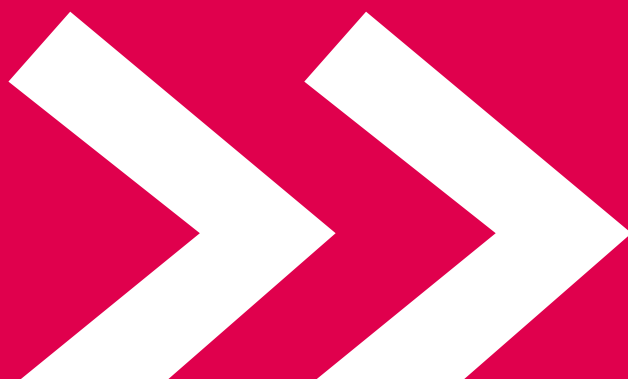




Ngā kaupapa a ngā mema rangatahi i kōwhiria

YOUNG ELECTED MEMBERS' KAUPAPA

Whiringa-ā-rangi
November 2021



“ HE AO HURIHURI Change is good ”

THEME FOR THE YOUNG ELECTED MEMBERS' HUI 2020 HELD IN TE AWAKAIRANGI LOWER HUTT



// 1



// 2

He tirohanga whānui >> Foreward >>

It is with enormous pride that we present this kaupapa of Young Elected Members (YEM) to the wider local government whānau.

Ours is a very recent whakapapa – we began in 2014 when a trailblazing young councillor, Jinty MacTavish from Dunedin City Council had the vision to bring together elected members, aged 40 and younger, from across ngā motu. The focus was to support YEM to feel confident in their sometimes isolated role and build on a shared sense of whanaungatanga – that we are all in this exciting and changing world of local government together.

Today, we represent 14% of elected members, come from a diverse range of backgrounds and communities and bring many different viewpoints to our elected roles. As our numbers have grown, so too must the strength of our collective voice so we can be heard on those issues of greatest importance to our communities and constituents.

That is what we have set out to do with this - our agreed collective kaupapa as a form of shared advocacy. It provides clear information and messages that YEM can use in their own councils and boards and with their communities and constituents.

With huge changes on the horizon for local government and several reforms set to change the way local government currently functions, the YEM committee will proactively channel this kaupapa to help shape and inform discussions. We acknowledge there is no ‘one view’ within YEM, but our feedback from the network has identified there are strong areas of commonality, and our kaupapa represents those shared areas.

The preparation of this kaupapa began in 2020 and we wish to thank everyone who has been involved along the way. We understand and are acutely aware that despite the urgency of many of the pressing issues we and our communities face, realising these kaupapa will take time. But collective change must start from somewhere. We are up for the challenge.

“Kua tawhiti kē tō haerenga mai kia kua e haere tonu, ka nui rawa ō mahi kia kua e mahi tonu. You have come too far not to go further,; you have done too much not to do more.” – Sir James Henare.



Kia kaha YEM!

Moko Tepania and
Lan Pham //
YEM Committee
Co-chairs

He Taipitopito mō Ā Mātou Kaupapa

About our Kaupapa



Work on our Kaupapa first started in 2020 at a YEM Komiti brainstorm, two workshops at the YEM Hui 2020 in Te Awakairangi Lower Hutt and feedback from the network.

The objective of our kaupapa is to share the critical issues YEM is focussed on where there is agreement that this conversation needs to transcend any partisan positions. We are very aware that to make progress on these issues we need change, particularly in challenging existing structures.



Ngā Kaupapa a ngā Mema Rangatahi i Kōwhiria

Young Elected Members' Kaupapa

<p>Te Whakamana i Te Tiriti Upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi</p>	<p>Te Taiao me te Āhuarangi Environment and Climate</p>	<p>Ngā Wai e Toru Three Waters</p>	<p>He Kāinga Noho Housing</p>	<p>He Tirohanga Anamata A Future Focus</p>
<p>TE TIRITI WILL BE HONOURED AND UPHELD AT ALL LEVELS IN AOTEAROA.</p> <p>The bicultural foundation of Te Tiriti will support diversity and multiculturalism in local government and our communities so that our people can thrive.</p>	<p>AOTEAROA'S UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT WILL BE TREASURED, PROTECTED, AND RESTORED.</p> <p>Te Hauora o Te Taiao (the health and wellbeing of the environment) nourishes the health and wellbeing of our people. It is the foundation for a thriving society, culture, and economy, which future generations have the right to.</p>	<p>THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUE OF WAI AS A TAONGA IS RECOGNISED.</p> <p>Wai is our most vital natural resource, which is the foundation of the health and wellbeing of all people, living things, and eco-systems.</p>	<p>EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO DIGNIFIED HOUSING AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.</p> <p>Everyone should have access to warm, dry, safe, and affordable homes where people have freedom of choice in housing type.</p>	<p>SYSTEMS THINKING AND FUTURE GENERATIONS-FOCUSED APPROACH IS USED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.</p> <p>The sector shifts to an integrated approach to policy and planning with longer term decision-making and investment for younger and future generations.</p>
<p>WHERE WE STAND</p> <p>Te Tiriti and Te Ao Māori perspectives will be embedded as the framework that underpins legislation and action in Aotearoa. This framework recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > the interconnected nature of all living things > the intrinsic value of land, water, and ecosystems a focus on reciprocity (giving back) rather than extraction > the vitality of Te Taiao which enriches us all, culturally, economically, socially. 	<p>WHERE WE STAND</p> <p>We reject any complacency and delay in urgently reducing emissions and addressing environmental degradation. The cost of inaction will be accounted for.</p> <p>Intergenerational justice is the basis of our actions – Mō ngā uri whakatupu ā muri ake nei (for us and our children after us).</p> <p>The rights and needs of future generations are provided for by making 'mokopuna decisions' (thinking through the lens of our grandchildren's needs).</p>	<p>WHERE WE STAND</p> <p>By addressing historical underinvestment in three waters (drinking water, storm water and wastewater), we will demonstrate the power of local and central government working together in true partnership under Te Tiriti to address legacy issues.</p> <p>Three Waters mahi will be based on upholding 'Te Mana o Te Wai' (the mana of the water), and guided by mana whenua, to provide the best outcomes for the health of our people and communities.</p>	<p>WHERE WE STAND</p> <p>All New Zealanders have the right to access adequate and dignified housing. This means habitability, accessibility, and affordability. We must urgently address housing inequity to prevent further detriment to current and future generations.</p> <p>Critical to addressing housing inequity is long-term, future-focused spatial planning with zero tolerance for NIMBYism ('not in my backyard' approaches).</p>	<p>WHERE WE STAND</p> <p>A future focus recognises the complex, multiple pressures that both our environment and our people now face and growing inequity across our communities and generations.</p> <p>We must increase the strength and legitimacy of decision making through recognition of future generations, Māori-Crown relationships, and representing the diversity of communities. We need to seek new ideas and create initiatives to increase civic participation and diverse representation in decision-making.</p>

