



Pānui

Kia Ora, this is the first of what will be regular monthly updates on the Murihiku Regeneration (MR) project. This update is based on the hui of 3 May 2021, at Te Rau Aroha.

Thank you

We thank all of you for your support to date for the project which has the potential for us to be genuine decision makers around the remediation of the Tīwai site and the future economic challenges and opportunities resulting from the departure of Rio Tinto. We also welcome robust debate as it helps clarify and refine our strategy.

In short, we see this massive change in our regional landscape as creating opportunities to reshape our future in the region.

But first, we must apologise for calling the hui at short notice and at a time when our tītī birders were down on their motu doing their mahi.

However, we were offered a chance to have a korero with Rio Tinto's new Chief Executive Aluminium, Ivan Vella, who has only stepped into the role recently and was only to be in New Zealand for a short time.

Rio Tinto puts iwi before the Crown

The invitation for Ivan Vella and iwi to meet came before his meetings with the Crown. This is not something that private companies normally do and shows that Rio Tinto, and in particular Ivan, is committed to working with iwi in a way that acknowledges our mana and is respectful.

Ivan impressed us all with his humility and his willingness to own Rio Tinto's past mistakes, the lack of data and historical transparency. He has a genuine desire to see the company change and embraces a meaningful and workable relationship with iwi to develop a solution to the issue of remediating the Tīwai site as Rio Tinto departs Southland. He is also keen to see Rio Tinto assist with some of the longer-term issues of what economic opportunities can be created post the closure of the plant.

Find out more about Ivan here: <https://www.riotinto.com/en/about/executive-committee/ivan-vella>



Rio Tinto's CE Aluminium - Ivan Vella (second right)

Partners - not just stakeholders

Murihiku Regeneration is very keen to develop a partnership agreement with Rio Tinto, which would effectively have iwi play an actual role in defining and delivering the solutions, rather than just being a party that Rio Tinto consults. This would ensure we are not just 'stakeholders' but *decision-makers*.

Murihiku Regeneration will be seeking some confirmation on a way forward with Rio Tinto that expresses that partnership.

How Murihiku Regeneration will work with and communicate with Rūnanga

Forming a Governance Group

We are now more mindful of the processes required by each Rūnanga to sign off on Kaupapa and milestones. We will commit to giving an update once a month, unless there are urgent issues to address, and in turn the four Rūnanga will nominate one person, supported by an alternate, to become part of a **Governance Group** for Murihiku Regeneration. The Governance Group will have the responsibility to carry any kōrero back to the Rūnanga.

We will develop a simple accord which will define the communication principles we all agree to and a chart of how governance will work with representation from the four Murihiku Rūnanga.

Communications Action Plan and protocols

A communications action plan will be developed, which will include:

- the updates to the four Murihiku Rūnanga,
- updates to the wider whānau via the Ngāi Tahu pānui,
- communications to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

In addition to the communication plan, Murihiku Regeneration will establish a **website** that can be used to share with whānau and rūnanga, any generic and non-sensitive information regarding developments and relevant Kaupapa being advanced by Murihiku Regeneration.

There will also be some protocols regarding media interaction, which will mirror what's in place at each rūnanga. The meeting on the 3 May agreed that Tā Tipene will be the Murihiku Regeneration spokesperson for the interim, however he expressed a wish to have the appropriate supports around him so that he is able to concentrate on those matters requiring his attention, and for the weight of the communication issues to be addressed by Murihiku Regeneration and the Rūnaka Governance Group, in accordance with the new communication action plan.

Green Energy

The other main issue that is starting to emerge as an opportunity is the development of hydrogen power on the Tiwai site. We will keep you updated on information on this as it comes to hand.

The four Pou - gathering information to make good decisions

We are gathering information and preparing responses with regards to the likely impacts that Rio Tinto's departure will have on the Murihiku community which centre around the four pou:

- environment
- education
- culture and heritage
- social development.

Education training and workforce development is a key priority and Ivan Hodgetts (Ministry of Education) gave the hui an overview of the issues he is analysing. Our goal is this project will be iwi-led and is part of the intergenerational strategic approach Murihiku Regeneration is taking.

Leadership and Trust

The approach that Murihiku Regeneration is taking on behalf of the rūnanga and indeed the wider iwi whānui and the people of Southland, has put iwi firmly in a leadership role.

Ivan Vella's visit to Te Rau Aroha to talk with us is a clear indication that our leadership is acknowledged and respected.

It has also been heartening to see the number of younger people who are keen to be involved and be rest assured the baton is being readied to be handed over to willing hands.

We are also reminded that this is only achieved when we work together for a common purpose – Tū Tahī Ki Te Kei – Murihiku united.

If you have any questions about topics covered, please email: Jude.Knowler@murihikuregen.org.nz