



**NAPIER**  
CITY COUNCIL  
*Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri*

Napier Civic Building  
231 Hastings Street  
**t +64 6 835 7579**  
**e** [info@napier.govt.nz](mailto:info@napier.govt.nz)  
[www.napier.govt.nz](http://www.napier.govt.nz)

# AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE

## Open Agenda

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Meeting Date: Monday 9 June 2025

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Time: 9.30am

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Venue: Large Exhibition Hall  
War Memorial Centre  
Marine Parade  
Napier

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Committee Members: **Chair:** Deputy Mayor Brosnan (Napier City Council)  
**Members:** Councillor Price (Napier City Council)  
Councillor Hinewai Ormsby and Councillor Williams (HB Regional Council)  
Joseph Reti (Deputy Chair), Peter Eden, Chad Tareha and Evelyn Ratima (Mana Ahuriri Trust)

NCC Alternate: Councillor Browne  
HBRC Alternate: Councillor Kirton  
MAT Alternate: (to be appointed)

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Officer Responsible: Executive Director City Strategy (Rachael Bailey)

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Administration: Governance Advisor (Carolyn Hunt)

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**Next Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee meeting**

## Delegated Authority, Purpose and Fields of Activity of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee

*(Administration through the Napier City Council)*

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<i>Reports to</i>	<i>Council</i>
<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Elected by Committee</i>
<i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	<i>Elected by Committee</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>2 NCC Councillors (1 alternate)</i> <i>2 HBRC Councillors (1 alternate)</i> <i>4 Mana Ahuriri Trust Representatives (1 alternate)</i>
<i>Quorum</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Meeting frequency</i>	<i>As required</i>
<i>Officer Responsible</i>	<i>Executive Director City Strategy</i>

The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee has been established as a Joint Committee under clause 30A of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 1. Te Mana kua tukuna me te Kaupapa

#### Delegated Authority and Purpose and Fields of Activity

The ARP Joint Committee has responsibilities delegated by the Partner Councils to fulfil its purpose being:

- 1.1. To make recommendations to the respective council's on decisions pertaining to the development of the ARP that are within the jurisdiction of each Partner Council, as it relates to the site legally described as Lot 1 DP 388211. The ARP Joint Committee shall have discretion to determine the matters presented to the MAT Board for decision.
- 1.2. To commission reports and advice; and oversee the design and delivery of projects associated with the ARP:
  - a) Provide advice on and approve project briefs.
  - b) Commission a project manager and consultant team for the preparation of a masterplan.
  - c) Provide recommendations on Annual Plan budgeting and inclusion of funding in the Long Term Plan (LTP) by each Council to achieve agreed water storage and quality, ecology, cultural and recreation outcomes for the estuary, its streams drains and tributaries, and on adjacent land.
  - d) Provide recommendations on the completion of a proposal to be submitted by each Council in the LTP reflecting the current situation for the ARP.
  - e) Make recommendations on regulatory changes and other planning documents that support the delivery of the ARP.
  - f) Seek advice on the best models for future governance and/or management of the site.

- g) Collaborate in the preparation of applications for necessary consents to ensure timing is coordinated and activities applied for are consistent with the ARP Masterplan.
  - h) Establish and agree outcomes, deliverables and ensure milestone alignment and updates on a proposal towards the LTP for each Council.
- 1.3. The delivery of an ARP that promotes climate resilience, ecological and water quality improvements, biodiversity improvements, promotes a more natural estuary margin, and provides storm water management, low impact compatible recreational opportunities, cultural storytelling and educational opportunities.
  - 1.4. To strengthen collaborative relationships at all levels between NCC, HBRC and MAT, and in particular the co-governance, planning, operations, and monitoring functions, as they work through a co-governance relationship to develop the ARP. Council Partners that are consenting authorities reserve the right to be independent for any element that requires consent.
  - 1.5. To promote alignment of all Partners projects with the ARP projects, initiatives and planning documents, so that resources committed to protecting and enhancing the estuary through the development of the ARP are adequate; that they prudent and efficient; and are likely to produce the outcomes expected by the whole community. Partners will seek to identify and tap into external sources of funding as required.
  - 1.6. To facilitate collaboration in planning and design for all waterways, drainage and stormwater networks where they discharge into the ARP.
  - 1.7. To work with Te Komiti to establish processes and collaborate together on actions to restore the mauri of the Ahuriri Estuary through the development of the ARP on Lagoon Farm.
  - 1.8. To keep each Partner Council, MAT and Te Komiti regularly updated on the ARP Joint Committees progress.

## **2. Ngā mana kāore e tukuna**

### **Powers not delegated**

The following powers are not delegated to the ARP Joint Committee:

- 2.1. Any power that cannot be delegated in accordance with clause 32 Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.2. Decisions relating to the allocation of funding, the use and development of land and watercourses, and matters relating to consenting lies with each Partner Council that has jurisdiction over these decisions. Recommendations only are made by the ARP Joint Committee.
- 2.3. Unless expressly specified in the ToR, the ARP Joint Committee only has the power to make recommendations to Partner Councils and to MAT.

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

## Apologies

Nil

## Conflicts of interest

## Public forum

Nil

## Announcements by the Chairperson including notification of minor matters not on the agenda

*Note: re minor matters only - refer LGOIMA s46A(7A) and Standing Orders s9.13*

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and the Chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. However, the meeting may not make a resolution, decision or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

## Announcements by the management

## Confirmation of minutes

A copy of the Minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 17 February 2025 are attached on page ..... 122

## Minor matters not on the agenda – discussion (if any)

## Agenda items

- 1 Ahuriri Regional Park - Project Manager's Update..... 5
- 2 Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan Endorsement ..... 49

## Recommendation to Exclude the Public

Nil



# AGENDA ITEMS

## 1. AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK - PROJECT MANAGER'S UPDATE

<i>Type of Report:</i>	Procedural
<i>Legal Reference:</i>	N/A
<i>Document ID:</i>	1855846
<i>Reporting Officer/s &amp; Unit:</i>	Connie Whelan-Mills, Strategic Planning Lead

### 1.1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a Project Managers update.

### Officer's Recommendation

The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:

- a. Receive the report titled "Ahuriri Regional Park – Project Manager's Update" dated 9 June 2025.

### 1.2 Action Summary

The master planning process for the Ahuriri Regional Park has continued together with implementation of the Engagement Plan. An action summary formed part of the Project Managers Update from the workshop on 23 May 2025 (copy attached as **Attachment 1**).

The following items represent progress between the workshop and date of Committee meeting.

Action	Notes
Joint Committee Workshop (23/05/25)	Held at the Napier War Memorial Conference Centre. Agenda included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project managers update</li> <li>• Lagoon Farm Stormwater Diversion project update</li> <li>• Outcome of public feedback</li> </ul>
Paper issued to Hawke's Bay Airport Board (23/05/25)	This paper is a project status report together with outlining the various approaches to considering the risk of bird strike as part of developing masterplan.  Copies included as <b>Attachment 2</b> .

Avifauna scope agreed with HB Airport and request for services issued (23/05/25)	Works involve a risk assessment, comparing the existing environment to the proposed masterplan environment.
Confirmation from Chair regarding directions from the Joint Committee in the workshop.	This was to clarify priorities for project team to complete the masterplan.
Park/ Project Name	Connie Whelan-Mills has engaged with Te Waka Rangapu and Mana Ahuriri Trust regarding a process to follow to name the project (email sent to Parris Greening on 28/05/2025)
Framework for works program following endorsement i.e. next steps.	Included as <b>Attachment 3</b> .

### 1.3 Issues

Key issues are reported to Napier City Council on a monthly basis. Confirming the suitability of the masterplan design concept in respect to the risk of bird strike risk has remained the key issue.

### 1.4 Significance and Engagement

Engagement has been implemented according to the previously endorsed Engagement Plan. Outcomes have been reported at the 23 May 2025 workshop (refer **Attachment D**).

### 1.5 Implications

#### Financial

There are no matters to be raised in regard to financial matters for the period, the project remains within allocated budget.

#### Social & Policy

There are no matters to be raised in regard to social and policy matters for the period.

#### Risk

Risk Matrices have been developed for the broader project and the masterplan design exercise. These are regularly monitored by the project team.

The following reports on risk in regard to the period since the previous Project Managers Update i.e. 23 May - 9 June 2025. No new specific risks have arisen over the period, but the below risk as previously identified remains:

Risk	Response
Bird strike matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avifauna expert engaged to advise Boffa Miskel Limited (BML).</li> <li>BML have developed the masterplan according to advice received – with a view to developing a design that will not increase the risk profile.</li> <li>Ongoing engagement with representatives from Hawke's Bay Airport and AirNZ.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board paper drafted for consideration of the Hawke's Bay Airport Board at its June meeting (refer <b>Appendix 2</b>).</li> <li>• Scope of service for avi fauna risk assessment has been prepared by NCC and reviewed by HB Airport.</li> <li>• Programming inclusion of the development of a Wildlife Monitoring and Maintenance Plan with collaboration of air users and special interest groups.</li> </ul>
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## Overview

The following provides a summary of current project status for key factors, budget and programme.

**Status** ■ *On Track* ■ *Under Stress* ■ *Key Risk*

Metric	Status			Notes
Engagement				Engagement has occurred generally consistent with the Joint Committee endorsed engagement plan. Now that public feedback has been sought no further formal engagement processes are proposed prior to an endorsement decision on 9 June 2025.
Stormwater inputs				Preliminary inputs have provided sufficient direction to develop the masterplan from a spatial perspective.
Budget				Forecast to endorsement within annual budgets.
Programme				On track with the masterplan to be presented to the Joint Committee for endorsement on 9 June 2025.

## 1.6 Options

- a. This update is for information purposes only.

## 1.7 Attachments

- 1 Workshop Project Manager's Update (Doc Id 1858110) [↓](#)
- 2 Paper issued to HB Airport (Doc ID 1858109) [↓](#)
- 3 Draft Phasing Plan Updated (Doc Id 1858105) [↓](#)
- 4 Public Engagement Feedback (Doc Id 1858107) [↓](#)

## Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee – 23 May 2025 - Workshop

## 1. PROJECT MANAGERS UPDATE

### 1.1 Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to provide a Project Managers update on the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan program.

### 1.1 Action Summary

The master planning process for the Ahuriri Regional Park has continued together with implementation of the Engagement Plan.

The following items represent progress over February – Mid May 2025 (the period).

Action	Notes
Joint Committee Meeting and Workshop (17/02/25)	Minutes circulated by Carolyn Hunt on 21/02/25 <sup>1</sup> .
Meeting with the Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society (7/03/25)	Attended by Antony Rewcastle and Connie Whelan-Mills to listen to AEPS ambitions for the project.
Hui with Mana Ahuriri (26/03/25)	Attended by Deputy Mayor Annette Brosnan to provide an update on the masterplan's development.
Meeting with Air New Zealand (27/03/25)	To discuss the status of the project and bird strike matter. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarified a miss-understanding that the project had been 'consented',</li> <li>Advised that expert avi-fauna advice is being provided to the masterplanning team to guide conceptual design and spatial layout matters,</li> <li>Confirmed that the bird strike matter is identified as a key risk,</li> <li>That further risk analysis is to be undertaken once a concept is of sufficient 'shape' (i.e. the masterplan that is being worked towards) for that exercise to occur in a meaningful way.</li> </ul>
Presentation to HBRC Environment & Integrated Catchments Committee (9/04/25)	Lead by Deputy Mayor Annette Brosnan a project overview and status update was provided. Committee confirmed its support for the project ahead of public feedback opening.
Presentation to NCC Future Napier Committee (10/04/25)	Lead by Connie Whelan-Mills. A project status update was provided and Future Napier Committee confirmed support for

<sup>1</sup> Bart Leslie <bart.leslie@hbrc.govt.nz>; Cam Drury <cam@stradegy.co.nz>; Chris Dolley <chris.dolley@hbrc.govt.nz>; Connie Mills <connie.mills@napier.govt.nz>; Councillor Chad Tareha <councillor.tareha@napier.govt.nz>; Councillor Hayley Browne <councillor.browne@napier.govt.nz>; Councillor Keith Price <councillor.price@napier.govt.nz>; Hinewai Ormsby <Cr.Hinewai.Ormsby@hbrc.govt.nz>; cr.martin.williams@hbrc.govt.nz; Deputy Mayor Annette Brosnan <councillor.brosnan@napier.govt.nz>; Diane Wisely <diane@hbrc.govt.nz>; Evelyn Ratima <evelynratima@gmail.com>; HBRC Governance Team <Governanceteam@hbrc.govt.nz>; Joekar4 <joekar4@hotmail.com>; Johan Kirsten <johan.kirsten@hbrc.govt.nz>; Local Governance <governance@napier.govt.nz>; Neil Kirton <neil.kirton@hbrc.govt.nz>; Parris Greening <parris@manaahuriri.org>; Peter Eden <peter.a.eden@gmail.com>; Philip Kelsen <philip.kelsen@napier.govt.nz>; Rachael Bailey <rachael.bailey@napier.govt.nz>; Richard Munneke <rmunneke@napier.govt.nz>; Sarah Bowler <sarah.bowler@napier.govt.nz>

## Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee – 23 May 2025 - Workshop

Action	Notes
	the project ahead of public feedback opening.
TAG update (15/04/25)	Email to TAG (from Cameron Drury): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recapping the update provided 27/01/25,</li> <li>○ Providing the meeting minutes of the 17/02/25 JC Meeting,</li> <li>○ Outlining engagement with key stakeholders over the period,</li> <li>○ Advising on masterplan progress</li> <li>○ Outlining next steps</li> </ul>
Booth at NCC Open House Event (15/04/25)	Project booth managed by Anthony Rewcastle and Connie Whelan-Mills. Well attended booth, engaged community members, feedback provided and over 30 information packs collected.
Period for Public Feedback (opened on 16/04/25 and closed 9/05/25)	Launched on social media, SayIt Napier, project webpage, direct email distributed to key stakeholders who had previously signed up to the mailing list.
Meeting with HBRC Engineering Team – Lagoon Farm Stormwater Diversion and Ahuriri Regional Park Projects (1/05/25)	Presentation by Anthony Rewcastle on key design matters and project integration (further details to be provided by Anthony Rewcastle in a separate paper).
Public Open day (03/05/25)	Approximately 130 attendees (further details to be provided by Boffa Miskell in a separate paper).
TAG update (20/05/25)	Facilitated by Connie Whelan-Mills. Agenda included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fish passage opportunities</li> <li>- Project / Park naming process</li> <li>- Outputs of community feedback</li> </ul>

**1.2 Issues**

Key issues are reported to NCC on a monthly basis. Confirming the suitability of the masterplan design concept in respect to the risk of bird strike has remained the key issue.

**1.3 Significance and Engagement**

Engagement has been implemented according to the previously endorsed Engagement Plan. Outcomes are reported on in a separate paper.

**1.4 Implications****Financial**

There are no matters to be raised in regard to financial matters for the period, the project remains within allocated budget.

## Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee – 23 May 2025 - Workshop

**Social & Policy**

There are no matters to be raised in regard to social and policy matters for the period.

**Risk**

Risk Matrices have been developed for the broader project and the Master Plan design exercise. These are regularly monitored by the project team.



Key risks are reported to NCC Officers on a monthly basis. No new specific risks have arisen over the period, but the below risk as previously identified remains:

Risk	Response
Bird strike matter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avifauna expert engaged to advise BML.</li> <li>2. BML developing the masterplan according to advice received – with a view to developing a design that will not increase the risk profile.</li> <li>3. Ongoing engagement with representatives from Hawke's Bay Airport and AirNZ.</li> <li>4. Board paper drafted for the Hawke's Bay Airport June meeting.</li> <li>5. Scope of service out for risk assessment. A comparison exercise between the existing risk and proposed risk.</li> <li>6. Programming inclusion of the development of a Wildlife Monitoring and Maintenance Plan with collaboration of air users and special interest groups.</li> </ol>

**Overview**

The following provides a summary of current project status for key factors, budget and programme.

**Status**  *On Track*  *Under Stress*  *Key Risk*

Metric	Status	Notes
Engagement		Engagement has occurred generally consistent with the Joint Committee endorsed engagement plan. Now that public feedback has been sought no further formal engagement processes are proposed prior to an endorsement decision on 9 June 2025.
Stormwater inputs		Preliminary inputs have provided sufficient direction to develop the masterplan from a spatial perspective.

## Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee – 23 May 2025 - Workshop

Budget				Forecast to endorsement within annual budgets.
Programme				On track with the masterplan to be presented to the Joint Committee for endorsement on 9 June 2025.

**1.5 Options**

This update is for information purposes only.