OUR ACTIONS

- > Work alongside Te Maruata, to support them as they lead this kōrero and transformation.
- > Advocate for shared governance for Māori and legislative reform that supports this at all levels: from the Beehive to communities.
- > Promote the revitalisation of te reo Māori me ōna tikanga (language and cultural practices) through stronger policies and practical actions.
- > Champion the everyday use of te reo and tikanga, both in our councils and in our communities.
- > Support the ongoing Te Tiriti education of our rangatahi and local government elected members and staff. Encourage them to deepen their understanding of tikanga Māori.
- > Support this new knowledge to be embedded within local government, demonstrating its inherent value to the work, lives and aspirations of Aotearoa New Zealand's communities.

OUR ACTIONS

- > Guided by legislation, tools and incentives, prioritise Te Hauora o Te Taiao to enable the four cornerstones of wellbeing (physical, spiritual, family, mental health) to be realised.
- > Prioritise the development of effective policies, guidance and tools to urgently enact climate change legislation where local government plays a leadership role in both adaptation and mitigation.
- > Take an evidence-based approach to setting mitigation targets for urgent emission reductions by 2030 and consider how local government is resourced to effectively operationalise them.
- > Advocate for adaptation measures to be supported by a nationally consistent legislative framework that guides local and regional responses.
- > Advocate for Resource Management Act reform that prioritises the health and wellbeing of our environment and our people to ensure it takes an intergenerational and precautionary approach for a 'new normal' of environmentally positive development.
- > Advocate for ensuring that there is strong local voice in the proposed new regional planning system.

OUR ACTIONS

- > Seize the opportunity for Three Waters reform to become a tangible pathway for realising shared governance under Te Tiriti and strengthening the value of local government.
- > Advocate for outcome-focused solutions, based on evidence rather than reductive ideals, where local needs and opinions are valued and respected but not at the cost of equitable improvement.
- > Promote place-based solutions that recognise the diverse needs of different councils and communities.
- > Advocate for a 'ki uta ki tai' approach (mountains to sea, or source to sea) so investing in long-term water source protection is the priority and reject approaches that put the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.

OUR ACTIONS

- > Advocate for the funding and financing of infrastructure to support housing development at a local level that empowers our communities.
- > Be a strong voice on having a housing market and housing policy that provides more equitable and affordable choices around renting and owning property.
- > Advocate for local government to have access to the income-related rent subsidy.
- > Advocate for a planning system which can balance existing needs and future needs.
- > Support local infrastructure planning and facilities that create communities, not just houses.
- > Advocate for better support for elected members to increase their knowledge about affordable housing mechanisms, planning, funding and financing.

OUR ACTIONS

- > Advocate for and share best practice policy and planning responses to deliver co-benefits (eg, public transport benefits to public health, urban planning for emissions reduction) to strengthen the justification of intervention designs.
- > Advocate for longer planning horizons in the Local Government Act and council policy (50-100 years minimum) to drive longer term thinking and better outcomes for younger and future generations.
- > Be a strong voice in the evolving kōrero around the Future for Local Government to proactively respond to unequal impacts across regions, communities and generations.
- > Ensure that we address concerns about equality and make decisions that are consistent with a fair and equitable approach so that ongoing investment and community empowerment in rural/provincial communities is provided for.
- > Advocate for more equitable funding and rating mechanisms that enable local government to better serve communities and their aspirations.
- > Proactively seek funding for civic education in schools so that young people can learn how to shape their future and their communities.
- > Advocate for four-year election terms for both central and local government to enable enduring decision making.

Kuputaka

Glossary

Kōrero	v. To speak, tell n. Discourse, conversation, narrative
Mahi	Work
Manawhenua	The territorial rights of iwi and hapū
Mokopuna	Grandchildren
Rangatahi	Young people
Taonga	Treasure
Te Ao Māori	The Māori worldview
Te Hauora	Health and wellbeing
Te Taiao	Natural world, environment
Te Tiriti	The Treaty of Waitangi
Tikanga Māori	Māori custom, practice, way
Wai	Water