

Whakaaro Ahurea Summary Report

Waterfront Precinct Plan

The following report summarises:

- engagement with hapū and hapori māori undertaken
- key recommendations from whakaaro shared
- actions required to integrate the whakaaro into the final Waterfront Precinct Plan

Engagement

A methodology has been tailored to encourage Hapū and Hapori Māori to express and share their whakapapa/whakaaro/korero tawhito. Engagement has been facilitated in the following way.

Introduction Hui

An open panui was used to invite those interested to attend an introduction hui. The purpose of this hui was to broadly discuss the project and its purpose in collaboration with WDC. Information was provided at the hui to enable Hapū/Hapori Māori to share this kaupapa with their whanau and hapori. This hui was held on the 9th of July, 2021 at the former A'fare building adjacent to the Hihiaua Cultural Centre.

Roopu Kaumatua Established

At the Introductory Hui a Roopu Kaumatua was established to guide and inform the cultural narrative process. The roopu serve a role in representing and providing feedback to the wider hapū to assist the transfer of ideas and sharing of knowledge.

The kaumatua were elected by those present at the Introduction Hui, but nomination left open for others to also be elected throughout the engagement process.

Those elected were:

- Pari Walker – Te Parawhau
- Mira Norris – Te Parawhau
- Benjamin Pittman – Te Parawhau/ Ngati Hau
- Nicki Wakefield – Te Parawhau, Ngati Kahu o Torongare, Ngati Hau
- Waimarie Kingi – Ngati Kahu o Torongare, Te Parawhau (elected at Whakaaro Sharing Hui on 17 August, 2021).
- Mike Kake – Ngati Hau/Te Parawhau (elected at Whakaaro Sharing Hui on 24 August, 2021).

Whakaaro Sharing Hui

Two whakaaro sharing hui were held on the 17th of August 2021 and the 24th of August between 9am – 1pm and 5.30pm- 7.30pm, respectively. The first hui was held at the Hihiaua Cultural Centre. The second hui was scheduled at a later time in the day to provide those with daytime commitments an opportunity to attend. Due to an Alert Level 4, nationwide, Covid 19 lockdown, the second hui was conducted online via an open link.

The purpose of these hui was twofold:

- Share whakaaro to inform the 30-year spatial plan for the Waterfront.
- Review specific sections of the Draft Waterfront Precinct Plan from a uniquely hapori Māori perspective.

Recommendations

The whakaaro from the hui/workshops held were recorded and have been summarised into the following key recommendations:

1. A Management Plan is required	2. A Te Reo version of the Waterfront Precinct Plan should be prepared	3. Equal and equitable access to housing is needed
4. A Cultural Environmental Design Framework (CEDF) should be prepared	5. Kaupapa Māori and Mātauranga Māori should be incorporated in future development	6. Rangahau is needed to determine original and correct ingoa
7. Remediation of all contaminated land is required to avoid environmental damage	8. Revitalise Mana o te wai	9. All Crown (and its agents) administered land within the Waterfront area be returned to Māori

1. A Management Plan is required

Early in the first whakaaro sharing hui, it was realised that the issues and aspirations important to Māori have a scope much wider than the draft Waterfront Precinct Plan. Such issues included (but were not limited to):

- Alienation of land
- Loss of kāinga
- Widespread environmental degradation

Due to the significance of the issues and the limited timeframes available for seeking meaningful engagement, it was decided that the development of a Māori led 'Management Plan' is necessary.

The Management Plan is required to allow for longer and more robust engagement with hapori Māori/Hapū, calling on tikanga and mātauranga Māori to address the issues from a uniquely Te Ao Māori perspective. It would set out a more comprehensive plan to achieve the long-term visions of hapū and hapori Māori for the Waterfront area, including co-management regimes to be established with private developers, local and central government.

2. A Te Reo version of the Waterfront Precinct Plan should be prepared

The use of correct te reo translations was one of the first aspirations to be discussed by those who participated in the whakaaro sharing workshops. Use of incorrect te reo, such as that derived from other locations, or translations into the wrong dialect, can adversely affect the legitimacy of the document, it's meaning, and the sense of connection people have with it. Where does the ana

Whilst this can sometimes be appropriate to only go so far as using limited te reo translations of key words in a public facing document, to truly reflect the vision of Māori it was decided that a full translation of the final Waterfront Precinct Plan into te reo would be more meaningful in this instance. To ensure that the correct te reo is used, a local translator is to be recommended to the WDC by the Roopu Kaumatua.

3. Equal and Equitable access to housing is needed

One of the key issues discussed throughout the whakaaro sharing sessions was the process by which colonisation has physically and spiritually alienated/removed Māori from their ancestral lands and waterways within the waterfront area. There is now a very low representation of Māori living within the residentially zoned areas closest to the waterfront for a variety of reasons, most notably the lack of affordable housing.

To address the enduring effects of colonisation and to improve the future outcomes for Māori, opportunities are required to provide access to affordable housing. Such opportunities should focus on returning hapū to the area as a priority for any housing developments, and as a priority of the waterfront area overall.

4. A Cultural Environmental Design Framework (CEDF) should be prepared

There has been a growing acknowledgement of the benefits associated with using a Māori design framework for new projects. Te Aranga Māori Design Principles is an example of a CEDF, developed by Māori design professionals as a response to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocols put out by the Ministry for the Environment in 2005, and subsequently adopted by Auckland Council as a part of the Auckland Design Manual¹.

