kaitiakitanga and the Resource Management Act shall be exercised in a way that takes into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is clear that it is good practice to consult with tangata whenua in relation to your consent application. Only tangata whenua can identify their relationship with their special places. As per the policies within the RPS, consent applications that are lodged with a cultural effects assessment should have input by tangata whenua to help identify any actual and/or potential cultural effects.

You need to talk to tangata whenua to understand the potential impacts of the activity you are proposing to undertake on their values and interests. Tangata whenua will be able to help you understand any potential adverse cultural effects and suitable avoidance, remediation, or mitigation measures.