**1.6 Attachments**

Attachment A – Overview of TAG Input and Engagement

Attachment B – Napier City Council Stormwater Projects Update

## Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee – 23 May 2025 - Workshop

**Attachment A – Overview of TAG Input and Engagement (March 2024 – May 2025)**

Action	Notes
Identify potential TAG members, seek endorsement from JC, invite members (March 2024)	The TAG brings various skill sets with equal representation from the project partners
TAG 'Kick off' meetings (May 2024)	To brief TAG members of project background and agree on the approach to TAG moving forward
Meet with HB Airport (May 2024)	To introduce the project and project plan
Meet with DoC (May 2024)	To introduce the project and project plan
Onboard HB Airport onto TAG (June 2024)	Recognizing the special interest of HB Airport in relation to bird strike risk
Onboard DoC onto TAG (June 2024)	Recognizing the special interest of DoC in relation to ecological values
Set challenge questions for TAG (June 2024)	To inform technical matters and development of the masterplan
TAG Workshop (June 2024)	General discussion based around challenge questions. Input taken onboard by masterplan designers (Boffa Miskell)
Breakout session with Tipene Cottrell and Shade Smith (TAG members) re cultural values and ecological input	To provide greater understanding of cultural context and agree on advice required around the classification of water body features
Onboard NCC Commercial representative onto TAG	To complement the skill set on TAG
Onboard Lagoon Farm Stormwater Project rep from T&T onto TAG	To provide a conduit between the Ahuriri Regional Park and Lagoon Farm Stormwater project and to enable TAG members access to the Lagoon Farm Stormwater project technical team
Commission ecological scoping assessment	To classify water body features
Commission avi-fauna expert and on board onto TAG	To guide the direction of design considerations in respect to managing the risk of bird strike
Circulate challenge questions for TAG session (July 2024)	To build on input from TAG as part of informing technical matters and developing the masterplan
TAG session (Aug 2024)	General discussion based around challenge questions. Input taken onboard by masterplan designers (Boffa Miskell)
Circulate challenge questions, masterplan options and MCA elements ahead of TAG session (Nov 2024)	To address matters associated with outstanding challenge questions, share the direction of design options for feedback and to develop MCA scoping elements
TAG session (Nov 2024)	Presentation of options and input into MCA scoring elements



## Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee – 23 May 2025 - Workshop

TAG MCA analysis (Nov 2024)	Review of MCA analysis to inform reporting on the design process and preferred option to the JC
Meeting with HB Airport and avi fauna expert (Nov 2024)	To review how further consideration of bird strike matters is best progressed as the masterplan begin to take shape
TAG update session (Jan 2025)	TEAMS session providing an update on the outcome of the December JC workshop and discussion on specific features of the masterplan
TAG update session follow up email (Jan 2025)	Email documenting notes from the update session and advising next steps including public consultation
Invite queries from HBRC team on engineering matters (Feb 2025)	Email requesting an outline of any the specific areas HBRC maybe seeking clarity on – particularly any queries around the scope and background to any decisions made on the Lagoon Farm Stormwater project which is informing the spatial considerations of the masterplan. Follow up email sent on 6 March
Draft statement outlining approach to managing bird strike risk (March 2025)	Record of how the risk of bird strike has been considered alongside other design inputs during the masterplan design process
Meeting with Air New Zealand on project and bird strike matters (March 2025)	To discuss the status of the project and bird strike matter. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Clarified a miss-understanding that the project had been 'consented',</li> <li>o Advised that expert avi-fauna advice is being provided to the masterplanning team to guide conceptual design and spatial layout matters,</li> <li>o Confirmed that the bird strike matter is identified as a key risk,</li> <li>o That further risk analysis is to be undertaken once a concept is of sufficient 'shape' (i.e. the masterplan that is being worked towards) for that exercise to occur in a meaningful way.</li> </ul>
TAG update email (April 2025)	Email to TAG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Recapping the update provided 27/01/25,</li> <li>o Providing the meeting minutes of the 17/02/25 JC Meeting,</li> <li>o Outlining engagement with key stakeholders over the period,</li> <li>o Advising on masterplan progress</li> <li>o Outlining next steps</li> </ul>
Meeting with HBRC Engineering Team (April 2025)	Presentation by Anthony Rewcastle (NCC) on key design matters and project integration between the Ahuriri Regional Park and Lagoon Farm Stormwater projects

Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee – 23 May 2025 - Workshop

TAG update session (May 2025)	TEAMS session facilitated by Connie Whelan-Mills to provide an update on public engagement feedback and other matters
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## **Attachment B**

### **Napier City Council Stormwater Projects Update**

NCC has identified key projects related to Storm Water through Stormwater Masterplan and has been progressing with few aligning with the funding and importance for the community.

Some of the major projects that are progressing other than Lagoon farm are as below

- **Herrick Street & Taradale Road Culvert Upgrades.**

Culvert Upgrades in Taradale and Herrick Street have been identified in the masterplan to avoid flooding of properties in the area, hence NCC is taking up the work to implement the changes. Detailed design phase has been completed for Herrick and Taradale Road culvert's detailed design is progressing. We are hoping to start the construction underway by Summer 2025.

- **New / Upgrade Pump stations**

- IAF Te Awa- A new Stormwater pump station and outfall is required to manage the water in the Te Awa stormwater pond. – Design Phase
- Sale Street – Upgrade the existing pumpstation to control the stormwater runoff from new developments in the area. – Planning Phase

- **Tennyson Outfall upgrades**

The current outfall gets blocked regularly due to shingles and beach profile, an upgrade in design is underway. We are getting cost vs benefit vs risk analysis done for 4 major options developed.

- **2020 LiDAR update on Stormwater Model**

NCC has stormwater models of the Napier and Bayview catchments built in DHI Mike FLOOD software, from around 2018 – 2021. The model stabilisation works are in progress to make it compatible with Latest DHI Mike + and also with following outputs.

- Bayview stormwater model 1 in 100-year ARI design event (current climate) model converted to and running to completion is Mike+ software.
- Napier stormwater model is converted to Mike+ software, is numerically stabilised, and the 1 in 2-year, 10-year, 50-year, and 100-year (current climate) models run.

- **Combining NCC & HBRC SW Projects**

Based on the NCC SWMP and HBRC Scheme Reviews, both councils are planning to run a combined program to enhance funding and deliver the best results for the community. To discuss this and also to align with the levels of services NCC & HBRC will have a workshop soon.



To:	Hawke's Bay Airport Limited Board		
Reporting Officer:	Connie Whelan-Mills		
Date:	22 May 2025	File Ref:	Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan
Subject:	PROJECT STATUS UPDATE AND BIRD STRIKE RISK		

### 1. Summary

This paper aims to provide an update on the project, emphasising our commitment to managing the risk of bird strike to aircraft. Our goal is to ensure that any increase in risk is managed effectively, ensuring that the outcome of the proposed works results in no residual increase in bird strike risk.

### 2. Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the project, including its origins, the advisory roles involved, and the steps taken so far. It also recognises bird strike as a core risk and outlines the methods employed to mitigate this risk, incorporating feedback from the Hawkes Bay Airport Limited (HBAL) and our avifauna consultant. Additionally, the paper outlines the next steps, comparing existing risk versus proposed risk and exploring options for risk mitigation.

Furthermore, it highlights our commitments to the airport going forward, including continued participation in the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Joint Committee (JC), providing outcomes of the risk assessment, and continued collaboration with HBAL, AirNZ, and other air users to develop management methods, potentially through a steering group setup.

### 3. Project Origins

The project is driven by several regulatory and strategic factors:

- Regulatory requirement: the end-of-line treatment required by a jointly held discharge consent by NCC and HBRC SW (AUTH-123310-01, 2021-2040, Condition 24).
- Urban stormwater quality improvements: The Purimu drain has some of the highest exceedances of poor water quality standards.
- Flood resilience: the project investigates flood mitigation options following the 2020 floods.

All work is being undertaken to be consistent with the outcomes sought by the Te Muriwai o Te Whanga Plan.

Utilising this council owned property has been strategically informed by a series of considerations including:

- Ahuriri Estuary & Coastal Edge Masterplan (July 2018),
- Lagoon Farm Strategy for Future Land Use (May 2020),
- Napier City Stormwater Masterplan (September 2020), and
- Stormwater Quality and Flooding Options (December 2023).

### 4. The Masterplan

#### *Governance and Advisory*

The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee (JC) was established in mid-2022 with members from Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Mana Ahuriri Trust and Napier City Council to partner in restoring the health and well-being of the Ahuriri Estuary. The creation of the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan is a key step in understanding how urban stormwater can be treated before entering the estuary. The masterplan guides strategic decision-making and incorporates 'stop points' requiring governance decisions to progress to more detailed understanding.

#### *Core Drivers of the Masterplan*

215 Hastings Street, Napier 4110  
Private Bag 6010, Napier 4142  
[www.napier.govt.nz](http://www.napier.govt.nz)

t +64 6 835 7579  
e [info@napier.govt.nz](mailto:info@napier.govt.nz)

The masterplan was directed by governance confirming the core drivers, which are:

- **Stormwater:** increase the resilience of the city's stormwater infrastructure.
- **Water quality:** improve the quality of water discharged from the city's urban stormwater infrastructure.
- **Mauri:** to enhance the mauri of Te Whanga.
- **Ecological excellence:** to promote the re-establishment of native habitats and increase biodiversity.
- **Natural environment:** to maintain a predominantly natural environment.
- **Significant infrastructure:** to recognise the functional need of regionally significant infrastructure.

#### *Stormwater treatment devices*

A pivotal component of the masterplan is the implementation of stormwater treatment devices, specifically designed as wetlands. This project, known as the Lagoon Farm Stormwater Diversion, aims to treat urban stormwater through a series of treatment wetlands. These wetlands will be nearly 100% vegetated to ensure that no areas of open water are exposed to achieve the treatment required.

The location and design of these wetlands have been informed by stormwater modelling and ground testing. The spatial extent of the wetlands represents the maximum viable space within the Lagoon Farm site. Several key factors have influenced the placement of the wetlands:

- Groundwater levels and the ability to function with sea-level (and groundwater level) rise.
- Cost-effective earthworks, identifying the most economical methods for construction.
- Logical placement between two existing pump stations, utilising gravity where possible to enhance efficiency.
- Design from waterway to waterway to enable integration with existing water systems.

The wetland treatment system is currently pending further concept design. The project will continue to be guided by avifauna advice, as part of the broader masterplan project. The project team will continue to collaborate with all project partners during the detailed development of the wetlands. The project manager responsible for the Lagoon Farm Stormwater Diversion is Antony Rewcastle (antonyr@napier.govt.nz).

### **5. Primary Project Risk – Bird Strike**

From the masterplan's conception, bird strike risk and the continued functioning of the Hawkes Bay Airport have been highlighted as primary risks. Attachment A outlines steps taken to collaborate with HBAL and technical advisors to manage this risk. The primary risk management tool has been engaging an avifauna specialist in an advisory capacity to the TAG, with their involvement expected to increase to a full risk assessment in the coming phase. Attachment B outlines 27 amendments or considerations based on avifauna advice.

The project recognises the need for greater detail on bird strike risk to determine the existing risk, the risk of the proposed masterplan and if additional mitigation measures can be implemented. Feedback on the scope of this work has been provided by HBAL officers and is currently out for an offer of service.

### **6. Next Steps**

The masterplan is intended to be recommended for endorsement to progress to the more detailed level of investigation on 23 June 2025. The endorsement is simply a commitment from the JC that spatially, the concepts put forward achieve the objectives of the project. At the point of endorsement, a phasing plan will accompany the masterplan which will outline which activities will be further

scrutinised through concept design and business case (if required). Noting that the phasing plan is likely to be multi-generational and therefore it is more likely than not that only activities identified in the first and second phase of works will be progressed in the near term.

It is intended that the TAG remain, though composition of the TAG may change to support the needs of the project. There will remain an open invitation for HBAL officers to remain on TAG.

Once we have the avian risk assessment, the project will share this information with HBAL for feedback and collaborative thinking. Depending on the outcomes of the risk assessment, it may be of benefit to set up a wildlife management steering group which we envisage may include representatives from HBAL, AirNZ, airport users, wildlife special interest groups, and DoC.

### 7. Concluding comments

The aim of this paper is to provide the board of HBAL confidence that the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan is progressing with the management of bird strike risk at centre. There is no finality to the proposed masterplan or stormwater treatment options and there will continue to be collaborative opportunities to ensure the aspirations of all parties can be met.

For further information on this project please don't hesitate to contact [connie.mills@napier.govt.nz](mailto:connie.mills@napier.govt.nz)



Connie Whelan-Mills  
STRATEGIC PLANNING LEAD

## Memo



To:	Annette Brosnan – Chair of Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee		
Cc:	Rachael Bailey, Cam Drury, Antony Rewcastle		
Date:	17 April 2025	File Ref:	ARP Masterplan
Subject:	BIRD STRIKE RISK MANAGEMENT		

The following outlines key dates, messaging, and the approach that the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan project has followed to manage bird strike risk within the parameters of the project.

### Project Kick-Off Briefing with HBAL Board

**Date:** May 21, 2024

**Attendees:** Wendie Harvey, Michelle Duncan, Gavin Carey-Smith, Debbie Suisted, Damian Corbett, Ellen Robotham, Hinewai Ormsby, Annette Brosnan, Cam Drury, and Connie Mills.

- **Discussion Points:**

- Covered the park's aspirations.
- Addressed stormwater wetland needs for water quality.
- Highlighted bird strike as a key risk.
- HBAL expressed cautious support, recognizing the need to manage bird strike risk.
- Welcomed HBAL officers onto the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

### HBAL Officers Join Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

- Both Gavin and Damian from HBAL were invited to and attended TAG sessions throughout 2024.
- Advised consistently that bird strike risk needs to be considered in the design and ongoing management approach.
- At the most recent TAG (February 2025) HBAL officers recognised their interest in the project has largely been managed through design of the masterplan and sought to step back from TAG meetings until biodiversity or wildlife management topics are introduced in detail.

### Onboarding of Avian Advisor Lizzie Civil from PDP

- HBAL recommended Lizzie based on her track record.
- Historic bird strike data and bird count data were shared by HBAL with NCC and Lizzie to understand the existing situation.
- Working closely with Boffa Miskell and as part of TAG, Lizzie has provided feedback on a continuous basis as the masterplan has been developed. This has influenced design throughout the project (attached as a separate memo) and has sought to give respond to the matters raised by HBAL.

215 Hastings Street, Napier 4110  
Private Bag 6010, Napier 4142  
[www.napier.govt.nz](http://www.napier.govt.nz)

t +64 6 835 7579  
e [info@napier.govt.nz](mailto:info@napier.govt.nz)

- Enhanced understanding of bird strike risk tools and emphasized the need for wildlife management plans.

### **Project Update Meeting at HBAL**

**Date:** November 19, 2024

**Attendees:** Gavin Carey-Smith, Damian Corbett, Annette Brosnan, Cam Drury, Lizzie Civil, and Connie Mills.

- Updated HBAL on the location of wetlands.
- Confirmed wetlands would aim to be 100% vegetated to minimize bird strike.
- Outlined that open spaces are minimized and discussed management options for the limited open spaces.
- Discussed reducing the creation of 'pockets' of wildlife refuge to minimize bird movement across the flight path.
- Confirmed that activities attracting people to stay and recreate are not intended for this site beyond the visitor centre outside of the airport flight path.
- HBAL provided an overview of their Wildlife Management Plan, core risk species, and the impact on service disruption due to wildlife.
- Discussed the opportunity to collaborate on drafting a wildlife management plan focusing on activities during construction and the long-term management of the park. Welcomed the opportunity to work together on a plan that works for both parties.

### **Meeting with AirNZ Representatives**

**Date:** March 27, 2025

**Attendees:** Jimmy Coville, Cam Drury, and Connie Mills.

- Pre-circulated the draft masterplan (March 2025 version) and draft memo outlining avian risk management methods through design.
- Confirmed that this is a spatial exercise and clarified any misconceptions about the project's stage.
- Recognised that there is still an opportunity for design features to be influenced by feedback from key stakeholders, including AirNZ.
- Heard from AirNZ on existing risk at Hawkes Bay Airport, outlined methods of management, ultimate risk to life, cost to operations, and high-risk species.
- Provided an overview of the project, highlighted stormwater treatment needs, and recognized the need for a balance of activities. Emphasized that the project cannot proceed without adequate attention to bird strike management.
- Recognized that the existing situation is less than ideal with a wide-open space, largely unmanaged from a wildlife perspective (just sheep farmed). Closing this in with plantings, activity, and active management could improve the situation.



3

- AirNZ welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback on and collaborate in drafting the wildlife management plan.

Connie Whelan-Mills

## MASTERPLAN AVIAN RISK MITIGATION MEMO

### Purpose of Memo

This memorandum summaries the proposed programs within the preferred Ahuriri Park Masterplan in relation to the management of avian risk mitigation.

### 1. Summary of Masterplan

The proposed Ahuriri Lagoon Masterplan (ARP) occupies a strategic location directly south of the Hawkes Bay Regional Airport with a primary flight path and Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) crossing the Site. The masterplan concept has been developed based on feedback and input received from a Technical Advisory Group, Mana Ahuriri representatives and Key Stakeholders including Department of Conservation and Airport representatives. Avian risk advice was provided by avian risk specialist Lizzie Civil of Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd and has informed the design development to mitigate avifauna risk as much as possible. The proposed masterplan seeks to avoid increasing the current avian risk profile with a variety of design and land management strategies to reduce the attractiveness of the sites development to feeding and roosting high risk avian species.

