

Tamaterau Upgrades Stage 2

Main carpark upgrade



Project Background

The Tamaterau Beach Carparks Upgrade was initiated in 2018 due to the:-

- Road safety issues arising from the poor condition and design of the carparks
- Increasing use of the carpark and reserve areas resulting in increased wear and tear of the carpark area,
- Water quality issues due to sediment-laden runoff discharging to the Kopunu Stream and Whangarei Harbour
- Erosion and poor condition of the foreshore and grassed areas
- Safety concerns for beach and reserve users resulting from uncontrolled vehicle access to the beach and grassed areas

As one of the closest swimmable beaches to Whangarei City, Tamaterau Reserve is a popular location for locals and families with children and is also used for water-based recreation. It is also an increasingly popular stop for visitors and freedom campers exploring Whangarei Heads.



Enhancing a gateway to Whangarei Heads

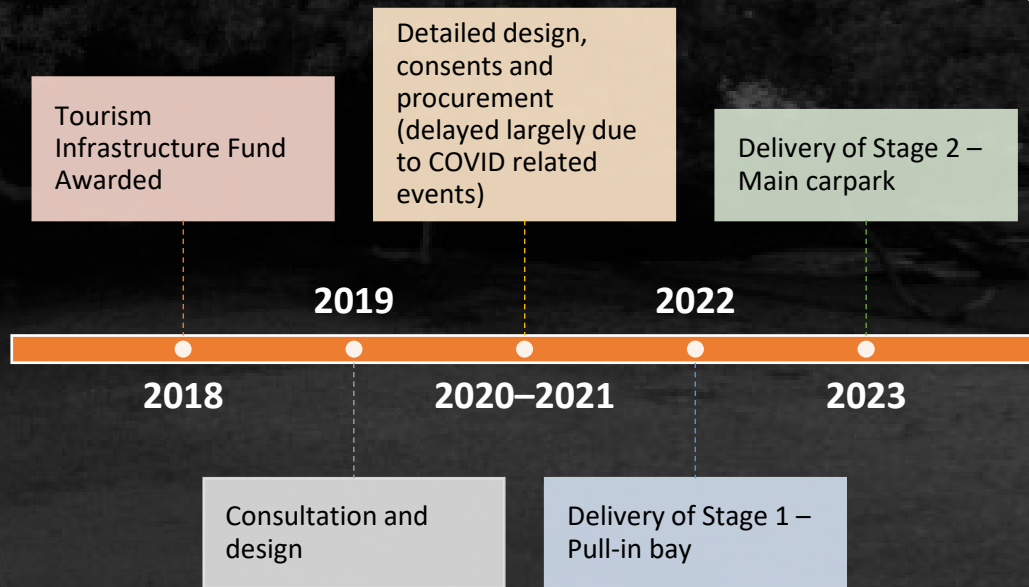
In November 2018, the project was awarded funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund, based on the following key objectives:

1. Improve safety, environmental and amenity outcomes for public infrastructure
2. Enhance visitor experience on Whangarei Heads Tourism Byway
3. Educate visitors and promote the district

Additional expected benefits from the project are:

1. Higher level of service for increasing numbers of tourists and campers
2. Reduced sediment discharge to Kopunu Stream and Whangarei Harbour
3. Improved quality and safety of water for beach users
4. Increased knowledge and strengthened appreciation for the site's rich cultural heritage
5. Greater sense of pride of place and connection to community

Project timeline



May 2019 site photos

Main Carpark Scope of Work

In March 2021, the decision was made to deliver the project in two stages:

- Stage one: upgrades to the layby on Whangarei Heads Road
- Stage two: upgrades to the main carpark area

