

Section B6 of the Auckland Unitary Plan: *Recognition Without Power*

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When policy meets reality



B6's Promise

- "Enhance mauri of freshwater" (B6.3.1)
- "Integrate mana whenua values" (B6.3.2)



The Reality

- Sewage overflows leading to rahui's
- 30+ beaches left unsafe



Why the gap exists – The Three Failure

Passive Language

Policy: B6.2.2(1): “provide opportunities for participation”

Principle: Fails active protection principle - Crown must actively protect, not just “consider”

Result: Kaitiakitanga violated - consideration without action allows environmental

Limited Jurisdiction

Policy: Strong partnership policies (B6.2.2 Policy 3-5) only apply to Treaty Settlement land

Principle: Fails partnership principle - mana whenua excluded from decision-making across ancestral rohe

Result: Rangatiratanga denied - tokenism not

No Real Power

Policy: B6.3.2(2) says “integrate values” but gives no enforcement mechanism

Principle: Fails participation/rangatiratanga principle - duty to consult without power to decide

Result: All 5 of Houkura's Māori undermined

From Tokenism to Partnership

Strengthen Language

Replace "provide opportunities" with "require implementation" in B6.2.2(1)

Change "integrate values" to "must give effect to mātauranga and tikanga" in B6.3.2(2)

Add enforcement: Specify consequences when Māori values not adequately

Build Capacity

Mandatory Treaty education for all Auckland Council planners on Treaty obligations and tikanga

Strengthen Houkura's powers: Require mandatory Houkura consent for developments with adverse environmental effects

Ensure IMSB accountability

Co-Governance

Extend mana whenua decision-making authority beyond Treaty Settlement land to full ancestral rohe

Truly bi-cultural resource management

Current landowners retain property rights, but environmental standards