A landscape and wildlife hazard management plan for the park, prepared in consultation with the Airport, is required during the program of detailed design to ensure planting, wetlands, lawn areas and waste are managed appropriately to minimise high risk bird species use of the site. This will likely need to be integrated into a future reserve management plan.

The proposed scheme is heavily influenced by the spatial requirements of the Lagoon Farm treatment wetland design. To enable a gravity-based water flow through the treatment wetlands and connection into the existing Lagoon Farm Pump station, the treatment wetlands must be located on the higher portion of the site to the east. To locate these on the lower lying areas to the west would require prohibitively costly earthworks to build these up above the shallow groundwater and/or additional pumps to move water through the wetland system. The conceptual footprint of the wetlands has been designed to maximise treatment potential however this will be refined during the detailed design process and this may reduce or adjust the shapes further.

Very limited areas of open water are proposed across the Site, with dense native wetland planting within the Lagoon Farm treatment wetlands. Provisions will be made to ensure full planting density is developed in the first stage of the Lagoon Farm wetland development. Water levels will be controlled to only introduce full depth of water once the vegetation cover is established.

Similarly, areas of mown grass are minimised to relatively small key areas of public use. These will need to be managed to control use by geese and other high risk birds and may include measures such as Avianex endophytic grasses and other maintenance techniques to reduce the palatability of grasses and reduce roosting avifauna.

Replacement of the currently grazed pastures with native forest, shrub grass and reed lands is expected to be beneficial in reducing the overall numbers of current high to low risk bird species that are found grazing on the Site. The removal of pasture will decrease the food source from pasture seed-heads and reduce open flat land where wading avian species like to roost at high tide.

Generally, taller canopy forest associations of planting are focused on the western side of the site with lower understory vegetation to the east. This has been designed specific to avian species habitats and ensures there are not multiple habitat pockets on the site which would increase activity and movement around the site increasing strike risk.

Harakeke / Flax use is also concentrated on the western side of the site due to it's attractiveness to Starlings. This will generally be planting within of mixed species of trees and shrubs to avoid excessively large monocultural areas of Harakeke that could attract large flocks of birds during the flowering and seeding season.

## 2. Advisory Methods of Management in Design

Key elements within the masterplan concept along with commentary on the avian risk mitigation measures are summarised below. For ease of reference, the masterplan legend numbers are included against each description.



Figure 1 - Extract of draft core park programs. Full plan contained at end of memo..

### Lagoon Farm Treatment Wetlands (1)

The masterplan has been shaped around the engineering requirements to locate the proposed Lagoon Farm treatment wetlands on the highest part of the Site to allow gravity fed flow through the wetlands. Typical water depth will be 500mm but will vary along the length of each wetland cell. The system will receive water pumped from the Pūrimu channel on the eastern boundary that will flow through a series of up to six flow channels though densely planted wetlands before the cleansed water overflows from the western end of the system. This will be collected by the wider drainage system that flows to the existing Lagoon Farm pump station where it will be discharged to the estuary.

To avoid creating open water space that will be attractive to waterfowl the wetland cells will be fully planted with wetland species and allowed to establish full vegetation coverage prior to being flooded to full design depths. They will be monitored to ensure full vegetation coverage is maintained in the long term. The margins of the wetland will require a maintenance access track however these will be edged with shrub and tree cover.

#### **Plant production nursery for on-site use (2)**

Part of the commercial opportunities identified is a Native Plant Nursery, in the first stage this would be aimed at supplying onsite planting needs. Limited attraction for birds is anticipated.

#### **Prebenson Reserve Channel (project 3 intersects this channel)**

While outside of the ARP site, the existing channel is proposed to be enhanced with additional riparian tree and shrub plantings which are expected to reduce the attractiveness of this area to waterfowl.

#### **Existing waterway link to wetland south of stopbank maintained (unnumbered – existing shown in blue dot)**

A small area of existing wetland lies outside of the Park boundaries, this will be maintained though preserving the existing channel that connects back to the Lagoon Farm Pump Station. This is not expected to change the existing avian risk profile of this area.

#### **Te Wao Nui | Regenerating Forest (4)**

Concentrated on the western side of the park are extensive areas of te wao nui | regenerating forest. As this replaces the existing pastures it is anticipated that it will minimise current species roosting and foraging on the site. Forest dwelling species may become more abundant however they tend to occupy smaller territories, with reduced flying behaviours and are a lower risk profile to the airport. Avoiding placing habitat islands on the eastern side of the site will assist to reduce flight movements across the airport flight path.

#### **Regenerating Native Wetland (5)**

Working with the existing slow lying topography in the north-western corner of the site, an expansive wetland plain is proposed to be created through shallow regrading of the existing drains and surfaces. This will be supported by the additional water from the treatment wetlands and periodic inundation when large flows pass through the site via the Prebenson Channel. Open water will be minimised, and dense plantings of reeds, flax, shrubs and trees are proposed to reduce habitat attractiveness for waterfowl and wading birds that pose the higher risk for airport operations.

#### **Island nodes (8)**

Island nodes within the centre of the treatment wetlands will be formed from excess fill from the wetland construction to form vegetated mounds planted with native shrubs and trees. These are expected to be of low attractiveness to waterfowl.

#### **Landmark pou and interactive wetland play zone (9)**

The landmark pou is sited on the shore of an interactive wetland play area. While this is visually connected the Lagoon Farm Treatment Wetlands, is proposed to be hydraulically separate to allow this to be managed for learning and interactive play for visitors to explore and learn about the wetland system. Again, open water areas will be avoided though maintaining a dense cover of wetland vegetation.

**Ahuriri Regional Park Visitor Hub (10)**

The Regional Park Visitor Hub sits directly under the flight path. Any open lawn areas around this are to be sized to meet functional needs only and may be a candidate for use of Avianex to further reduce the attractiveness of avian foraging. Grass will be maintained at optimal heights to discourage avian roosting and foraging. Waste management across the site will include bird proof bins and minimising trash or food scraps availability. Management and maintained plans will be put in place to minimise increased avian activity.

**Discovery + Learning | Play + Sculptural Park (11)**

This zone will be vegetated with native shrub and grassland surrounding clusters of native trees.

**Manuka Plantation (12)**

On the northern boundary of the treatment wetlands a large area of manuka dominated planting is proposed to provide a low vegetation cover for this part of the site with low attractiveness to waterfowl, wading species and open pasture foraging species.

**Pa Harakeke flax collection (13)**

Bordering Prebenson Road to the west of the park is a large area identified for a future collection of Harekeke | Flax that can be utilised for traditional weaving arts. This would be structured with access trails and, where appropriate, interpretation information. A biodiverse arrangement of shrubs interplanted with areas of harekeke will be utilised to increase ecological value and reduce attraction of large flocks of starlings during flowering and seeding periods that are identified as a risk species for the airport operations.

**South Marsh Waka Landing stop & stay area with Lookout Tower & Picnic facilities (14)**

East of the existing South Marsh zone a third waka landing is proposed with a picnic area with shelters and tables and a second lookout tower focused on bird watching opportunities. Grassed areas will be interspersed with trees for shade and shelter and appropriate waste management practices that will help reduce attractiveness for grazing and roosting birds. Buffer planting will deter birds from moving from the South Marsh into this area.

**Taipo Confluence Waka Landing & lookout tower (15)**

The existing stop banks will be maintained as currently existing grassed landforms. This is not expected to increase bird usage.

**Flexible use amphitheatre space (16)**

To the east of the Visitor Hub, a grassed amphitheatre area is proposed adjacent to the existing Lagoon Farm Woolshed complex. This facility can host a variety of concert, festival and market events. This is located as far east of the flight path as possible to reduce possible conflict with airport operations. Existing trees will be retained with additional plantings to help screen and shelter this area. A strip of low shrubland will buffer this area from the treatment wetland zone. Turf areas may require treatment with Avenex species and other management techniques to reduce the attractiveness to avian species.

**Woolshed Multiuse Community Events Centre / Restaurant (17)**

A renovated and repurposed woolshed building provides opportunity for a community events centre that will complement the amphitheatre space. Again waste management will be a priority to avoid food scrap availability as well as the use of building bird deterrent techniques to reduce roosting and nesting of avifauna.

**Community Foraging Zone and Trails (18)**

Along the eastern boundary of the park, the area between Purimū and Treatment Wetlands provide a productive landuse opportunity with plantings of fruit, nut and other food producing plant species. Some areas for urban agriculture could be provided within this zone as lease opportunities for small scale urban farmers. This diversification and removal of the currently sheep grazed pasture will reduce attractiveness of this zone to high-risk bird species however it may increase the attractiveness to native and exotic forest dwelling avifauna. These species are generally small and considered low risk.

**Regional Park Eco Camp - Short Stay Guests (19)**

Accommodation offering short term stays in cabins or glamping style tents, catering to visitors, school and community groups such as scouts. Some areas of lawn areas are anticipated around these but this will be minimised as much as possible. Waste will also be managed carefully to avoid trash or scrap availability, and cabins will be build using bird deterrent techniques to reduce roosting and nesting avifauna.

**Pumpstation Waka Landing & Visitor Kiosk (20)**

Similarly to the Taipo confluence this will maintain existing stopbanks. Waste management will be the key risk to manage through appropriate trash receptacles and regular emptying.

**Existing Blokart Hawkes Bay Facility (unnumbered – existing shown in green dot)**

The existing lease for the Blokart course sites within the NZTA designation and is proposed to be retained as an active recreation opportunity that complements the wider park programs. As there is no change avifauna attractiveness levels should remain current.

A range of additional potential future programs are identified on the masterplan. These will require further detailed business case studies and if they proceed in the future would be expected to be developed and managed under public + private partnerships and other non-government organisations. No further comment on the spatial analysis of these activities is provided at this time. In the event that these activities are explored in the future, the risk of bird strike will need to be considered.



Connie Whelan-Mills

STRATEGIC PLANNING LEAD

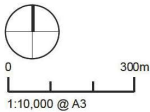




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**AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK MASTERPLAN**  
DRAFT MASTERPLAN - CORE PARK PROGRAMS

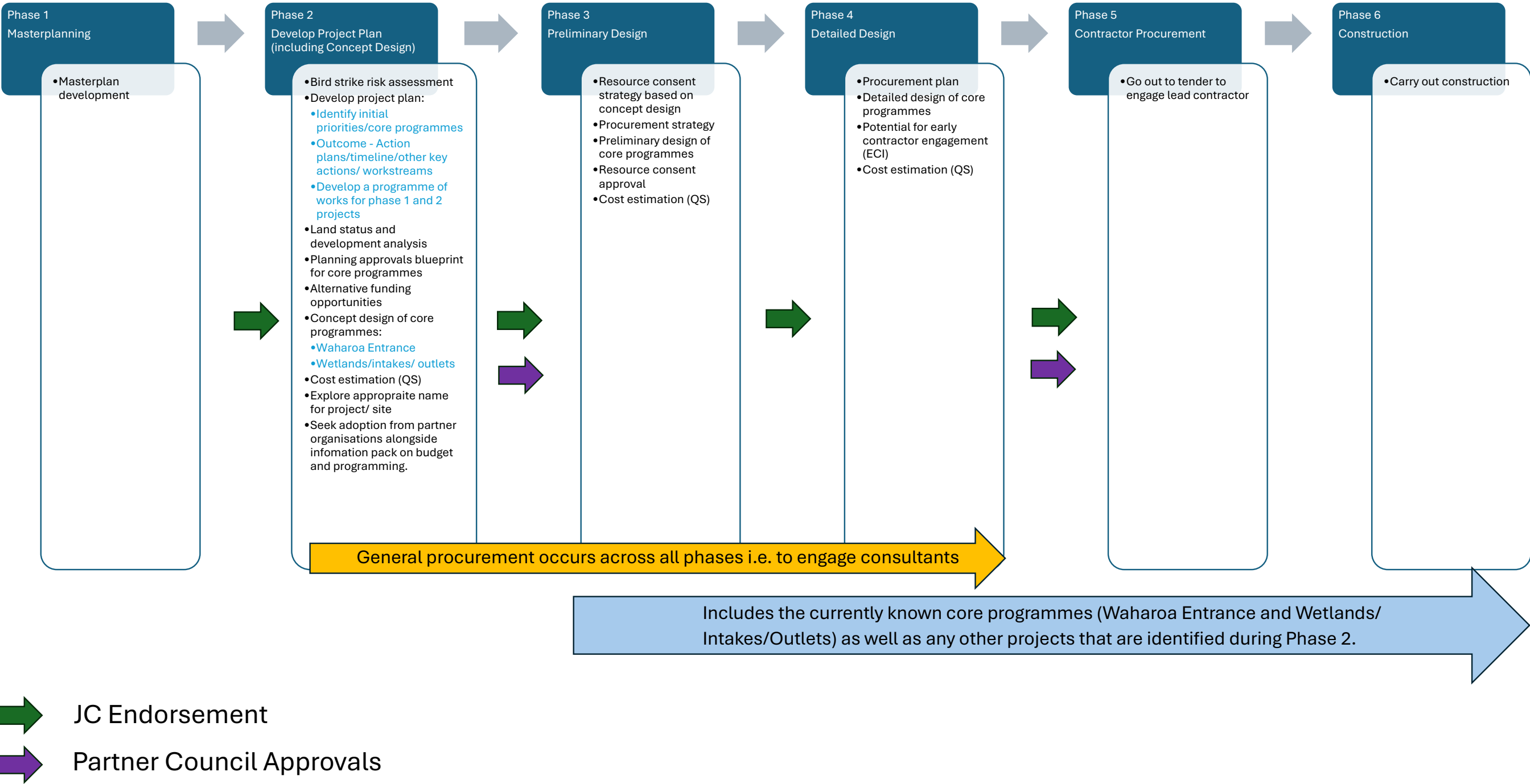




Sensitivity: General

# ARP Phasing Plan

Provided to support the Project Managers Update for 9 June 2025 meeting







**TE MAHERE TAONGA O  
TE PAPA RĒHIA O TE WHANGA**  
AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK MASTERPLAN

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK**







# Ngā Urungi // Project Drivers



**STORMWATER**  
Increase the resilience of the City’s stormwater infrastructure network by maintaining and enhancing attenuation on the site as part of a series of initiatives to reduce the impacts of rainfall events on the urban areas of Napier.



**ECOLOGICAL EXCELLENCE**  
Promote the re-establishment of native habitat values throughout the site and its interface with Te Whanga and the Taipo Stream.



**WATER QUALITY**  
Improve the quality of water discharged from the City’s urban waterways noting these form part of the municipal stormwater network.



**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**  
To maintain a predominantly natural environment.



**MAURI**  
To return the mauri back to Te Whanga, enhance and preserve mahinga kai and improve harmony with Papatūānuku.



**SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Recognise the functional need of regionally significant infrastructure.



# Pou Tarāwaho// Framework

**Te Whanga Taurikura**  
Environmental Wellbeing

**Te Whanga Ahuwhenua**  
Activation & Cultivation

**Te Whanga Ōhanga**  
Economic Prosperity

**Te Whanga Tangata**  
Healthy Communities

**Mahinga Kai**  
Gathering Sustenance







Kupu Arataki // Introduction

Purpose

At the March 2024 Joint Committee Meeting it was agreed that the engagement plan would adjust to provide a draft Masterplan document for comment and feedback. The purpose of the public engagement was to update and inform the community on the direction for the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan including integrating updates to the driving project within it, being the Lagoon Farm Stormwater Treatment Wetlands.