A CEDF is recommended to provide for a set of design principles that are uniquely specific to the Whangārei rohe and to ensure that any future development in the Waterfront area will require visibility, engagement, and participation of hapori Māori in the earliest design stages of a project. To ensure that the correct tikanga and mātauranga is used, a CEDF should be prepared by the Hapū. A set of overarching principles founded on Māori cultural values incorporating kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori will be included in the CEDF to guide all future development.

5. Kaupapa Māori and Mātauranga Māori should be incorporated in future development

Similar to the need for a CEDF, the view was widely held by those engaged with that, opportunities should exist within all future developments to incorporate kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori. The ways in which this can be achieved will be site and project specific and will require active engagement, at the earliest stage, with hapū and hapori Māori.

Acknowledging the existing presence of Te Kapehu Whetu a bilingual educational service based in the waterfront area, there has also been an agreed direction and hence recommendation that the school should be provided opportunities to grow and have access to resources into the future, as required.

¹ In practice: Te Aranga Design Principles, Architecture Now Article.

6. Rangahau is needed to establish original ingoa

Whilst discussing the place names within the Waterfront Precinct Plan scope area, it was noted that many of the common names currently in use are either incorrect or do not recognise the traditional Māori name for the place/area. Rangahau (research) by hapū is therefore considered necessary to establish original ingoa (names) and provide appropriate alternative names to those places named by non-Māori, both present and future.

7. Remediation of all contaminated (HAIL) whenua is required to avoid environmental damage

Whakaaro shared indicates that much of the land within the Waterfront Precinct Plan scope area is known to have been subject to some form of contamination at one time or another. Most notable is the use of the reclaimed William Fraser Memorial Park as a landfill until as recently as 2005.

The preservation of contaminated land without appropriate remediation significantly impacts the natural environment (ao turoa). Actions are necessary to ensure there is no further degradation of the whenua (land) and wai (waterways) as a result of the contamination.

8. Revitalise Mana o Te Wai

There are a range of waterways and tributaries that exist within the Waterfront and wider area. A range of actions require prioritisation for any future Waterfront projects to ensure that the mauri and wairua of all wai on, and related to, Whangārei Terenga Paraoa can be restored. Pollutants and contaminants, not only from local land-based activities but also activities further up-stream need to be addressed in order to restore mana to these waterbodies and he tangāta.

From a Te Ao Māori perspective, wai has a significant role to play in its life supporting capacity. Any degradation or pollution of the wai has a corresponding negative impact on the wellbeing of the people living, working, and playing within proximity. Revitalising the mauri and wairua of the waterways would help ensure aspirations of returning māra kai, kāinga, use of rongoa and a range of other tikanga Māori that can be realised once more.

9. All Crown (and its agents) administered land within the Waterfront area be returned to Māori

The progressive physical and spiritual alienation of Māori from their ancestral lands and waterways, particularly within the relevant waterfront area, is one of the most pervasive issues requiring acknowledgement as part of this Waterfront Precinct Plan. As such, a key aspiration of hapū/ hapori Māori is the return of these lands and waterways. The return would allow for access to resources and enable housing, recreational, educational and trade/ exchange opportunities for hapori Māori into the future.

Given that much of the land within the waterfront area is known to have been forcefully or inappropriately acquired by the Crown through various enactments during the era of colonisation, the Crown and its agencies remain a large land holder in the area. It is therefore recommended that an audit of this land be provided to hapū to understand the total area of land owned by the Crown and its agencies. From this, subsequent actions should be taken to ensure that the land requested by Māori is returned to them.

Actions and Integration

The nine recommendations as listed above are proposed to be actioned and/or integrated into the Waterfront Precinct Plan in a variety of ways. A list of these methods is provided below.

1. Each section of the existing draft Waterfront Precinct Plan should be reviewed and amended to include, where appropriate, any text that is thought to achieve the intent of one of the nine recommendations.
2. If there are any conflicts that arise from inclusion of certain actions within the existing content and/or framework in the draft Waterfront Precinct Plan, a specific '*Hapū and Hapori Māori Aspirations*' section will be included to capture those actions and aspirations.

Note: This section can now be found in the Waterfront Precinct Plan as the 'Manaakitanga' theme, with associated map and actions.

3. Work with the Roopu Kaumātua to amend the history section of the draft Waterfront Precinct Plan to ensure the korero used in this section is appropriate. The amended version is recommended to be shared with the wider Hapū Taumata Kaumātua to confirm that the korero is appropriate and tika pono (correct).

Note: Due to time and budget constraints circulation and consultation with the wider Hapū Taumata Kaumātua on the history section has not been possible.

4. A high-level map will be generated to depict the '*Areas of Importance*' to Māori shared during the whakaaro workshops and those already known. The map shall be included in the Waterfront Precinct Plan to educate those reading it and to inform any future development.

The following actions were also identified by the Roopu Kaumatua as a part of the whakaaro sharing process. As they are outside of the scope of this project, they are included as recommendations only.

1. WDC could consider facilitating a waiata competition for taitamariki to capture the whakaaro shared for this waterfront engagement in a secondary medium to the written report.
2. The Roopu Kaumātua would value review of the final Waterfront Precinct Plan prior to adoption.
3. Once the Waterfront Precinct Plan has been finalised and endorsed by the Roopu Kaumātua, it would be recommended to commission a separate te reo version of the document. An appropriate translator would be suggested by the Roopu Kaumātua to ensure correct dialect is used.

Report prepared by:

