
Maori visibility – Matariki events

The Proposal

Through the consultation process for the LTCCP there were a significant number of submissions highlighting the lack of visibility of Maori in the city. Submissions acknowledged that the Council's relationship with mana whenua appeared to be working well but individuals submitting focussed on the importance of developing a stronger relationship with the wider Maori community. While many of the suggestions around relationship development can be achieved within existing budgets, the significant unbudgeted item was the need for a stronger Maori events focus especially around Matariki. It is therefore proposed to budget \$50,000 per annum specifically for support for Matariki and other Maori events to provide a programme that has a stronger indigenous flavour.

Proposal Costs

Project Component	Operating expenses \$000									
	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
<i>Cultural festivals</i>	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
<i>Total</i>	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50

Discussion:

Currently there are no specific Maori events in the Council's events calendar. Waitangi Day is the national day and the celebration is inclined to focus on nationhood, civic pride, diversity and inclusiveness. Over recent years Matariki has strengthened as a unique New Zealand event. In Wellington the Council typically piggybacks off the investment made by Te Papa for Matariki but, coming as it does at the end of the financial year, investment depends on whether other opportunities have been taken up earlier. The community events calendar is otherwise focussed on geographical communities, other ethnic communities or special interest events. To develop a more meaningful programme requires some Council investment to leverage other sponsors and stakeholders. Over time the importance of Matariki is likely to increase and become a drawcard for visitors and tourists. It also provides some seasonal balance, as much of the events calendar is focussed over the summer months.

Officer recommendation

It is recommended that additional funding support be allocated to strengthen Council's support for a stronger programme of Maori cultural celebrations.

Contact officer:

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