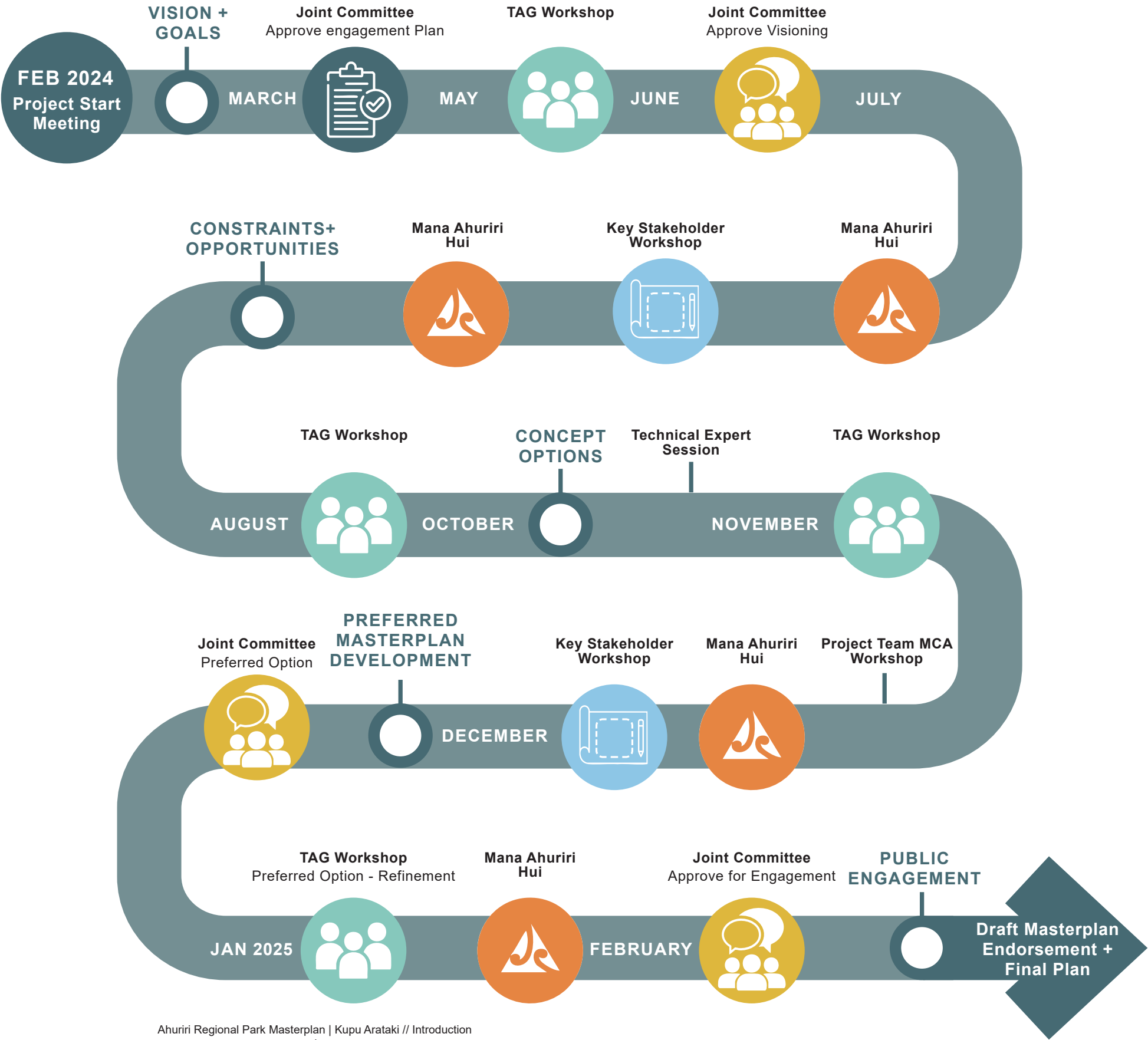
Review and analysis of the feedback received is summarised in this report alongside recommendations for changes to be made to the final Masterplan Report.

Prior Engagement

Delivering on the projects Engagement Strategy and Plan, targeted engagement was undertaken to develop the Draft Masterplan report:

- 2 x Key Stakeholder Design Workshops
- 1 x Mana Ahuriri Wānanga
- 1 x Hui-a-hapu presentation
- Presentation to Mana Ahuriri Trust Board
- One on One engagement with Napier Airport Authority - Led by Stradegy, Napier City Council and Chair of the joint Committee.
- Technical Advisory Group Workshops
- Specialist Expert services have also been engaged to address the Planning framework, Stormwater Treatment Wetland Design, Avifauna habitat and mitigating measures for bird strike.

Summaries of the input and ideas from these workshops and sessions have been reported through prior Joint Committee Workshops and Meetings in 2024. This input has guided the Draft Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan issued for public engagement







# Tukanga // Feedback Process

## Public Engagement Period

The Public Engagement period opened on Wednesday 16th of April 2025 and closed on Friday the 9th of May 2025.

## Engagement Material

The following collatoral was provided for the engagement

- Draft Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan Document
- [Video Footage - Introducing the Project](#)

## Engagement Methods

Several methods for pubic engagement were provided through Napier City Council and Hawkes Bay Regional Council. These being:

- [Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan webpage - Napier City Council](#)
- Say It! - Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan - seeking feedback
- Invitation for Written Submissions
- [Facebook Page](#)
- Stall at NCC ‘Open House’ event (15/04/2025) with 30 Information packs collected.
- Hosting of an Open Day at the site on Saturday 3rd of May 2025 - 10am - 12pm

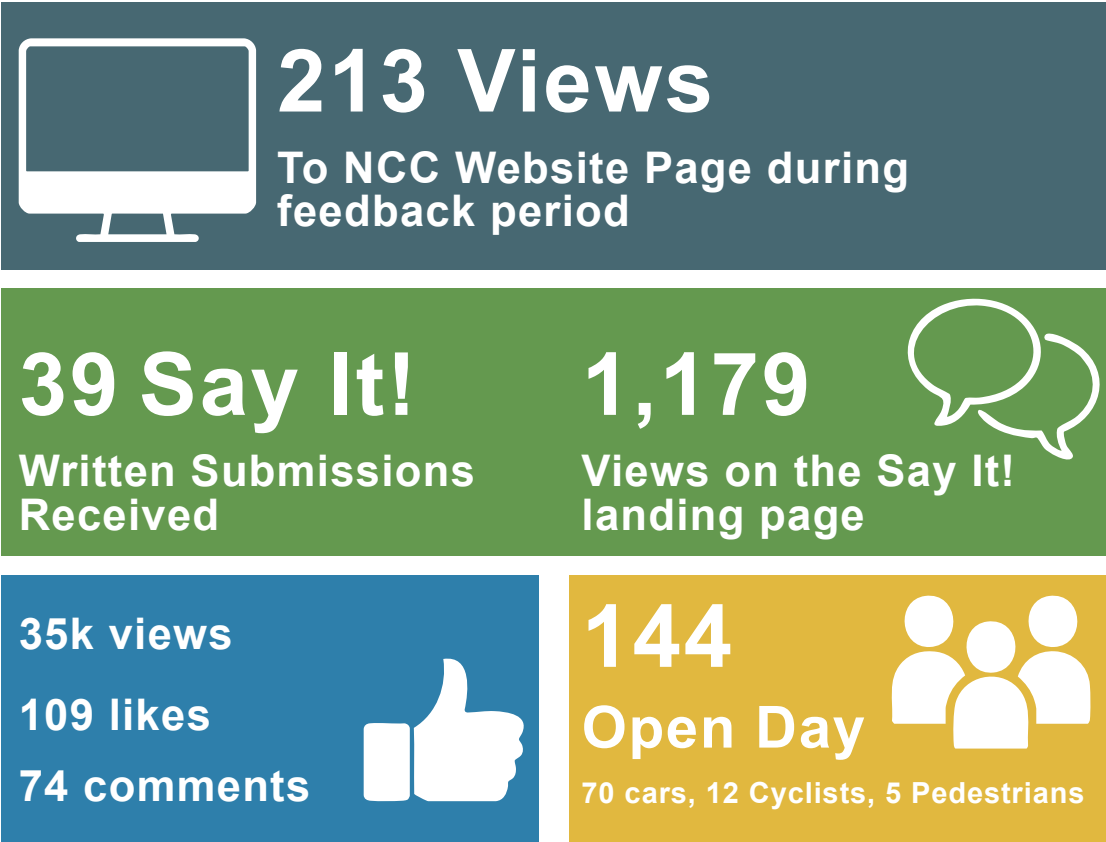






# Whakarapopoto // Summary

## Participation at a Glance



## Limitations

While a variety of tactics were used to reach a diverse range of members of the public, often engagement can vary based on accessibility, access to technology and effects of other engagement underway at the time.

## Who we heard from:

33 Private Citizens | Biodiversity Hawkes Bay | Birds NZ | New Zealand Air Ambulance Service / Skyline Aviation | Air Napier Ltd | Waka Ama Kaungunu | Hawke’s Bay Airport

## Level of Support





# Whakarapopoto // Snapshot of Comments

## In Support



*“This sounds positive. I’ve often seen cattle wandering through the creeks and waterways in the past in these areas and complained, without success, to the regional council. This is a great area and the ideas sound good.”*

*“At first glance looks good, especially looking after the Ahuriri Lagoon.”*

*“Biodiversity Hawke’s Bay supports the vision for Ahuriri Regional Park and its potential to improve water quality, restore habitat, and connect people with nature. We encourage Council to be bold in its environmental ambitions by strengthening biodiversity outcomes, embedding long-term ecological monitoring, and ensuring that nature-based solutions remain central to the park’s development. This is a valuable opportunity to lead the way in an urban ecological restoration.”*

*“It looks amazing and will be a huge asset for the region.”*

*“Excellent idea as residential/business development cannot be done on this land! The addition of land that can be planted with native trees/bushes will add to the 10% quota of native, protected vegetation (SNA designation) desired by the city/ regional council without impacting private land owners.”*

*“An ambitious and exciting plan with the potential to present Napier as an exemplar of sensitive stormwater and environmental management. “*

*“It is an excellent plan to support the environment of Napier.”*

*“I think it looks wonderful and to enlarge the “green” space in Napier. A very informative pamphlet, with so much thought and detail.”*

## Against



*“I don’t agree to it, leave it alone. The bird life is my priority, when you touch their habitat, they tend to move on. And once people get involve ,rubbish and etc is left ,who then picks it up. Don’t tell me the council (not).”*

*“I think it’s not needed right now”*

*“I think it’s a terrible idea to put a bird attraction right next to the airport when we already have the most birdstrike of any airport in nz”*

*“How this is paid for without a large financial burden on ratepayers, and loss of current income from current farming operations.”*

*“Not thoughtful. Council should get their offices in order before they take on new projects. The Community can not afford the ridiculous HBRC and NCC costs and wasted \$”*

*“This is a new Vanity project by NCC. If there is a need for storm water processing, it should be funded by the Mission Hills developers and the Parklands developers. There is already access to the estuary on the paths which the council has funded. Less than 100 people a week access these paths. “*

*“Wetland development under the approach and departure paths for Napier airport has potential to increase risk of birdstrike to aircraft using Napier airport.”*

*“you are out of your minds. HB Airport is already by far NZ’s most bird strike prone airport, accounting for 83 ‘bird incidents’ per 10,000 plane movements (take-offs and landings). Next closest is Invercargill at 34/10,000. The NZ average is 14.7/10,000.” “The planned Park envisions additional wetlands, which the airport fears would attract even more birds in proximity to the flight paths in and out of the airport.”*

*The document is very nice and obviously has had a lot of work put into it, but i personally feel that is largely maps diagrams and pretty pictures and lacks actual information on how most of this would be achieved. I note that the plans shows 2 waka landing with as to the feasibility of this?*





# Whakarapopoto // Summary

## What we heard:



### Key Issue: Bird Habitat/ Ecology Loss

The following issues and idea arose:

- Concerns regarding disturbance to current bird habitat
- Support for enhanced water quality and bird habitat
- Human interaction with existing bird habitat creating disturbance and alteration to current habitat.
- Concerns around disturbance to the main channel and wildlife habitat.
- Watchtower for bird watch design too high
- Cycleway disturbance to habitatcause
- Restoration of bridge to north bank: not supported due to risk to bird habitat in main channel – there will be people up and down both sides of the channel.



*“This sounds positive. I’ve often seen cattle wandering through the creeks and waterways in the past in these areas and complained, without success, to the regional council. This is a great area and the ideas sound good.”*

*“The bird life is my priority, when you touch their habitat, they tend to move on.And once people get involve ,rubbish and etc is left ,who then picks it up.”*

*“Our organisation is supportive of the plan to convert Lagoon farm back to a natural wetland which would enhance water quality and attract birdlife.”*

*“Please leave any ‘development’ near the main channel out of all plans.”*

*““Watchtowers: Totally unsuitable for this environment – far too high and will no doubt be expensive. If the main channel is opened up to walkways, waka, visitor kiosks, bridges etc – there won’t be any birds to see. A much lower bird hide that blends into the background would be more suitable.”*



### Key Issue: Bird Strike

The following issues and idea arose:

- Wetland development under the approach and departure paths for Napier airport has potential to increase risk of birdstrike to aircraft using Napier airport.
- Recommended to follow the Auckland Airport plan for managing wildlife risks.
- Risk of bird strike to life, what are the risk mitigation measures?
- HBAL consider that, as a significant strategic risk, minimisation of bird strike must be a foundational consideration of Napier’s approach to stormwater management and the Ahuriri Regional Park master plan. With this in mind, HBAL note that there are potentially alternate areas to treat stormwater which may pose a lesser bird strike risk and these locations should be explored further



*“An explanation of how birdstrike risk is to be mitigated.”*

*“HB Airport is already by far NZ’s most bird strike prone airport, accounting for 83 ‘bird incidents’ per 10,000 plane movements (take-offs and landings).”*

*“In addition, bird strike risk can result in significant adverse impacts on the economic and social well-being to the region. A crash on take-off or landing could result in the temporary closure of the Airport, reputational damage for the airline, and affect public perceptions of the safety of Hawke’s Bay Airport, and affect the ability for aircraft to meet the region’s needs. For example, a bird strike event in May 2022 involving an aeromedical flight into Hawke’s Bay Airport caused significant damage to the aircraft and engine. This aircraft was unavailable to fly patients to other regions for urgent medical care while it was being repaired.”*

*“HBAL is supportive of the avifauna expert that has been engaged in the project as an advisor in the Technical Group. However, HBAL have not yet seen the scope or output of any wildlife or avifauna analysis or an agreed wildlife management plan.”*





What we heard:



Key Issue: Financial Cost

The following issues and idea arose:

- Impact of cost on ratepayers.
- New projects that NCC and HBRC can't afford.
- Cost of the whole project, do we need to do all of it?
- Focus on the stormwater only.
- It's an overreach, and 80% unnecessary.



*"There are other areas that need funds prior to this. Why not replace waiohiki bridge. Increase stop banks, upgrade water, invest in the city business area that is dying."*

*"How this is paid for without a large financial burden on ratepayers, and loss of current income from current farming operations?"*

*"The very large cost which exceeds \$20 million - does it need to be so much? Also what is the on-going cost to ratepayers. "*

*"Not thoughtful. Council should get their offices in order before they take on new projects. The Community can not afford the ridiculous HBRC and NCC costs and wasted \$"*

*"I think the wetland, native regeneration areas and cycle walkways are a good thing, but I don't think we should be wasting money on the rest of it. or if we do go ahead with the rest it should be in stages and funded by a donation/ Fundraising for entering the park."*



Key Issues: Facilities

The following issues and idea arose:

- Concern that the Woolshed was not being used in the design.
- Overreach of facilities proposed - do we need all of them.
- Focus on providing the carpark.
- Commercial areas a waste of time.
- Freedom camping not supported.
- Waka Ama Training Lake option.
- More focus on walk/cycle tracks. Complete project in stages.
- Less spent on "nice to have". Follow a more passive recreation ideal, along lines of Pekapeka Regional Park.



*"The "commercial" areas and the freedom camping. Totally unnecessary and a waste of money that doesn't need to be spent right now. No one is complaining that there are a lack of cafe's in Napier, or places for their businesses."*

*"All the disrespectful unrelated add ons. Councils should not be creating Disneyland.*

*"Not a gap, but too much! Why does the Visitors Centre have to be so enormous - and expensive! Surely a kiosk/information and toilets would suffice. Also, too many people!! Will scare the birds."*

*"Waka Landing. I don't feel it should be going that far up the estuary as it would disturb bird life. I saw lots of birds on the water on the open day."*

*"I understood that the goal for creating a wetland for its treatment ....But here we are being asked to focus on the Park's additional recreational aspects first. To me this is like "putting the cart before the horse"*





## 2. AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK MASTERPLAN ENDORSEMENT

Type of Report:	Procedural
Legal Reference:	N/A
Document ID:	1855926
Reporting Officer/s & Unit:	Connie Whelan-Mills, Strategic Planning Lead

### 2.1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks the Joint Committees endorsement of the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan.

### Officer's Recommendation

The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:

- a. **Endorse** the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan (Doc Id 1858393) and recommend to partner councils:
  - i. To adopt the masterplan and continue to fund the projects implementation through their respective Long Term Plans.

### 2.2 Summary of Masterplan

**The vision for Ahuriri Regional Park** is to create a resilient, ecologically rich landscape that enhances water quality, supports biodiversity, and provides sustainable recreational and cultural opportunities. The plan focuses on promoting climate resilience, improving the health of waterways and stormwater systems discharging into Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, and restoring more natural estuary margins.

**Key project drivers** include the development of stormwater treatment wetlands and the recognition of the park as regionally significant infrastructure for water quality improvements, and the co-opportunities for returning mauri (life force) to Te Whanga, striving for ecological excellence, and maintaining a predominantly natural environment.

The masterplan documents the site's history and the process that informed its development. It reflects a collaborative journey involving the Joint Committee, Napier City Council staff, and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG)—a multidisciplinary team with expertise in ecology, mātauranga Māori, flood protection, avifauna, parks, significant infrastructure partners and planning.

#### Key initiatives include:

- Constructing a 100+ hectare treatment wetland at Lagoon Farm to intercept and filter stormwater from urban catchments such as the Pūrimu before it reaches the estuary.
- Undertaking large-scale revegetation with native forest, shrubland, and wetland ecosystems to support future mahinga kai (traditional food gathering) practices.
- Embedding cultural values, histories, and stories throughout the park.

- Developing recreational pathways and park facilities that align with low-impact, nature-compatible use.
- Exploring partnerships for the development of public amenities and complementary commercial facilities.

All components of the plan will undergo further technical design, consenting, and business case evaluation (where appropriate) to ensure they are ecologically and economically sustainable and mitigate operational risks, including bird strike risk for airport operations.

The masterplan also explores and analyses key site elements and qualities such as water movement, pedestrian movement and connections, ecology, airport flight paths, bird strike risk, views, historic land use patterns, and flood behaviour.

