



**Y.I.P.**



**YOUTH  
INVOLVEMENT  
PROJECT**

***Draft* Youth  
Engagement  
Plan **MARCH 2022****

## What is this plan?

The draft Youth Engagement Plan outlines how young people (16 to 25-years-old) can be involved in decision making and action with Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana for the next three to five years.

## Vision

*Mā te kotahitanga o Toi Moana me ngā mātātahi, ka ora ai a Taiao me ngā hua kai roto i a ia, hei Taonga tuku iho mo ngā reanga e whai ake nei.*

Through unity of Toi Moana and rangatahi, the guardianship of our environment and the people will thrive and live on for generations to come.

## Kaitiakitanga

To actively support young people to be kaitiaki of the environment and have them involved in activities to protect and improve the natural environment.

### Goals:

#### 1. Provide resources about sustainable practices and protecting our natural resources.

- A. Action:** Share resources and information to educate young people about sustainable practices. This will include real world examples of how our choices can affect the environment and will promote sustainable alternatives and the potential benefits of these.
- B. Action:** To promote and support existing sustainable community programmes.

#### 2. Organise and support environmental activities for young people to be involved in.

- A. Action:** Provide information and support for young people wanting to be involved in community environmental events and activities.
- B. Action:** Promote community care groups and events for young people to get involved with.
- C. Action:** Work with community groups to remove any barriers which may prevent young people from volunteering.

#### 3. Create resources for learners i.e. schools, tertiary, community groups.

- A. Action:** Find gaps where we can help schools and community groups by providing educational videos, information or funding.



## Whanaungatanga

To encourage effective engagement between Bay of Plenty Regional Council and young people, as well as creating meaningful relationships and interactions.

### Goals:

#### 1. Develop young people's knowledge of Local Government.

- A. Action:** Discuss with young people issues that may affect them and let them know about relevant upcoming programmes and events.
- B. Action:** Create resources to talk about the work that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council does and the role of Local Government.
- C. Action:** Highlight the achievements of young people who are protecting and improving their natural environment or promoting sustainable practices. We would do this through our social channels and relationships with news media. Our aim is to promote a story at least once a month and to cover the entire region.

#### 2. Connect young people to the work that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council does.

- A. Action:** Host regular youth-led meetings with Regional Council to share information and ask questions.
- B. Action:** Identify opportunities for Councillors to be more actively involved in youth events.
- C. Action:** Council will build relationships with young people by attending events to share opportunities for influence and action.
- D. Action:** Council participates in at least three career focused activities for young people per year.

#### 3. See if youth action groups can act as ambassadors and bridge the gap between young people and Regional Council.

- A. Action:** Trial this idea i.e. short term or project based.



## Kotahitanga

To enable youth participation and ensure the youth voice is supported, equally valued and included in council decision making.

### Goals:

#### 1. Young people's views are valued, and they are supported to have their voices heard.

- A. Action:** Create youth ambassador roles to support young people wanting to be involved in Regional Council meetings and to welcome and support young people to council events.
- B. Action:** Speak with young people and ensure that youth participation is included in all community engagement initiatives. This will be measured by an increase in feedback from young people on Participate Bay of Plenty.
- C. Action:** Invite young people to join in the public forums of full council meetings.
- D. Action:** Demonstrate how feedback gathered informs decisions.

#### 2. Young people can easily find information about how to join in council processes.

- A. Action:** Review information every year to make sure it is easy to read and easily can be found on the council website. This will be measured by improving our public website's readability score based on the Flesch-Kincaid scale.
- B. Action:** Advertisements for young people will be found at places and events where young people are active.

#### 3. Increased youth participation in local elections.

- A. Action:** Share information about elections proactively within youth networks.





## Manaakitanga

To create equity in our opportunities and ensure they accurately value and engage diverse youth populations.

### Goals:

#### 1. Council values diverse voices and seeks to create equal partnership with communities.

- A. Action:** Actively seek out and encourage participation from all youth populations so they feel valued and comfortable to talk with council and share their views.

#### 2. Understand and learn about the diverse communities within our region and how best to support them to meaningfully talk with council and feel heard.

- A. Action:** Build relationships with organisations and groups working with youth to learn how best to support and include them in council processes.

#### 3. Information is presented in an accessible and appropriate format.

- A. Action:** Provide information in plain and friendly language,
- B. Action:** Speak with experts to ensure information is presented in an accessible way. This can include working with people from the relevant community or language experts for translations. Relevant languages are incorporated including Te Reo Māori and NZ Sign Language.



# Have your say

This draft document has been developed based on early input from 532 rangatahi in the Bay of Plenty region, and developed with our Youth Involvement Project (YIP) change-makers.

Let us know what you think before the 1st of April 2022 at [www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/youth-engagement](http://www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/youth-engagement)

The updated document will be presented to council for adoption in May 2022.

# Contact us

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