

Tena koe Justin, koutou nga rau rangatira o te Kaunihera Matua o Poneke

On behalf of my board and iwi, Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika, I take this opportunity to scribe a few thoughts as to the importance of this new relationship. The MoU is important. Even more important however is our commitment to give life to it, and share opportunity from it. My board wish to commit to creating an innovative, team-orientated and design led partnership with Wellington City Council. A partnership that enables the achievement of stunning results for our city, the environment and all citizens.

Let me start with mutual appreciation. My board has a great appreciation for the multiple and complex decisions you are confronted with daily. Plus, the demands of running such a huge dynamic enterprise, on behalf of all Wellingtonians. Whilst my iwi is somewhat smaller in enterprise, we are nonetheless dynamic and determined to actively contribute to Wellington. Our contribution will traverse many similar paths to WCC. Notably the arts, customs, language, economic, job creation, affordable and warm housing, social cohesion and environmental. We want to stand with you and offer our sustained unwavering commitment to Wellington | Te Whanganui a Tara, our turangawaewae.

Let Wellington embrace competition. We understand that our city competes within a global environment. Like Wellington, my iwi must be nimble, relevant in terms of enterprise and opportunity creation, and we need to embrace being the designers of our future as well as the guardians of our heritage.

Let us co-foster a diverse Wellington. Wellington has a brand. It includes creativity, excitement, and artistry. It is home to embassies and international communities. Wellington is diverse, it has a sense of fairness and pride of its many communities. Wellington is both the Capital city of NZ and equally we are in Maoridom, the head of the fish. Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui.

Let us thrive in creativeness. Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui. Maui the innovator, Maui the brave, Maui the creative. My board see the next decade as a period where Taranaki Whanui and the WCC further enhance Wellington's image and brand around one of the greatest places to live, work and enjoy community. In Maoridom, we are the head of Aotearoa New Zealand. Our eyes are innovation, our ears are creativity, our nose senses fairness, and our tongue speaks technology. Our mind is wisdom with wealth. And, our heart is diversity and empathy.

So what is the destination? Ironically it is not the end game. Yes, we should plan the intended destination. We should aim for it to harbour many benefits for existing and new citizens. Yet, let us not over-plan. The future destination for Wellington, including my iwi is a blend of excitement, clarity, and the unknown, with a spice of trepidation. A plan or an MoU is a road-map at best. Let us remember MoU's do not implement themselves. We need people who are brave, who possess a mindset to design, deploy and get things done.

Our MoU must now become a journey. We need to embrace the MoU and take it off the wall and away from statements. We need to commit to learn from one another. We need to share visions, ideas and opportunities. The MoU can now be the manifestation, the co-creation of our new joint new waka.

In closing I leave us all with both a question and Maori proverb. The question is: *how might we co-create a new and exciting relationship that differs – that lifts innovation in communities, that is more attractive to SMEs – Smart Minded Enterprises and Smart Maori entrepreneurs?*

Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu. With the right cloak of mindsets & resources we can together soar new heights,

Naaku noa iti
Wayne T Mulligan
Chair, Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika – PNBST.
Proudly a Wellington Citizen / Proudly Te Atiawa – Taranaki Whanui