### Summary of Development Process

The Masterplan project has followed the process set out at the inception of the project comprising four main phases (Figure 1):

1. Establishment and Discovery;
2. Visioning,
3. Options and Shaping, and
4. Delivery (where we are today).

Development of a key vision was central to the project and was developed early on by the Joint Committee and Project Team. Engagement with Key Stakeholders and Mana Ahuriri reconfirmed the vision. From here development of the options began with targeted workshops with key stakeholders and Mana Ahuriri. The project team also engaged experts in avifauna in an advisory capacity alongside direct engagement with Hawke's Bay Airport. This work has been central to the development of the concept and will continue beyond the recommended endorsement of the masterplan.

Throughout the development of options, engagement with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) formed a key check in point and technical advice throughout, to ensure the design decision and development was continually checking against key measures and the project drivers. An Multi-Criteria-Analysis (MCA) process was applied by the project team and reviewed with TAG to identify the preferred option.

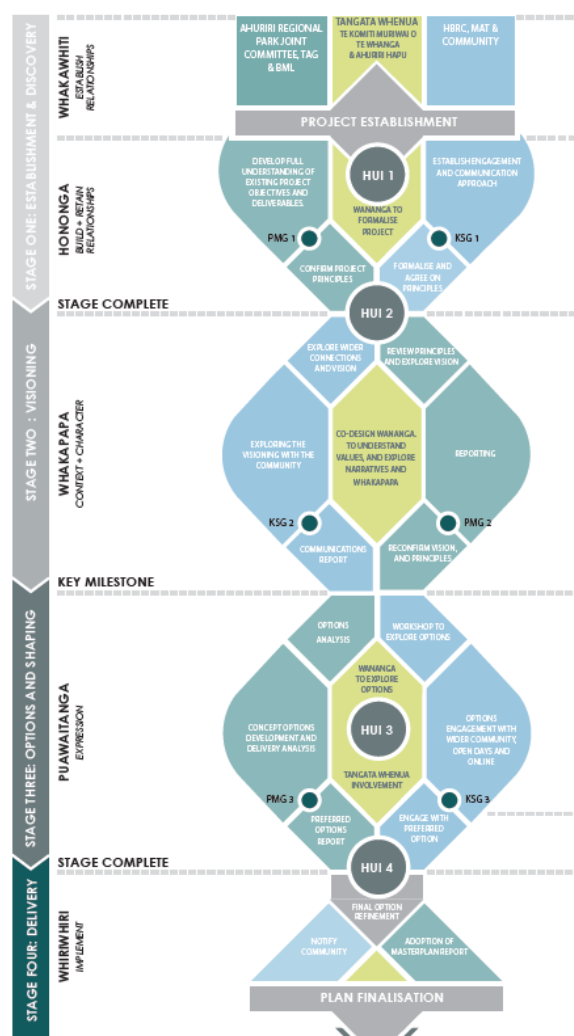


Figure 1. Masterplan development methodology

Following the development of a preferred option through engagement with the key stakeholders, Mana Ahuriri and TAG and the from the endorsement by the Joint Committee, a draft masterplan was provided for public feedback and comment in April 2025.

The proposed masterplan for endorsement is a refined version of the preferred concept, shaped by public feedback, TAG feedback and recommendations of the Joint Committee on the 23 May 2025. It identifies a range of sub-projects, with core projects prioritised for initial development.

All projects will require further design, technical analysis, and costing before moving through approvals and construction. Later Stage 2 and 3 projects are more aspirational and will depend on funding, partnerships, and detailed business case assessments to ensure feasibility and sustainability.

The journey we the project has been on is captured by Figure 2, highlighting key dates.

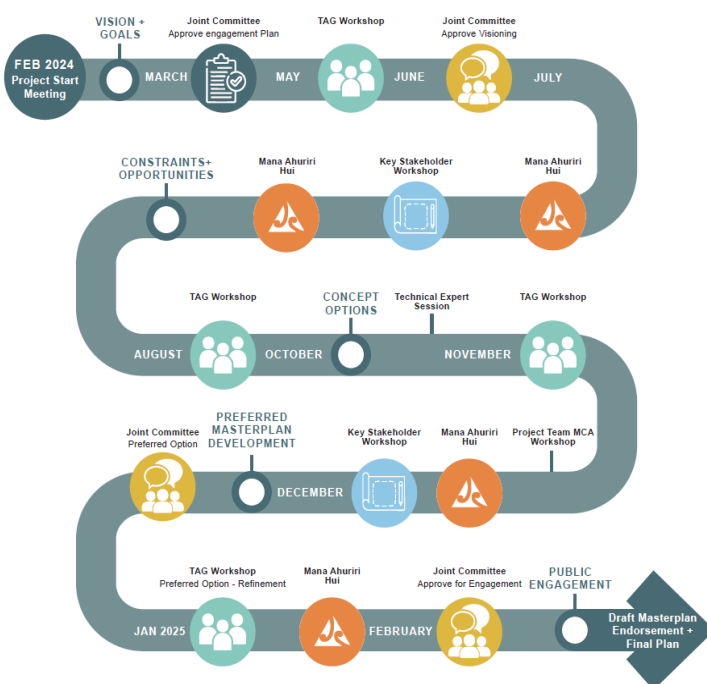


Figure 2. Masterplan development journey

### Officer recommendations following endorsement

As part of endorsing the masterplan it is recommended that the Joint Committee set direction to enable the ongoing development of preparation works towards implementing the projects within the masterplan. The Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee enable the endorsement of the high-level masterplan and provides for recommendations back to partner councils.

The following directions are sought from the Joint Committee:

- Recommend to partner councils the adoption of the masterplan and note the continued commitment to high level funding placeholders in each respective councils Long Term Plan budgets prior to end of August 2025.
- Direct officers to progress a detailed phasing plan to provide a greater level of certainty of timeframes and resources required for the works program of each phase.
- Direct officers to prepare an information pack to partner councils prior to the next Long Term Plan development (April 2026) which provides details on the program of works, budget required for each project, and procurement processes.

## 2.3 Significance and Engagement

Engagement has been implemented in general accordance with the endorsed Engagement Plan. Outcomes of partner feedback, key stakeholder engagement, and the public feedback process have been incorporated into the masterplan document.

## 2.4 Implications

### Financial

As part of endorsing the masterplan, it is recommended that the Joint Committee include recommendations back to partner councils to continue their commitment to fund the implementation of the project. Within the Three-Year Plan 2024-2027, Napier City Council has allocated 13.2 million from 2028 for the implementation of the masterplan. Hawke's Bay Regional Council have allocated just over 9 million from 2030. Both organisations have supporting budgets for project management costs between now and 2027.

### Social & Policy

There are no matters to be raised in regard to social and policy matters for the period.

### Risk

There are the following risks and proposed controls in place to manage the endorsement of the masterplan.

Risk	Control
Public perception that the endorsement of the masterplan as an endorsement of construction activity.	<p>Clear communication is required to manage this perception. Endorsing the masterplan does not equate to endorsing construction. Rather, a masterplan is a high-level spatial framework that outlines a potential package of activities to achieve long-term outcomes for Ahuriri Regional Park.</p> <p>Endorsement of the masterplan enables further exploration of the identified projects, some across multiple generations, through to concept development, detailed development, business case preparation, procurement processes, and then towards construction. Endorsing a masterplan is a strategic step that allows continued investigation, not a commitment to build.</p>
Naming convention of the project	<p>Throughout the masterplans development the project has recognised that the name 'Ahuriri Regional Park' is largely a place-holder until clear direction of the space becomes available. Through public feedback it has become more salient that the use of 'Park' lends itself to perceived use of space as recreational, where people come stay and play, however this is not the overall intent of the space.</p> <p>To control this risk we have begun the process of investigating a name for the project and space. This involves working alongside Te Waka Rungapu and taking the lead from Mana Ahuriri Trust. This is a</p>



	<p>process that must be followed with respect and care. We will continue to work towards options for a more appropriate name.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Joint Committee note the commitment to investigate a more appropriate name for the project/ park.</p>
--	---

## 2.5 Options

The options available to the Committee are as follows:

- a. Endorse the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan.
- b. Endorse the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan with amendments.
- c. Do not endorse the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan.

In addition to the above options, the follow directions are sought from the Committee:

- Recommend to partner councils the adoption of the masterplan and note the continued commitment to high level funding placeholders in each respective councils Long Term Plan budgets prior to end of August 2025.
- Direct officers to progress a detailed phasing plan to provide a greater level of certainty of timeframes and resources required for the works program of each phase.
- Direct officers to prepare an information pack to partner councils prior to the next Long Term Plan development (April 2026) which provides details on the program of works, budget required for each project, and procurement processes.
- Note the continued committee to exploring a more appropriate name for the project/ park.

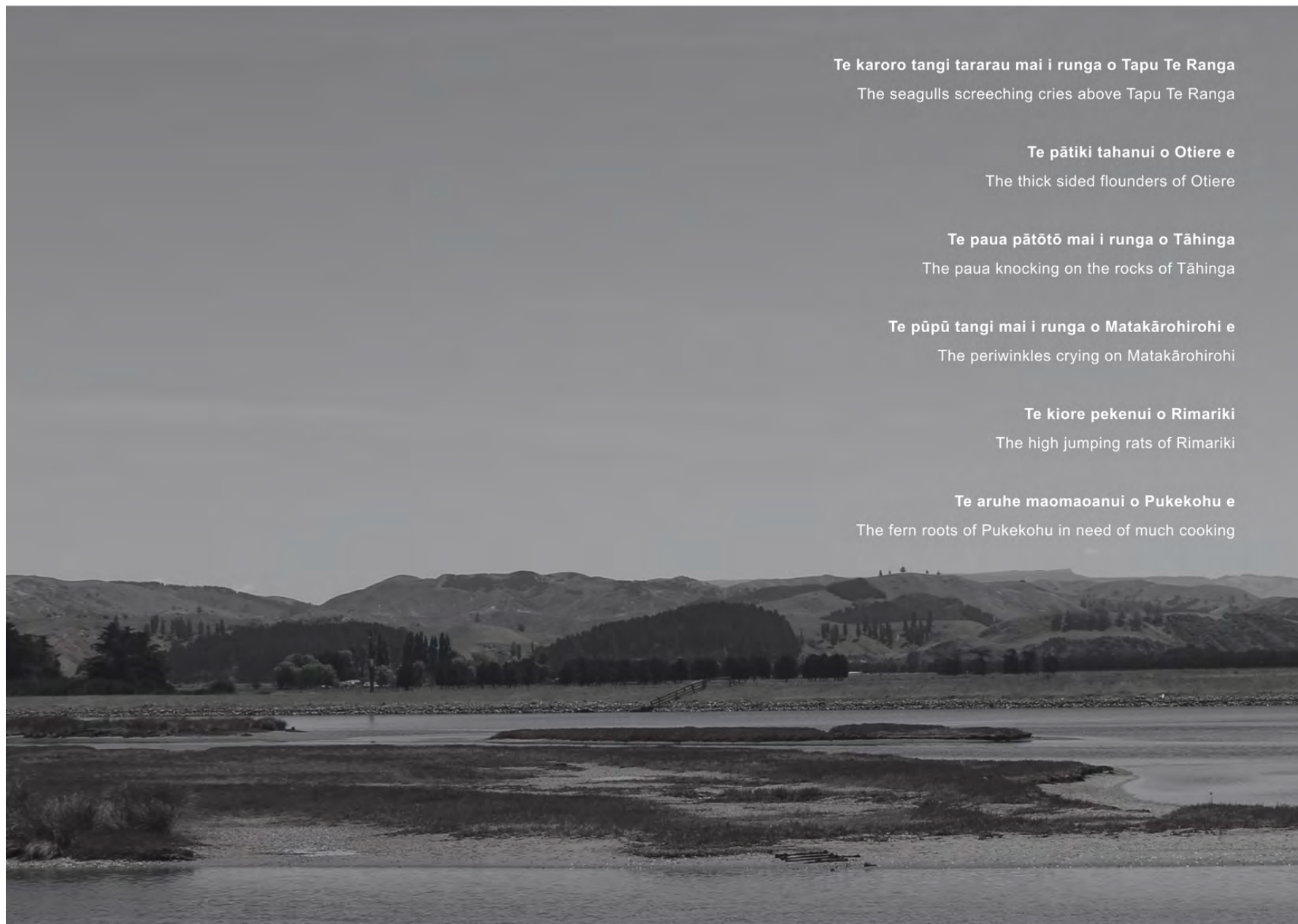
## 2.6 Attachments

- 1 Masterplan (Doc Id 1858393) [↓](#)



**TE MAHERE TAONGA O  
TE PAPA RĒHIA O TE WHANGA**  
AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK MASTERPLAN

**DRAFT ISSUE FOR REVIEW - JUNE 25**









DOCUMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE

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Report by Boffa Miskell Limited for AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE.



JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	(Chair) - Deputy Mayor Annette Brosnan (NCC), (Deputy Chair) Joseph Reti (MAT) Councillor Hinewai Ormsby (HBRC),Councillor Chad Tareha (NCC), Councillor Hayley Browne (NCC), Councillor Keith Price (NCC), Councillor Martin Williams (HBRC), Mōrehu Te Tomo (MAT), , Peter Eden (MAT), Evelyn Ratima (MAT), Harlem-Cruz Ihaia (MAT), Chad Tareha (MAT)
PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM:	Connie Whelan-Mills (NCC), Cam Drury (Strategy), Greig Wilson (Beca), Anthony Rewcastle (NCC)
BOFFA MISKELL CONSULTANT TEAM:	Rebecca Ryder (PM), Gabe Ross, William Hatton, Ella Wood, Alexandra Rooney, Hamish Cochrane, Summer Young, Mark Lewis, Marc Baily, Boyden Evans, Anne Cunningham, Bruna Faccioli
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP	Bart Leslie (HBRC), Johan Kirsten (HBRC), Gareth Boyt (MAT), Parris Greening (MAT), Nick Flack (HBRA), James Feary (HBRC), Jess Soular-Barron (NCC), Tipene Cottrell (MAT), Shade Smith (MAT), Fleur Lincoln (NCC), Syed Andrabi (NCC), Becky Shanahan (HBRC), Tiana Edwards (MAT), Lizzie Civil (PDP), Byron Munro (Tonkin & Taylor)
KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS	Department of Conservation, Hawke's Bay Regional Airport, Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society
REVIEWED BY:	Rebecca Ryder Gabe Ross
STATUS: [DRAFT]	REVISION / VERSION: 1

File ref: BM230795\_Ahuriri\_Regional\_Park\_masterplan\_DRAFT\_250603

Cover photograph: Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, Boffa Miskell, 2024



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## CHAPTER ONE

### KUPU WHAKATAKI | INTRODUCTION

*Executive Summary*

*Purpose Statement*

*Project Aspirations*

*Project Drivers*

*Constraints and Opportunities*

*Lagoon Farm Stormwater Treatment Facility*



Whakarāpopoto | Executive Summary

The Napier City Council (NCC), Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC), and Mana Ahuriri Trust (MAT) have come together as a Joint Committee (JC) to develop the Ahuriri Regional Park—a collaborative co-governance initiative dedicated to restoring the health and wellbeing of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary).

The NCC-owned 284-hectare Lagoon Farm site is of particular cultural and environmental significance to Ahuriri Hapū. Historically, it formed part of the southern edge of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. Tidal sand and mudflat habitats once intertwined with streams flowing into the harbour, creating a rich mahinga kai resource for local Hapū and early colonial settlers. The 1931 Napier earthquake uplifted large sections of the estuary by approximately two metres, transforming tidal wetlands into dry land. Lagoon Farm was subsequently drained and converted to farmland, bounded by the Taipō and Pūrimu Streams to the west and east, and the main Ahuriri channel to the north. Although greatly diminished, the remaining estuary retains significant cultural, ecological, and environmental value.

Today, Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū remains a valued area for recreation, biodiversity, and ecological importance. It supports diverse native and migratory bird species and serves as a nursery for ocean-going aquatic life. However, the estuary is in a degraded and unhealthy state due to cumulative environmental pressures. Untreated stormwater from urban and industrial areas carries pollutants into the estuary, resulting in a long-term build-up of harmful chemicals in the mudflats. Occasional sewage discharges, chemical spills, and oil leaks from vessels further compromise water quality and wildlife health. Shellfish gathering is frequently prohibited after rainfall due to contamination risks.

In response, the project partners have developed a proposed Ahuriri Regional Park masterplan that places water quality, environmental restoration, and biodiversity at its core. This plan provides the blueprint for future landuse programmes and facilities designed for flexible, staged implementation as funding and development partners becomes available.

Components of the plan will be subject to further design development, technical studies, consenting and where needed business case reviews. This will ensure they can be delivered in an ecologically and economically sustainable manner that meet the project goals and address key operational risks including managing bird strike risk for airport operations.

- Key initiatives include:
- Construction of a 100-hectare treatment wetland at Lagoon Farm to intercept and filter the first flush of stormwater from urban catchments such as the Pūrimu before it reaches the estuary.
  - Large-scale revegetation with native forest, shrubland, and wetland ecosystems to support future mahinga kai practices.
  - Integration of cultural values, stories, and histories throughout the park.
  - Development of recreational pathways and park facilities.
  - Exploration of future partnerships for the development of public and complementary commercial facilities.

