



“Kia Tū Pakari ai Tātou”

SmartGrowth Combined Tāngata Whenua Forum Workshop Notes

Date: 12 February 2025

Time: 9:00am – 12:15pm

Venue: Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Chambers)
1484 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga, 3112

INTRODUCTION

The workshop aimed to set a solid foundation for the CTWF heading into 2025/26, given the mix of new and long-standing members. Elisha Rolleston spoke to a presentation which focussed on the following:

- Overview of SmartGrowth (SG) Urban Growth Partnership
- Purpose of SG
- SG structure
- Overview of SG Strategy 2024-2074
- Connected Centres Programme
- Transport Economic Corridors Approach
- SG Strategy Vision and Transformational Shifts
- Future Development Strategy (FDS)
- Implementation and Funding Plan (IFP)
- Role and responsibilities of the CTWF
- Role and responsibilities of Tū Pakari

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the effectiveness of the CTWF. Concerns were raised that meeting agendas were often constrained, limiting opportunities for engaged conversation. To address this, suggestions included developing KPIs and measures so CTWF can monitor if they are progressing “Our Collective Outcomes”.

The possibility of the Tū Pakari team setting the agenda for future hui and holding wānanga prior to meetings was also considered to allow for better preparation. Some participants felt that the hui were becoming a “talkfest” with a lack of tangible implementation. There was a call to reset and make real progress.

Tāngata Whenua engagement was another central theme. The importance of the CTWF providing strategic input to SmartGrowth and Tū Pakari was emphasised. The role of the CTWF as an advisory team was reiterated, with a need to get “back to basics” on certain issues.



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CTWF members stressed the importance of ensuring that the implementation of the SmartGrowth strategy integrally involves both marae and Māori Land Trusts (MLTs). The point was made that only hapū, marae, and MLTs can determine their future plans.

The workshop also touched on the need for a culture change within councils to focus on infrastructure on Māori Land. Concerns were voiced about inequities in infrastructure access, such as wastewater reticulation bypassing papakāinga. The Tū Pakari Advisory Team was asked to consider what equitable access to infrastructure looks like for whenua Māori, potentially developing a framework to address development contribution fees.

Several specific issues and concerns were raised by CTWF members regarding the role and function of the CTWF, with some feeling it had run its course and should be replaced by Ara Rau Tāngata. The resourcing for iwi/hapū engagement by SmartGrowth was also queried.

Concerns about the influence of developers on infrastructure development and district plans were voiced. The need for SmartGrowth to articulate and communicate a strong strategy that reaches those "doing the doing" was highlighted. The absence of Crown Partners at the governance level was noted as a potential impediment to the CTWFs effectiveness.

Specific hapū also raised important issues. The lack of equitable access to infrastructure was exemplified by the Wairoa wastewater reticulation issue. Concerns about rates on Māori land, the need for solar power on marae as emergency refuges, and the protection of whenua and water quality were voiced.

The historical ownership of water by Ngāti Ruahine and the lack of recognition were highlighted, along with environmental concerns. The absence of Ngāti Ruahine representation regarding Mauao was also raised as a significant issue. The potential impact of significant development on local iwi and hapū, particularly concerning waterways, was a key concern. The need to clarify the roles of different forums, such as the CTWF and iwi/hapū-specific groups, was emphasised.

Stacey Mareroa-Roberts introduced herself – Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement at Tauranga City Council. Be good to understand what this forum does, how the forums fit together and at what point do we get to doing the doing – we are in a housing crisis, looking at the timeline, how do we move with the times, what does the waka need to look like to move with the times, we keep it a living vehicle and stay agile to that change despite not knowing the full scope of the future. Whakaaro for SG to articulate a strong strategy, communicate this so gets back to those people doing it. Question – on first frame is a time stamp to a complex web – there is a partner sitting up in Governance (Crown Partners) is that current or aspirational because if this forum is to be effective, we need them at the table. Request to determine who we are as a forum, get agile and look to move with the times.

Kura Martin gave a brief presentation on Ara Rau Tāngata. Its vision, purpose, and role etc. The discussion highlighted the significance of MLTs and papakāinga development. Ara Rau Tāngata was identified as a key vehicle for advancing papakāinga development and facilitating economic growth for landowners. However, it was noted that Ara Rau Tāngata also requires support. The challenges of papakāinga development on whenua Māori were acknowledged. The potential for the CTWF to act as an enabler in navigating council processes was discussed. The Māori Housing Toolkit and the role of



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the Joint Agency Group (JAG) in supporting trusts through papakāinga development stages were outlined. The possibility of Ara Rau Tāngata considering becoming a Community Housing Provider (CHP) in the future was raised, although it was deemed unlikely in the initial 3-5 years due to regulatory requirements.

Frustration was expressed regarding the perceived lack of tangible developments in Tauranga directly resulting from SmartGrowth. The need for a reset in terms of implementation and real progress was emphasised. SmartGrowth signalled a pivot towards implementation, with a focus on the FDS and SG Strategy to "get it done". The importance of feeding Tāngata Whenua views and aspirations into Annual Plans (APs) and Long-Term Plans (LTPs) was highlighted as crucial for action.

A key outcome of the workshop was the proposal to form a CTWF Working Group to develop KPIs for the CTWF to monitor its progress. This group would also be tasked with clarifying the purpose and function of the forum in light of changes since its inception. Nominated members for the working group included Elva Conroy, Hakopa Tapiata, Alfred Potiki, and Te Uta Rolleston, supported by the Tū Pakari Team and representatives from TCC, BoPRC, and WBoPDC.

The working group was expected to hold a meeting in mid-March 2025, and present their findings to the CTWF on 6 May 2025. The scope of the working group included reviewing the Terms of Reference for the CTWF and the Joint Agency Group, reviewing the Māori housing business case model, and reconsidering the vision and priority areas.

Concerns were raised about the interpretation of rangatiratanga within the SmartGrowth framework, noting a potential tension between the concept of mana motuhake and a treaty partnership where rangatiratanga is subject to council interpretation. The importance of Tāngata Whenua identifying their own priority areas, rather than fitting into council-defined priorities, was strongly advocated.

Te Pio Kawe spoke to Empowering Māori Housing / Papakāinga through SmartGrowth Strategy. 35 key actions in the IFP are the priority actions for the next 3-5 years. Pivoting and changing based on government policies changes.

Finally, the workshop addressed resourcing for engagement, noting that remuneration forms should be completed by representatives attending these hui. The need to bring forward actions relevant to Tāngata Whenua within the strategy and develop KPIs to track progress was emphasised.

In closing, the workshop highlighted a range of perspectives and concerns from Tāngata Whenua regarding their engagement with SmartGrowth. Key themes included the effectiveness and future role of the CTWF, the importance of genuine partnership and the upholding of rangatiratanga, the urgent need for tangible progress in papakāinga development and infrastructure equity, and the necessity of a clear implementation path for agreed strategies. The formation of a working group signalled a commitment to address some of these fundamental questions and improve the forum's effectiveness moving forward.

Chris Nepia closed the meeting with a mihi and a karakia whakamutunga.

Workshop Closed: 2:35pm