

The following is an excerpt from 'BRF-4070 - Aide memoire: Overview of Crown's Treaty obligations as they relate to natural resources'. This document was submitted to Minister Responsible for RMA Reform Hon Chris Bishop on 21 December 2023.

Existing arrangements between local authorities and Māori

Under the RMA, Mana Whakahono a Rohe, joint management arrangements and transfers of power provide for iwi (and some hapū) participatory arrangements with local authorities. Some Treaty settlement deeds and legislation have required the establishment of JMAs.

These arrangements can include specific provisions or processes with respect to decisions by local authorities under the RMA, including on plans or consents, or in respect of particular areas of significance or taonga. In many cases these developed to address deficiencies in the RMA with respect to Māori rights and interests. If changes are proposed to the RMA, consideration will need to be given to what the effect might be for Māori parties to these arrangements.