This masterplan report documents the site's history, context, and the process that informed its development. It reflects a collaborative journey involving the Joint Committee, Napier City Council staff, and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG)—a team of experts in subjects such as ecology, mātauranga Māori, flood protection, avifauna, parks, and planning.

Mana Ahuriri members and other key stakeholders, including the Department of Conservation, Hawke's Bay Regional Airport, and the Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society, have contributed valuable input. Community feedback gathered through public engagement has also informed the plan.

The design team extends its gratitude to all contributors for their wisdom and energy. We look forward to seeing the masterplan and Lagoon Farm treatment wetland project contribute positively to the health and wellbeing of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, the local community, and the rich biodiversity we share this landscape with.

Ngā mihi nui.  
June 2025



Person name placeholder  
Statement placeholder xxxxx



Person name placeholder  
Statement placeholder xxxxx



Person name placeholder  
Statement placeholder xxxxx

Optional personal statements from JC Chair  
HRBC & MAT representatives?





Te Pūtake | Purpose

The Napier City Council (NCC), Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC), and Mana Ahuriri Trust (MAT) have partnered on the Ahuriri Regional Park project in a manner that works towards restoring the health and wellbeing of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary) through co-governance.

The vision for Ahuriri Regional Park begins with a key goal: improving the health of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū by cleansing stormwater as it flows through the park into the estuary. This foundation supports a range of wider co-benefits, including the restoration of native lowland forests, shrublands, and wetlands; enhanced biodiversity and mahinga kai values; and greater climate resilience. The park will also provide opportunities for low-impact recreation, cultural storytelling, environmental education, and complementary commercial and community facilities. This is a long-term, adaptable vision shaped to meet the needs of our community—now and for future generations.

Through the Treaty Settlement processes, Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga – whose purpose is to provide guidance and the protection and enhancement of the environmental, economic, social, spiritual, historical and cultural values of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū; these works look to establish processes to collaborate on actions to restore the mauri of the Ahuriri Estuary through planning and design with tangata whenua – Mana Ahuriri Trust, Ahuriri hapū; Napier City Council and key stakeholders.

Image at right: The Taipō Stream is a key freshwater tributary in the Ahuriri catchment, flowing through Napier's urban landscape before entering the estuarine environment of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary). Historically, it was part of a complex network of waterways that supported rich wetland ecosystems and mahinga kai for local Hapū. Today, the stream has a key role in stormwater drainage and while degraded by urban runoff and pollutants retains high ecological and cultural values.



*...Ahuriri Regional Park is a long-term vision to restore the health of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū by cleansing stormwater, revitalising native ecosystems and mahinga kai, and creating space for nature, recreation, culture, learning, and community to thrive...*

Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan | Te Pūtake | Purpose

DRAFT

Ngā Wawata | Aspirations

As part of the Joint Committees aspirations and the aspirations of Mana Ahuriri, the following highlights key aspirations envisioned for the Ahuriri Regional Park.





Ngā Urungi | Project Drivers



STORMWATER

Increase the resilience of the City’s stormwater infrastructure network by maintaining and enhancing attenuation on the site as part of a series of initiatives to reduce the impacts of rainfall events on the urban areas of Napier.



WATER QUALITY

Improve the quality of water discharged from the City’s urban waterways noting these form part of the municipal stormwater network.



MAURI

To return the mauri back to Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, enhance and preserve mahinga kai and improve harmony with Papatūānuku.



ECOLOGICAL EXCELLENCE

Promote the re-establishment of native habitat values throughout the site and its interface with Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū and the Taipō Stream.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT





To maintain a predominantly natural environment.



SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE

Recognise the functional need of regionally significant infrastructure.

## Constraints and Opportunities

KEY DRIVERS	EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS	CONSTRAINTS	OPPORTUNITIES	CONCERNS
 <p>AHURIRI HAPŪ IDENTITY STORYTELLING &amp; INTERPRETATION</p>	<p>Very little signage and storytelling of site and local hapū identity.</p> <p>No physical cultural expression of Ahuriri hapū.</p> <p>Strong wider cultural landscape connections (physical manifestation – maunga, awa, moana), no signage/ interpretation.</p>	<p>Access and maintenance of Ahuriri hapū identity and connection to site – Te Whanganui-a-Orotū is limited.</p> <p>Protection of significant cultural expression (mahi toi).</p> <p>Ahuriri hapū capacity – how do we support hapū kaiākitanga?</p>	<p>Ensuring safe and inclusive access to Ahuriri hapū ensuring mana rangatiratanga.</p> <p>Expressing pūrākau through various mediums of design and nature (mahi toi, mahinga kai, rongoā).</p> <p>Letting Ahuriri hapū tell their stories (what is public and private – tapu/noa) – ecotourism, cultural hub.</p> <p>Create a gateway experience into Napier and Hawke's Bay – utilise the four corners of site (Ngā Kokona o Te Whare   Te Whanga).</p>	<p>Some of the narratives told are incorrect so need to be carefully worked through with Mana Ahuriri whanui.</p> <p>Interpretation protocols – council are currently working with hapū to develop strategies for interpretation.</p> <p>There are pūrākau and taonga which are tapu, ensuring interpretation and storytelling is tika (some existing interpretation is incorrect).</p>
 <p>ECOLOGIES, HABITATS &amp; WATER QUALITY</p>	<p>Much of the internal landscape is grazed farmland.</p> <p>Along perimeter (outside of boundary) strong ecological corridors – Te Whanga + DOC reserve (north), Taiapō Stream Corridor (west), Pūrimu (East). Patches of raupo, wetland revegetation (Taiapō Stream), marsh-land beyond southern boundary (Prebensen Drive).</p> <p>Channels and drains/outfalls have little ecological character – poor water-quality.</p> <p>All existing trees are exotic, no native species within site.</p> <p>Strong aquatic and bird corridors.</p>	<p>Area prone to flooding.</p> <p>Airport Control Zone – a critical requirement is to design habitat and ecologies and land management practices in the park to avoid increasing (and ideally decrease) attraction of bird species that pose a high risk to airport operation through bird strike on aircraft.</p> <p>Streams are currently impacted by tubeworm, ensuring any works with regards to daylighting/wetland restoration is carefully considered.</p> <p>Bringing aquatic habitat into site – risks associated to breaking banks.</p>	<p>Restoring a mosaic/patchwork of various ecologies and habitat – wetlands (swamp, estuarine etc.), marshes, raupo reed lands, flax-lands, forest etc.</p> <p>Careful consideration of restoring native fauna habitat – eg. bird sanctuary, tuna, pātiki, inanga, etc.</p> <p>Restoring traditional harvest (mahinga kai) – rongoā, pā harakeke, parau, pā rauemi, etc. for cultivating and economy.</p> <p>Water treatment enhancement – stormwater control systems from streams (flood gates and other mechanisms).</p> <p>Ensuring stormwater is treated before entering Te Whanga.</p> <p>Mauri monitoring and instilling mātauranga a hapū regarding health of taiao, wai and whenua.</p>	<p>Tubeworm – further R+D to be undertaken with regards to controlling tubeworm spread into future water quality networks/systems.</p> <p>Ecological corridors are designed carefully.</p>
 <p>ACCESS &amp; CIRCULATION (PEDESTRIAN + CYCLING)</p>	<p>Current pathway network forms around perimeter – approx. 6km from Taiapō entrance (Prebensen Drive) around to Shed Road</p> <p>Main users are cyclists.</p> <p>Wider connections with Ahuriri and beyond.</p>	<p>Current extents tend to be too long for casual walking and activity.</p> <p>Very limited pause moments along network to engage learning and interactive opportunities.</p> <p>Little visual connection to Te Whanganui-a-Orotū (main pathway is behind stop banks – some key pause moments revealed); strong visual connection with Taiapō Stream.</p> <p>No physical interaction with 'wai'.</p> <p>Current network lacks inclusive access.</p>	<p>Establish a network of pathways that provide for varying fitness and abilities – establish smaller networks for all whānau to enjoy and that are user-friendly.</p> <p>Creating different experiential journeys and trails of interest – how might we tell the stories associated to place (wayfinding and interpretation).</p> <p>Other means of movement and circulation – waka, canoeing/kayaking.</p> <p>Connect to 'wai' – creating moments to pause and connect to Te Whanganui-a-Orotū.</p>	<p>Safety – no safe access from outer edges of site back towards populated areas. Also, main length of pathway along Te Whanga edge is located behind stop banks no strong visual connection.</p> <p>Over-design for trails – ensuring there is a balance, do we want areas which are private vs public (tapu + noa).</p> <p>Users – concerns around dog-walkers impacting ecological networks/habitats.</p>
 <p>ACCESS &amp; CIRCULATION (VEHICULAR + COMMERCIAL)</p>	<p>Strong lineal road networks across site: Poraiti Lane + Barn Road (east-west), Long Road North + Shed Road (north-south).</p> <p>Road networks are private use for farm (except small portion of Shed Road), road is gravel.</p> <p>No wider road circulation network.</p> <p>Close proximity to SH2 and key arterial routes from Taradale, Tamatea to Napier, Ahuriri and beyond.</p>	<p>Road allows for no public access, limit public interaction and accessibility/inclusivity.</p> <p>One entry into site, no sense of arrival.</p> <p>Potential risks to flooding.</p>	<p>Create a gateway experience into Ahuriri Regional Park.</p> <p>Enable vehicular movement into site – set protocols regarding circulation, public vs private.</p> <p>Enable safe and inclusive access into site opening up to wider users.</p> <p>Future connection from SH2.</p> <p>Future railway or public extension/connections – opportunities to restore public/private transportation (inland port, textile industry, cultural precinct, connections to town centre and wider region, etc.)</p>	<p>Over-design for roading and infrastructure – ensuring there is a balance, do we want areas which are private vs public (tapu + noa), undertake a 'light touch' approach. Opening park to vehicles will that diminish the mauri and experiential qualities? Establish strategy for circulation.</p> <p>Runoff from roads – ensuring there are treatment devices in place to treat runoff before entering Te Whanga.</p>

# Lagoon Farm Stormwater Treatment Facility

## Stormwater Treatment Wetlands – A Key Feature of the Masterplan

### Design Context

Lagoon Farm sits at the bottom of a large predominately urban catchment of approximately 4,300Ha. Of this the Pūrimu comprises 34% of the land area.

To meet the water quality requirements of existing stormwater discharge consents and to improve the overall resilience of the stormwater network, a large-scale wetland system has been proposed as part of the masterplan. This system will treat urban stormwater before it reaches Te Whanganui-a-Orotū using natural wetland plants and processes to filter out contaminants. Due to the low laying nature of Napier, a pump system is still required between the Pūrimu and estuary

### Whats the problem?

Like many urban catchments, the stormwater moving though the Pūrimu channel contains a wide range of pollutants including heavy metals, excess nutrients, E.coli and Faecal Coliforms. This is worse during storms when higher concentrations are flushed into the system.

These pollutants harm estuary ecosystems by reducing water quality, depleting oxygen, and making it unsafe for wildlife and people—leading to sick fish, unsafe shellfish, and fewer birds and plants.

### Why Wetlands?

Wetlands are most effective at treating the “first flush” — the initial runoff from frequent, smaller storms, which carries the highest levels of pollutants.

Larger, less frequent storms, which are more diluted, bypass the wetland system to avoid overloading it and to reduce maintenance from sediment build-up.

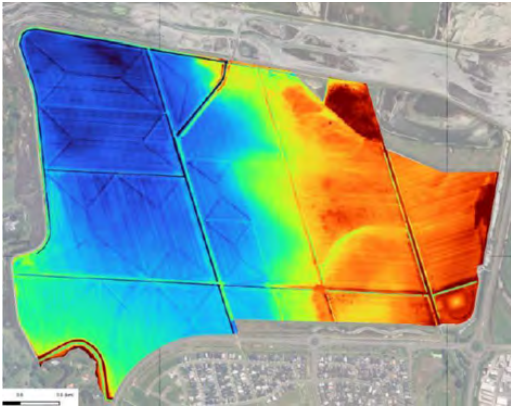
### Strategic Location

Due to high groundwater and challenging soil conditions across Lagoon Farm, the wetlands are located on the highest part of the site. This allows water to flow through the system using gravity, reducing the need for energy-intensive pumping.

This location also sits beneath the airport flight path, so the design must carefully consider bird strike risks through ensuring no open water is provided and the environment around the wetlands and wider park discourages problem bird species.



Above: Modelling of 1:100 year flood event

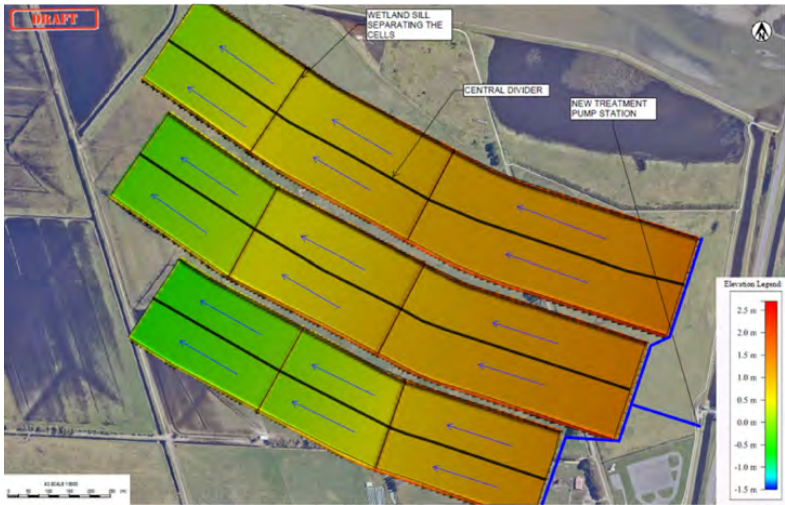


Above: Ground surface elevation map



Above: Extents of area suitable for wetland development





Above: Preferred option for Lagoon Farm treatment wetlands, NCC

Design Overview

- Size: Approx. 106 hectares of treatment wetlands
- Structure: Three parallel bays, each with three treatment cells, separated by sills and dividers to control water flow and depth.
- Depth: Up to 500 mm at the western end of each cell.
- Flow: A new lift pump station will direct water into the wetlands via open channels or gravity pipes. Water will then flow through planted cells and exit into the existing drainage system.

Staged Implementation

The wetlands will be built in stages, likely starting with the central bay. This allows the system to be expanded to accommodate increased stormwater volumes over time.

Catchment Coverage

Once complete, the wetlands will treat stormwater from all catchments discharging to Te Whanganui-a-Orotū via the Westshore Tidal Gates (Taipō and Pandora have separate discharge points). The system is designed to treat 15–20 mm of rainfall per event — capturing 70–80% of storm events, and up to 90% of daily rainfall events in the Pūrimu Catchment.

Management and Maintenance

Wildlife monitoring and maintenance will be a critical element of the project. This will include a bird strike risk assessment and management plan that will set out how avoid increasing bird strike risk to airport operations during construction and operation of the wetlands. Key requirements will include waterfowl control/exclusion especially during plant establishment until 100% of the wetland surface is covered with vegetation.

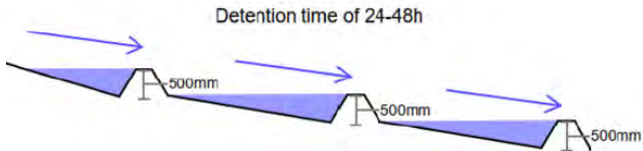
Additional considerations will include:

- Vegetation and weed control (e.g. willows).
- Maintaining sufficient water movement in the system to keep the wetlands wet during the summer period.
- Managing surrounding vegetation to avoid creating open grass areas attractive to geese and other high risk bird species.

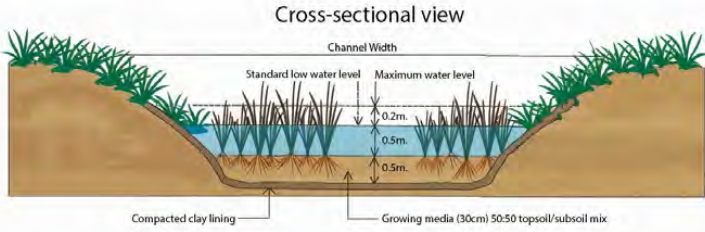
Other Benefits

Interweaving public access treatment wetlands can provide valuable open space and recreational opportunities for the local residents and visitors.

Incorporating diversity both in the wetland species and in the areas surround the wetlands will enhance habitat values for native land and water invertebrates, and reptiles. A densely planted wetland landscape will also deter waterfowl species that prefer the visibility afforded by open water and pasture land.