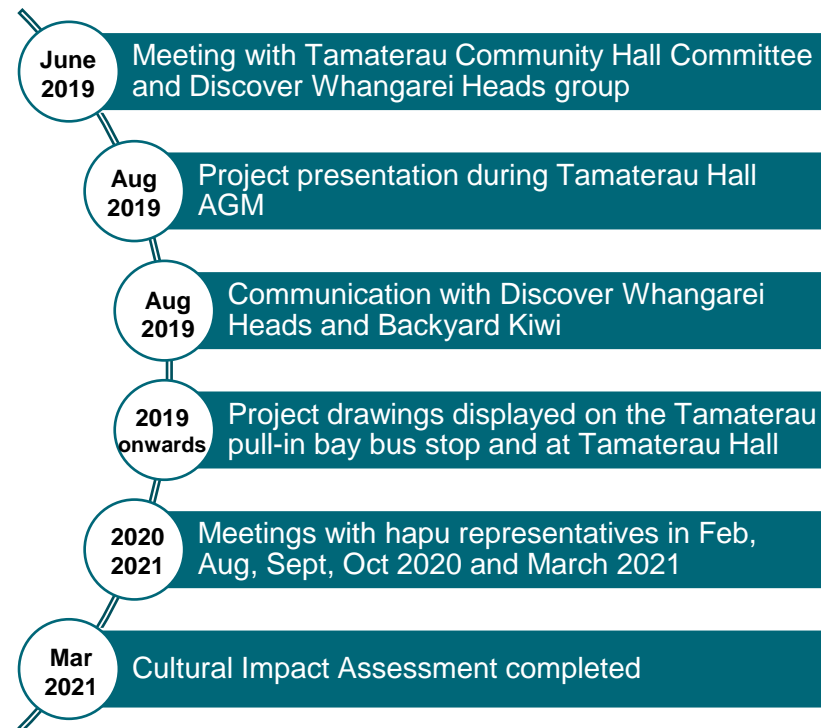
The agreed scope of works of Stage 2 of the project was:

- Fill, reshape and renew the gravel carpark and improve drainage
- Extend existing kerb at carpark entrance to increase stormwater treatment
- Concrete the hall driveway and create a new disabled access carpark outside hall
- Install keystone wall below the disabled carpark beside Tamaterau Hall
- Reinstatement of the previous grass strip between carpark and beach for recreation purposes
- Improved signage
- Bollard installation to define the boundary of the carpark and restrict vehicles to stay within the carpark area

Consultation and design

Following the completion of the design in May 2019, consultation was carried out with a number of individuals and groups including:

- Members of the public
- Parua Bay residents group
- Tamaterau Community Hall Committee
- Discover Whangarei Heads
- Backyard Kiwi
- Three hapu groups connected with the site
 - Ngāti Pūkenga Pakikaikutu
 - Ngāti Kahu o Torongare
 - Ngāti Tu



Community feedback

From consultation with the community we received a number of comments, notably:

- A desire to maintain the natural character of the carpark and reserve area
 - As a result the design reverted the carpark from a sealed kerb and channel design to an upgraded metal carpark
- Objections to restricting vehicle access to the beach, including the ability to launch watercraft from the water's edge
 - As a result the removal of bollards from the design and corresponding restriction of vehicles to the carpark was considered but remained in the carpark upgrade design due to :
 1. Safety: The area is a popular picnic spot and area for swimming and other water-based activities. Restricting vehicles to the carpark area and preventing the launching of boats from the beach would improve safety.
 2. Environment: Uncontrolled vehicle access to the beach and grassed areas was contributing to the erosion of grassed areas and the foreshore.
 3. Alternatives available: In close proximity there are 4 other watercraft launching locations, and small craft such as kayaks can still be launched here.



Obligations, approvals and timelines

- Hauraki and Sons Construction Ltd have started construction on site and are scheduled to complete the project by early April
 - The short construction time frame was negotiated to keep the closure of the carpark to a minimum and minimize disruption to users of the Tamaterau Hall
- Consents and approvals have been received for the works from:-
 - Heritage New Zealand Archaeological Authority
 - Resource Consent to undertake construction works within the root zone of public trees, in association with carpark improvements
- Assessments completed:-
 - Cultural Impact Assessment
 - Arborist report and recommendation