



Pānui

Tiwai Closure

Awarua Rūnaka will lead the Murihiku collective response to the Tiwai closure process. Senior leaders are talking with New Zealand Aluminium Smelter Management and leaders. This mahi will be supported by Tā Tipene, Murihiku Regeneration and Te Rūnanga to ensure that rights, interests and obligations are met as we engage with Rio Tinto and critical Ministers and local government politicians.

The areas of focus include protection of culture and heritage, remediation of the site and disposal of the hazardous materials. The recent visit from Ivan Vella (Rio Tinto) confirmed a desire for genuine partnership with Iwi. We will confirm this work as one of the priorities in the Just Transitions process and ensure that the work continues to have strong Iwi leadership through Awarua. Expect to hear more around this work as we call on our own scientists, researchers and environmental experts to ensure that Rio Tinto meet their obligations to Iwi and the community.

Latest news on Tiwai

<https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/southland/rio-tinto-clean-pledge-welcomed>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/125253605/tiwai-point-owner-rio-tinto-criticised-over-gifts-to-bluff-school-pupils>

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2021/05/rio-tinto-commits-4-million-to-clean-up-toxic-waste-at-tiwai-point.html>

Meeting with Minister Woods - 27 May in Christchurch

Upoko – Tā Tipene and Michael Skerrett, supported by TRoNT representatives - met with Energy and Resources and Just Transitions Minister Woods (see below) to discuss the Tiwai Point situation around Iwi leadership, what remediation should look like and the closure process.



The very constructive discussions outlined the Just Transitions process and green energy as a viable opportunity once Rio Tinto exit in December 2024. Minister Woods reiterated her support for iwi leadership and her expectation that they would sit at the centre of a Just Transitions process.

First Green Energy Wananga Confirmed

Tā Tipene has confirmed the first of a number of green energy wananga to occur at Te Whare o Te Waipounamu in Otautahi on 26 June 2021. This first wananga is focused on senior Ngāi Tahu governors and leaderships to help them understand the opportunities around green energy and green hydrogen based around opportunities in Murihiku. It is expected that follow up Hui and wananga will occur for local Rūnaka to understand the opportunities for the region.

Just Transitions Process kicks off

Just Transitions is a government programme that had its genesis in New Plymouth where the government policy to reduce the oil and gas industry had a huge impact on community. Government worked with the local community to ensure that the transition to an economy not dominated by oil and gas extraction would benefit everyone – i.e. it is **Just**.

The Just Transitions process in Southland will follow a similar programme but Murihiku has the advantage of a longer lead time before the changes to the economy from the Smelter closure will hit.

The May 2021 government budget confirmed \$14m to help develop regional just transitions plans for Aotearoa. This includes the work being done by Murihiku Regeneration and individual Rūnaka with government over the next few months.

This process will see Murihiku Iwi working closely with central and local government on identifying priorities and projects that will be looked at, supported and funded to build a regenerative economy. The identified work will be reported back to the Murihiku collective and individual Rūnaka for consideration in August and September of this year.

The approach involves an oversight group consisting of two Iwi, two central government and two local government leaders – Aimee Kaio (Awarua) and Riki Parata (Hokonui) are our representatives. They will report back to both Murihiku Regeneration Upoko and also Rūnaka leaders on the approach. This group met for the first time on Monday 31 May 2021 to confirm the overall intent and detailed work.

Each Rūnaka has also been invited to confirm a participant on a series of three Hui to confirm what each Rūnaka might see as priorities and help to codesign what will eventually be presented to government and Iwi leadership. The dates for the workshops are 24 June, 8 July and 21 July 2021. We are working with MBIE to develop a website that will ensure Whānui can follow this work.

Find out more on the Murihiku Regen website:

<https://www.murihikuregen.org.nz/regenerating-murihiku/just-transitions/>

Ideas and suggestions can be provided to your local rūnaka rep or email Janet Hodgetts:
janet.hodgetts@murihikuregen.org.nz.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get ahead of a big economic change and chart our future.

Rangatahi Development

The first of a series of **rangatahi leadership and development wananga** focused around Murihiku Regeneration will be run from **Te Rau Aroha Marae on 26 June, 2021** through Steph Blair.

The first Hui will be for up to 20 participants is aimed at upskilling our own, weaving them into this long term project and offers Murihiku Regeneration the opportunity to access their creativity and aspirations for their future. Contact Steph or Janet to find out more and get involved:

Steph Blair: Steph.Blair@awaruarunaka.iwi.nz

Janet Hodgetts: Janet.Hodgetts@murihikuregen.org.nz

Collaborative Science and Research Wananga Series

We will be kicking off a series of **Murihiku science, innovation and research wananga** in the next two months to draw together our Ngāi Tahu whānui leaders and experts across a range of areas, facilitating topics such as:

- our culture and heritage,
- health and wellbeing,
- education and career pathway planning,
- green energy,
- environmental science,
- climate change, and
- aquaculture

The aim of the wananga series is to help build collective knowledge, expertise and action around major regeneration opportunities that will emerge; something particularly important to help keep absent members informed about these important kaupapa. One of the first areas will be around the Tiwai Smelter and its impact on our environment.

Check out our website for the latest news and events:

<https://www.murihikuregen.org.nz>