Above: Schematic Long Section through wetland cell



Above: Typical cross section of treatment wetland (Tanner et al. 2020)  
Right: Sparks Road wetland planting detail and aerial view, Christchurch City Council











# CHAPTER TWO

## HOROPAKI | CONTEXT

*Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū | Mana Ahuriri*

*Tātari Whenua: Analysis*

*Hawke's Bay Regional Parks*

*Napier City Parks*

*Napier City Council Plans*





### Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū | Mana Ahuriri

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Placeholder for description of site significance from Mana Ahuriri Trust

### Treaty Settlement

The Deed of Settlement contains Crown acknowledgements of its acts and omissions that caused prejudice to Ahuriri Hapū and breached the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.<sup>1</sup>

In the Deed of Settlement the Crown acknowledges that Te Whanganui-ā-Orotu and the islands in it were prized taonga of Ahuriri Hapū and remain valued today. The Crown also recognises the role of Ahuriri Hapū as Kaitiaki of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga (the Ahuriri Estuary and catchment areas).

The Crown also recognises the role of Ahuriri Hapū as Kaitiaki of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga (the Ahuriri Estuary and catchment areas). In recognition of this the settlement legislation will also establish a permanent statutory committee called Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga. The purpose of the Komiti is to promote the protection and enhancement of the environmental, economic, social, spiritual, historical and cultural values of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga (Ahuriri Estuary) for present and future generations.

- Ngāti Hinepare
- Ngāti Māhu
- Ngāti Matepū
- Ngāti Pārau (which includes Ngāi Tahu Ahi)
- Ngāi Tāwhao
- Ngāti Tū

<sup>1</sup> Ahuriri Hapū Deed of Settlement Summary



OVERLAY EXISTING CHANNEL ON THIS GRAPHIC

Overlay: Te Whanganui a Orotu pre 1931 and post earthquake extents

### Post 1931 Earthquake History

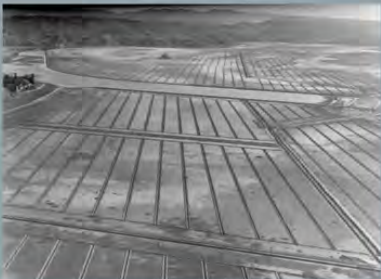
The former landscape of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, the Napier inner harbour, was treasured for its rich sources of kaimoana and later became a valued place for recreation.

This expansive body of water, once dotted with islands, provided a continuous supply of shellfish, eels, and fish. Pā sites were located on the western hills and islands, reflecting the area's long history of occupation.

The harbour's shingle spits and beaches were shaped by gravels washed down from rivers, forming natural barriers that separated the former lagoon and estuary from the open ocean. European settlement later centred around Ahuriri, which offered deep-water anchorage and supported growing shipping trade.



PORT AHURIRI, NAPIER Industrial area and lagoon pre earthquake, 1910s



AHURIRI RECLAMATION Drainage of lagoon of earthquake, 1936

Located approximately 3.4 km northeast of what is now Napier's CBD, Ahuriri Lagoon once spanned around 3,840 acres. In 1931, the 7.8 magnitude Napier earthquake uplifted the land, exposing approximately 2,230 hectares of seabed.

Today, only 289 hectares of the original lagoon remain, with Lagoon Farm forming part of this larger uplifted landform.

The historic landscape is still clearly visible—the patterns of the former lagoon are still show the subtle flow of mudflats and sandbanks reflected in the soils and growth patterns in the pasture. The flat terrain of the former lagoon contrasts sharply with the shoreline traced along the western edge of the site, where the Taipō Stream meets the base of the Poraiti Hills.



AHURIRI LAGOON UPLIFT Horse mussels exposed after earthquake, 1931

Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan | Post 1931 Earthquake History

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Above: Taipō Stream



Tātari Whenua: Analysis

Broader Landscape Context

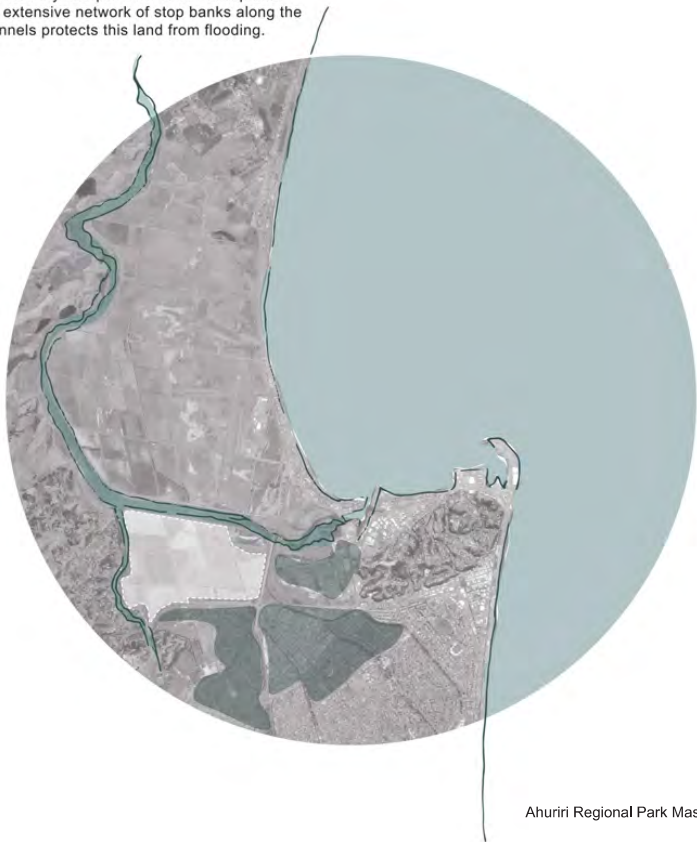
Located in the urban edge of Napier City the Ahuriri Regional Park site (also known as Lagoon Farm) forms a key opportunity for connection, a green gateway for the Napier City. Cradled by the Taipō stream to the west and Pūrimu stream to the east the main Ahuriri channel forms the northern boundary. The Hawke's Bay airport is located immediately north of the site with a key flight path bisecting the site north-south. Prebenson Drive forms the southern boundary and defines the current urban edge of the city.

To the west the Poraiti Hills from the backdrop to the wider Te Whanga plains. Like the Lagoon Farm site the land has been drained and converted to farmland over successive years post the 1931 earthquake. Today an extensive network of stop banks along the main channels protects this land from flooding.

The former islands Otieri, and Taputeranga remain as markers in the wider plains and have high cultural values as former settlement sites used by the local Hapū.

The uplifted bed to Te Whanga has evolved into low lying, poorly drained farmland with areas of high water tables reflected in a mosaic of wetlands throughout the wider plains. Immediately to the north east the site, the DOC managed South Marsh provides important bird habitat.

The Lagoon Farm cycleway provides public access around the periphery of the site while the estuary channel is tidally accessible by boats, kayak and waka.



Existing Site Character Images

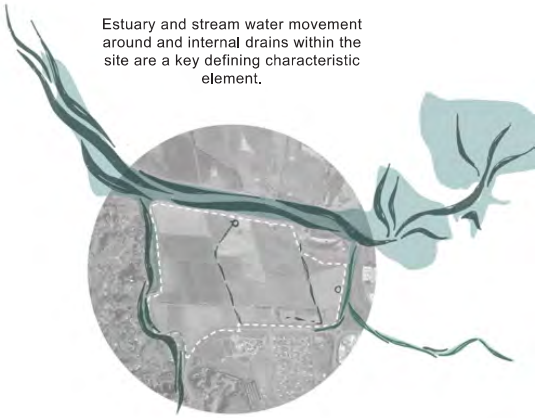




Site Elements and Qualities

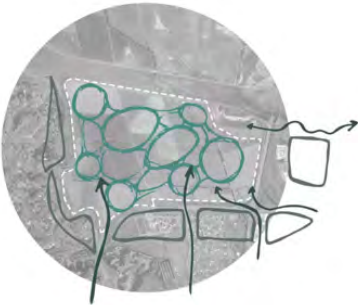
WATER MOVEMENT

Estuary and stream water movement around and internal drains within the site are a key defining characteristic element.



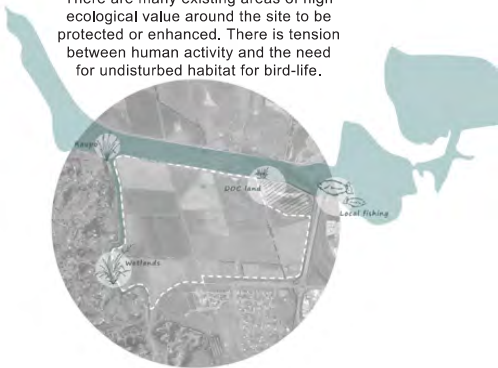
MOVEMENT + CONNECTIONS

Opportunities to improve connectivity to the adjacent areas and neighbourhoods. Given the large scale of the site there is potential for multiple internal circulation paths and activity zones.



ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

There are many existing areas of high ecological value around the site to be protected or enhanced. There is tension between human activity and the need for undisturbed habitat for bird-life.



AIRPORT AND VIEWS

The Airport control boundary and flight path bisects the site and forms a critical constraint in terms of noise and the need to avoid increasing bird strike risk to aircraft. Given the flat, wide, expanse of the site, the design should consider key views from the road boundaries.



HISTORIC PATTERNS AND SITES

Hidden within the modern landscape are the stories and landforms of the historic Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū land and seascape. This includes historic pā and kāinga sites, patterns of sand spits and estuary flow forms and the renowned shellfish beds of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū.

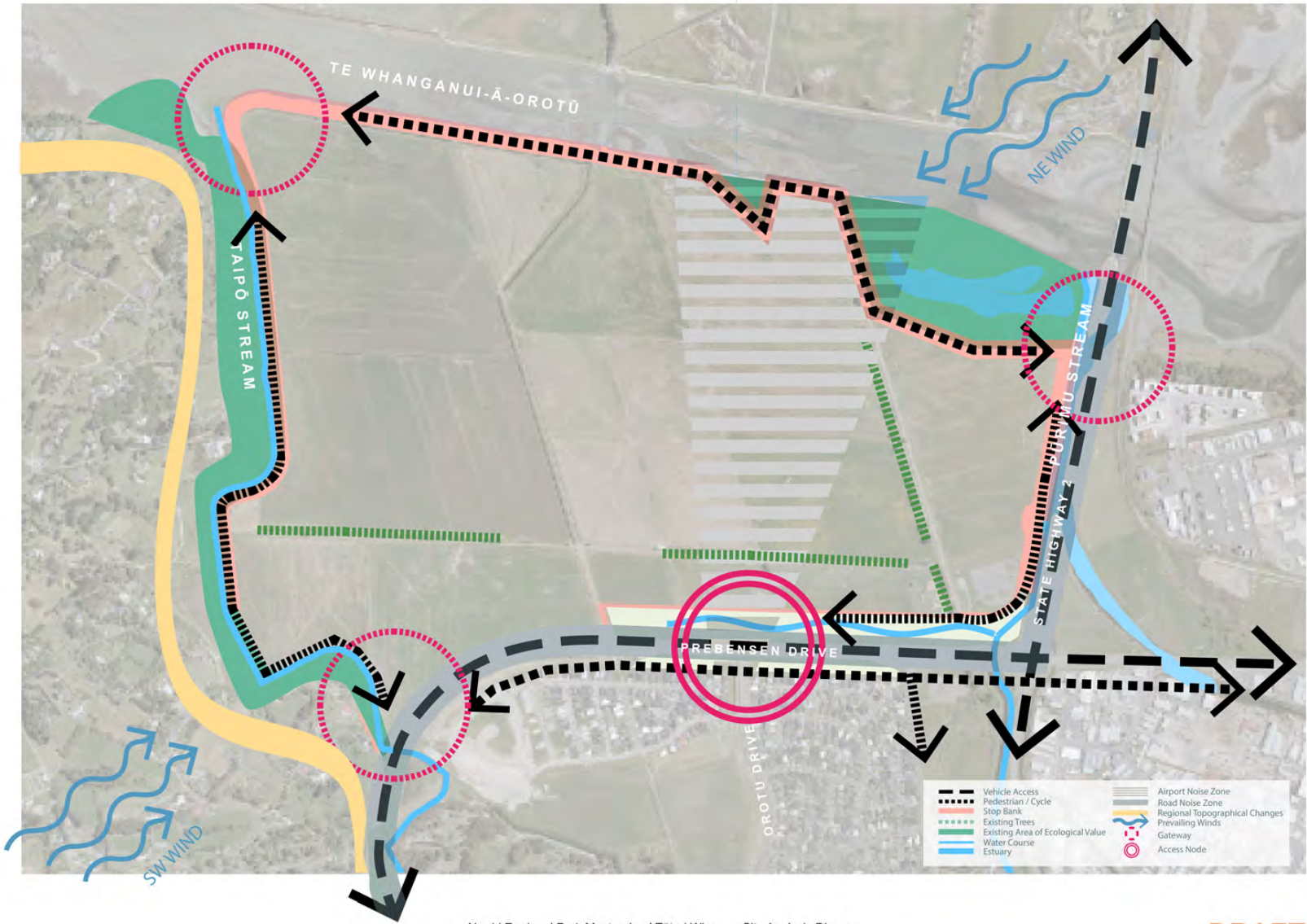


FLOOD ZONES

Low lying areas of the site lie below high tide water levels. The site provides storage for stormwater inflows from several urban catchments. Stopbanks protect the west and north sides of the site. Pumping maintains ground water levels at artificially low levels.



Tātari Whenua: Site Analysis Diagram



Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan | Tātari Whenua: Site Analysis Diagram  
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Hawke's Bay Regional Parks



Overview

Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) currently manages four significant Regional Parks, which provide a mix of cultural, environmental, economic, and recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors.

While not formally classified as Regional Parks, other important open spaces in the region—such as Te Mata o Rongokako (Te Mata Peak) and Cape Kidnappers—also hold high cultural and environmental value.

Through the Hawke's Bay Regional Park Network Plan, local councils have developed a strategic vision that highlights the role of parks in fostering healthy communities. These parks support active lifestyles and offer opportunities for people to connect with nature and learn about the environment.

Regional Parks serve a unique role, sitting between urban parks and conservation parks in terms of scale, accessibility, and purpose. HBRC's regional parks, for example, offer a range of conservation and restoration environments alongside recreation, with a focus on protecting values of regional significance. They attract visitors from across the region as well as from outside it.

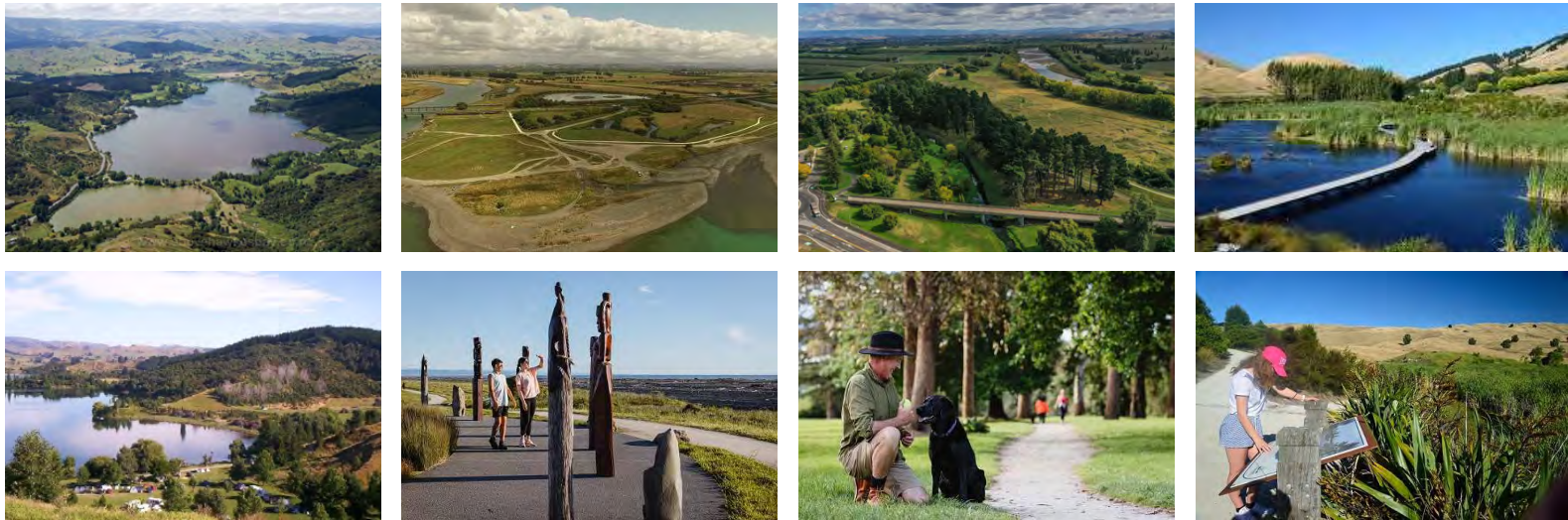
In contrast, urban parks tend to cater to local communities, offering sports fields, playgrounds, reserves, and coastal areas within or near towns and cities. These often provide more developed facilities—such as toilets, changing rooms, formal gardens, and high-use infrastructure—designed for intensive local use.

At the other end of the spectrum are conservation parks and reserves, typically managed by the Department of Conservation. These spaces offer informal outdoor experiences like walking, tramping, mountain biking, picnicking, and camping in more natural and remote settings.

