

Sociallink Submission to TECT's Draft Strategy 2022-2032

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SocialLink Western Bay of Plenty is a registered charity based at The Kollektive in 17th Avenue, Tauranga. It is the umbrella peak body for the social and community sector in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Its vision is a resourced, skilled and cohesive for purpose sector enabling communities to flourish. Its purpose is to build the capability, confidence, sustainability and voice of community organisations in the Western Bay of Plenty. It receives funding from TECT.

1. General

SocialLink acknowledges and supports the direction TECT has decided to take in developing a new strategy and funding framework to guide its decision-making, fuels action and that makes explicit priorities and challenges. This decision seems to us to be in keeping with the significant social, wellbeing and climatic needs and challenges in the Western Bay of Plenty region.

In particular we acknowledge TECT highlighting the significant challenge of the inequities in relation to priority communities, socio-economic deprivation, income and education in the WBOP.

2. Suggestion for an additional and separate focus area for tangata whenua

The TECT strategic focus areas are

- Housing
- Priority Communities
- Natural Environment
- Built Environment
- Community Wellbeing and Vibrancy.

These are all vital areas. Sociallink recommends an additional area focused on Tangata Whenua and is determined by Mana Whenua.

Our reasons are given below.

On page 5 of the draft strategy, TECT identified 5 principles under the Heading **This is Us**. The fifth one has headed 'Commitment to Tangata Whenua':

'We recognise the importance of building meaningful relationships with tangata whenua and enabling the aspirations of Māori in our region. As a Trust, we are committed to developing our understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its implications for our work.'

We believe this needs to be given more action and implementation focus. What does this look like in practice?

- We recommend Tangata Whenua should be a separate Priority Group in its own right that is underpinned by and gives mauri (life) and tikanga (practice) to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within TECT's decision-making.
- A review of TECT funding allocation indicates there should be more investment in supporting Tangata Whenua creativity and development in all its facets within the TECT region.
- Reviewed on a population basis Tangata Whenua are between 18 and 20% of the population within the Western Bay of Plenty (2018 census). Tangata Whenua have been severely affected by colonisation through the loss of their land and economic base, including the negative socio-economic impact and marginalisation of voice.
- Although nearly one out of every five people in the WBOP, the successful funding proportion for Tangata Whenua providers/entities applying for TECT's Community Development fund, as one example, does not reflect this. The annual proportion ranged from approximately 8% of the CD fund in 2019 (pre-Covid); to 12.6% in 2020; 2% in 2021 and to 3% in 2022.
- It seems entities representing Tangata Whenua interests do not appear to be accessing TECT funding to the same extent as other organisations and groups within the WBOP community, let alone to the extent that would help effectively address the inequity of social and economic indicators suffered by Tangata Whenua and support initiatives determined by them.
- Planned and specific intervention is needed to help redress this imbalance. SocialLink supports TECT's initiatives to do this as in the recent \$2.5m grant to Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust to help restore the forest, which involves 4 partnership subprojects led by hapu and iwi. TECT's funding of the pilot project Whakamana Tangata – He Poutama Strengthening and Building Tangata Whenua organisations which SocialLink is working on is another example of this focus.
- However, TECT's strategic plan covers at least ten years and beyond and we think would benefit significantly from clearly planning for and identifying consistency with Te Tiriti.
- Critical Tiriti Analysis (CTA) is a tool that may be useful for TECT. It is being used in different contexts and has been found to be a 'prospective guide to produce public policies which honours Te Tiriti and eliminate inequities.'¹(Pg 1, Came et al 2023).

¹ Came, H, O'Sullivan, D, Kidd, J McCreanor, T (2023) Critical Tiriti Analysis: A prospective policy making tool from Aotearoa New Zealand, Ethnicities, Vol 0(0) 1-20.

- We believe there will be considerable local help and advice available to TECT in undertaking this.

3. 'Priority Communities' should include people affected by disabilities

The focus area 'priority communities' should explicitly include people affected by disabilities. In Aotearoa New Zealand 24% of the population or over 1million people have some form of long lasting impairment. While a diverse population group, in comparison to the general population, people with disabilities have less income, poorer access to suitable housing and employment and experience stigma and discrimination because of their disability. For example in June 2022, the median weekly income from all sources for disabled people aged 15-64 years old was \$451, compared to \$1000 for not disabled people in the same age group².

4. Provision for Innovation and Development

We think there is opportunity for TECT to provide a fund for local initiatives that are experimental, innovative and trialling or piloting something or require some seeding funding to obtain advice and support to further develop.

5. Clarification of Allocation of Funding in the Funding framework

We understand from pg 9 of the drat strategy that TECT will use the five focus areas as a guide in making decisions using the five funds it currently allocates funding under, as below:

Strategic Grant Funding at 60%

- Facilities of Regional Significance Fund (40%) (was Projects of Regional Significance)
- Catalyst for Change Fund (20%)

Responsive Grant Funding at 40%

- Community Development Fund (23%)
- Community Facilities Fund (12%)
- Community Events Fund (5%)

Will applicants identify which of the five strategic focus areas they are applying under?

Is there room for applications that may not readily fit any of the five focus areas? For example where might be animal welfare and rehoming fit?

6. Providing funding for the Civic Precinct Development: Te Manawataki o Te Papa

SocialLink supports TECT in making a grant out of the 'Facilities of Regional Significance Fund' as both a practical and symbolic help to seeing this important project develop on behalf of all the region.

This is an opportunity to acknowledge mana whenua and be inclusive of hapu/iwi for the Tauranga Moana, to honour and implement te Tiriti and hand over funding to mana whenua to control in the

² Statistics New Zealand, Labour market statistics (disability) as at the June 2022 quarter.

designing, creating and manufacturing of Mana Whenua elements in our open spaces, of cultural and historical and future significance for the WBOP.

Ahakoā te iti me te nui, te pai me te kino, te māmā me te taumaha, te tere me te pōturi, te whakarongo me te taringa mārō

He mana te manahau i te uaua - Resilience is a virtue garnered by struggle