The proposed Ahuriri Regional Park is unique. While it aligns with the regional park network, its core focus is on delivering critical infrastructure—particularly stormwater management—alongside cultural, ecological, economic, and recreational benefits. Its location, close to Napier's urban centre and within a distinctive estuarine setting, positions it as a complementary yet different offering within the regional park system, providing a new kind of visitor and community experience.



Hawke's Bay Regional Parks



A. Tūtira Regional Park (464ha)

Tūtira Regional Park is part of a developing tourism area of the Tūtira-Maungahururu district, which promotes great outdoor adventure and recreation. The prime objective was to manage the land to maintain and improve the water quality in the two lakes, Tūtira and Waikopiro; the second objective was to develop a quality outdoor recreation environment for the people of Hawke's Bay. The park boasts walking trails, picnic amenities, camping and fishing.

B. Waitangi Regional Park (300ha)

Tūtira Regional Park is part of a developing tourism area of the Tūtira-Maungahururu district, which promotes great outdoor adventure and recreation. The prime objective was to manage the land to maintain and improve the water quality in the two lakes, Tūtira and Waikopiro; the second objective was to develop a quality outdoor recreation environment for the people of Hawke's Bay. The park boasts walking trails, picnic amenities, camping and fishing.

C. Pākōwhai Regional Park (22.3ha)

Tūtira Regional Park is part of a developing tourism area of the Tūtira-Maungahururu district, which promotes great outdoor adventure and recreation. The prime objective was to manage the land to maintain and improve the water quality in the two lakes, Tūtira and Waikopiro; the second objective was to develop a quality outdoor recreation environment for the people of Hawke's Bay. The park boasts walking trails, picnic amenities, camping and fishing.

D. Pekapeka Regional Park (98ha)

Tūtira Regional Park is part of a developing tourism area of the Tūtira-Maungahururu district, which promotes great outdoor adventure and recreation. The prime objective was to manage the land to maintain and improve the water quality in the two lakes, Tūtira and Waikopiro; the second objective was to develop a quality outdoor recreation environment for the people of Hawke's Bay. The park boasts walking trails, picnic amenities, camping and fishing.

Napier City Parks

The proposed Ahuriri Regional Park occupies a strategically important location within the existing Napier City Council parks network and will represent a significant addition to the city's open space network. Unlike nearby parks such as Park Island, Anderson Park, and Dolbel Reserve, Ahuriri will offer a distinctive landscape character and focus—centred on stormwater treatment wetlands and large-scale ecological restoration.

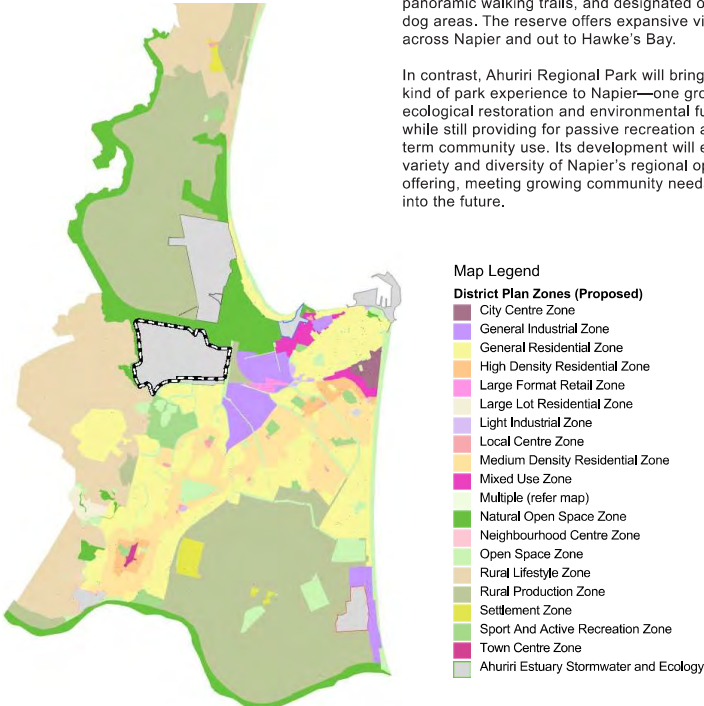
This unique foundation will support a different suite of recreational opportunities and provide potential for future community facilities and amenities aligned with environmental education, cultural storytelling, and nature-based recreation.

Park Island (68 ha), located just south of the Ahuriri site, is Napier's premier sports and recreation hub. It offers extensive facilities for organised sports, including Bluewater Stadium, multi-code sports fields, fieldhouses, and changing pavilions. A network of trails also provides opportunities for walking and cycling throughout the park.

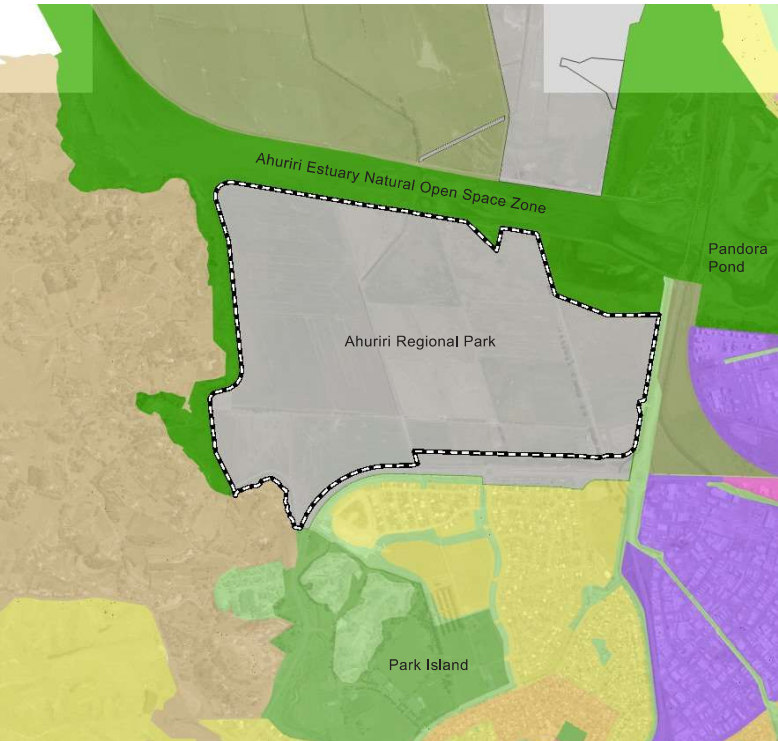
Anderson Park (36 ha) in Greenmeadows is a suburban destination park known for its diverse recreational offerings. These include an award-winning inclusive playground, disc golf, a skate park, model railway, and model boat pond, all set within open lawns, mature specimen trees, and family-friendly spaces.

Dolbel Reserve (18 ha) in Taradale provides a more naturalised park experience. Located on a hillside, it features a mosaic of native and exotic plantings, panoramic walking trails, and designated off-leash dog areas. The reserve offers expansive views across Napier and out to Hawke's Bay.

In contrast, Ahuriri Regional Park will bring a new kind of park experience to Napier—one grounded in ecological restoration and environmental function, while still providing for passive recreation and long-term community use. Its development will expand the variety and diversity of Napier's regional open space offering, meeting growing community needs now and into the future.



Above & Top Right: Proposed NCC District Plan Zoning Map showing Natural and Open Space Zones



Above: Park Island Bluewater Stadium



Above: Anderson Park Play Space



Napier City Council Plans

Ahuriri Estuary and Coastal Edge Masterplan (2017)

The Ahuriri Estuary and Coastal Edge Masterplan aims to deliver on these broad principles for the estuary and adjacent coastal edge environment, presenting Napier City Council's vision for the estuary for inclusion in the development of Te Muriwai o Te Whanga - Ahuriri Estuary Management Plan.

The City Vision supports the use of Te Aranga Design Principles as outlined adjacent, to enhance mana whenua presence, visibility and participation. opportunities identified throughout the masterplan process for planning and redevelopment within three character areas reflecting the character of the water based areas and their urban interface:

- Upper Estuary & Former Lagoon
- Lower Estuary & Pandora
- Inner Harbour & Ahuriri

Napier City Council District Plans

Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary) Ecology & Stormwater Treatment Zone

The Ahuriri Estuary Ecology & Stormwater Treatment Zone (AESZ) applies to the southernmost area of land adjacent to Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary).

The vision for this park prioritises the use of the site for stormwater detention during high intensity rainfall events. Councils are also investigating ways that the normal flow of stormwater into the Estuary could be channelled through a series of created wetlands to remove sediments and contaminants before it is discharged into Te Whanga (the Ahuriri Estuary).

With these stormwater improvement measures, it is intended to improve biodiversity outcomes through improved habitat creation. Aside from being beautiful, a park would provide wildlife with a home, reduce our climate change risks and increase recreational opportunities.

The AESZ recognises the importance of the restoration of the estuary and its margins, caters for those activities that are compatible with the ecological values of the estuary, and considers the operational requirements of the nearby airport.

The types of activities that are provided as without



Ahuriri Estuary and Coastal Edge Masterplan (Isthmus 2017)

resource consent include:

- Planting, plant maintenance, pest control, conservation activities
- Growing and supplying of plants
- Activities associated with stormwater collection, retention, treatment and disposal
- Recreational activities
- Māori purpose activities (eg mahinga kai activities, wānanga, hui, Matariki and Pūanga observance activities)
- Community activities
- Primary production activities

Open Space & Recreation Zone

The Open Space and Stadium Zones chapters of the Proposed District Plan enable a range of recreation activities across our city, while managing the interface with neighbouring residential properties.

Open Space Zone

The purpose of an Open Space Zone is to provide for a range of passive and active recreational activities, along with the facilities and structures necessary to support them. Open Space Zones replace the Reserve Zone, Foreshore Reserve Zone and Marine Parade Recreation Zone of the current District Plan. To ensure that the primary recreation and community purpose of Open Space Zones are retained, commercial activities (including coffee carts and hire activities) are classed as a discretionary activity and require resource consent where they do not meet conditions. Residential and industrial activities are prohibited with Open Space Zones where they are not required for on-site management, which means that a zone change would be re-quired before a park or reserve could be repurposed for development.

Additional rules apply to Open Space Zones within the coastal environment and along the Marine Parade foreshore to recognise the special character of these areas.

Natural Open Space Zone

The purpose of the Natural Open Space Zone is to retain and enhance the natural environment and to ensure activities, build-ings and other structures are compatible with the natural characteristics of the zone. The range of permitted activities is restricted in this zone to protect natural values. Buildings require resource consent in order to allow Council to assess the impact of the buildings on the special characteristics of the park or reserve.

Sports & Active Recreation Zone

The purpose of the Sport and Active Recreation Zone is to provide for a range of indoor and outdoor sport and active recreational activities, along with associated facilities and structures. Specific rules apply to new activities and buildings in the Park Island Development

Māori Purpose Zone

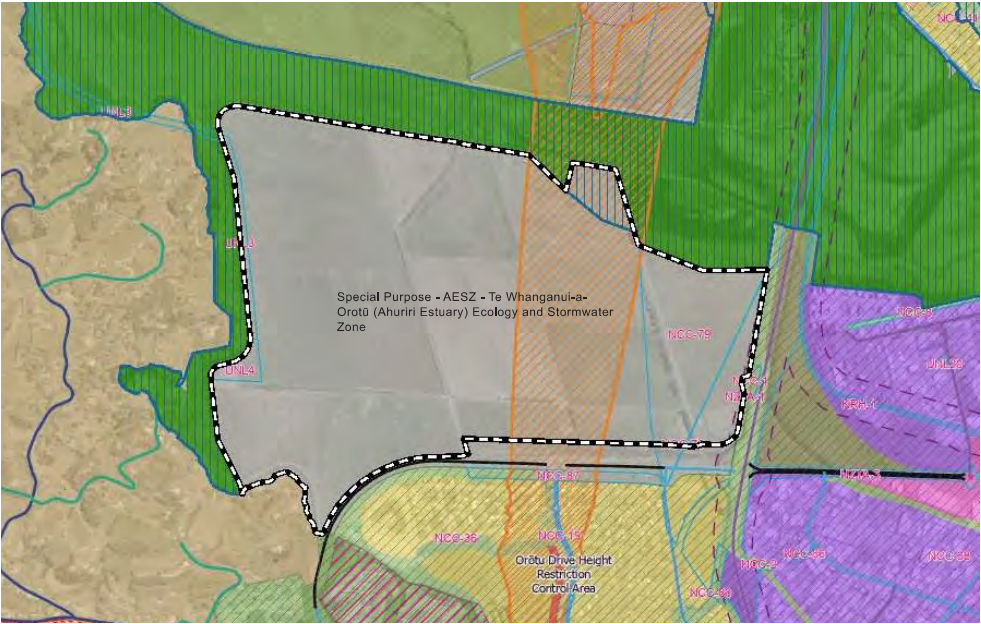
The Māori Purpose Zone is a new zone that recognises and provides for a range of activities that specifically meet Māori cultural needs, including but not limited to, residential and commercial activities. This zone recognises and provides for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions.

Māori Purpose Activities is defined as:

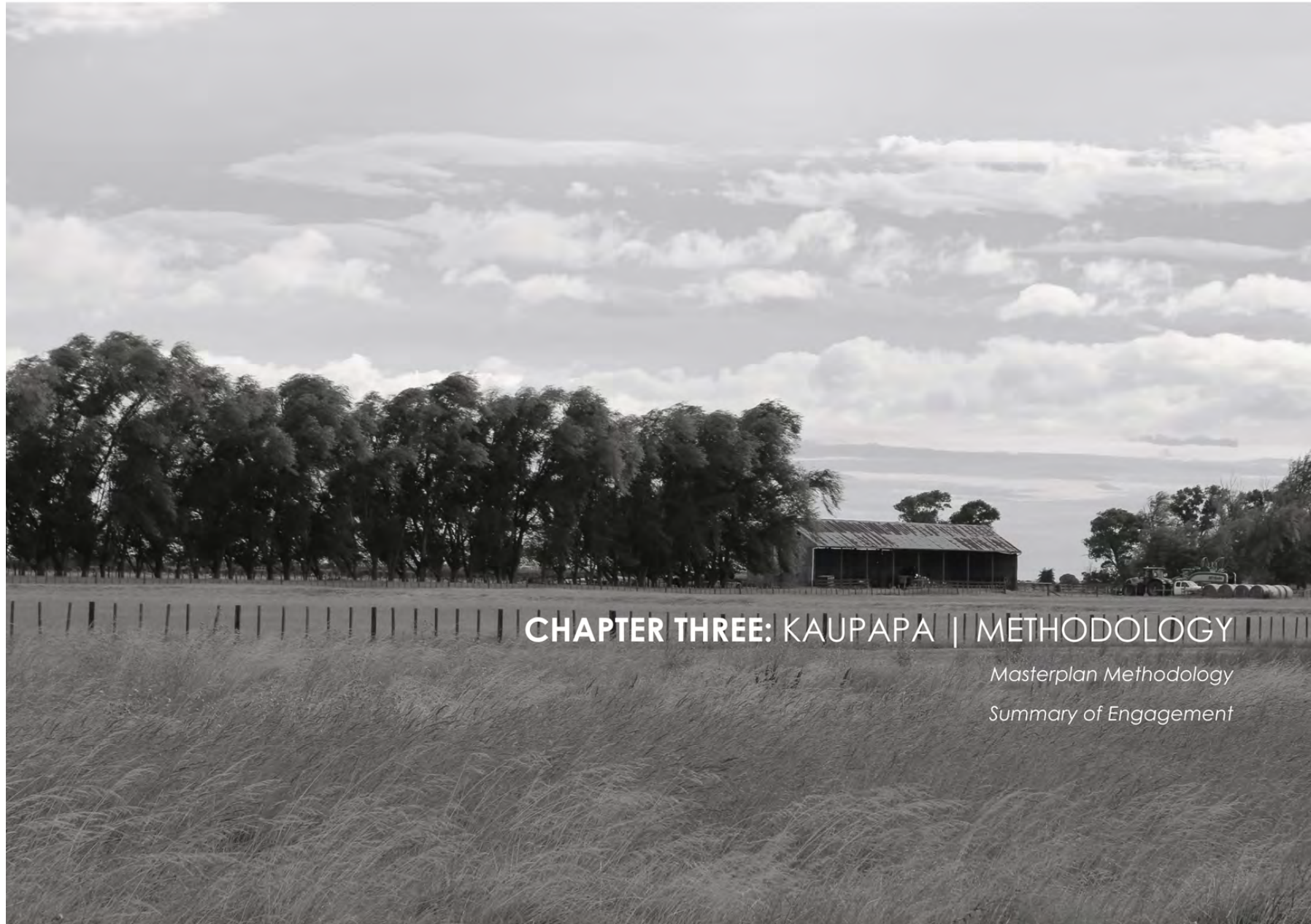
Means the use of land and/or buildings for a range of activities or Māori cultural, community and living purposes, and/or integrated Māori development, including but not limited to one or more of the following activities:

- Powhiri & Kapa haka
- Wānanga
- Customary activities
- Kīngitanga events
- Home occupation activities
- Arts and cultural activities
- Cultural education and research activities
- Rongoā & Māori cultural activities
- Childcare services, kohanga reo or kura (schools), and Faith practices

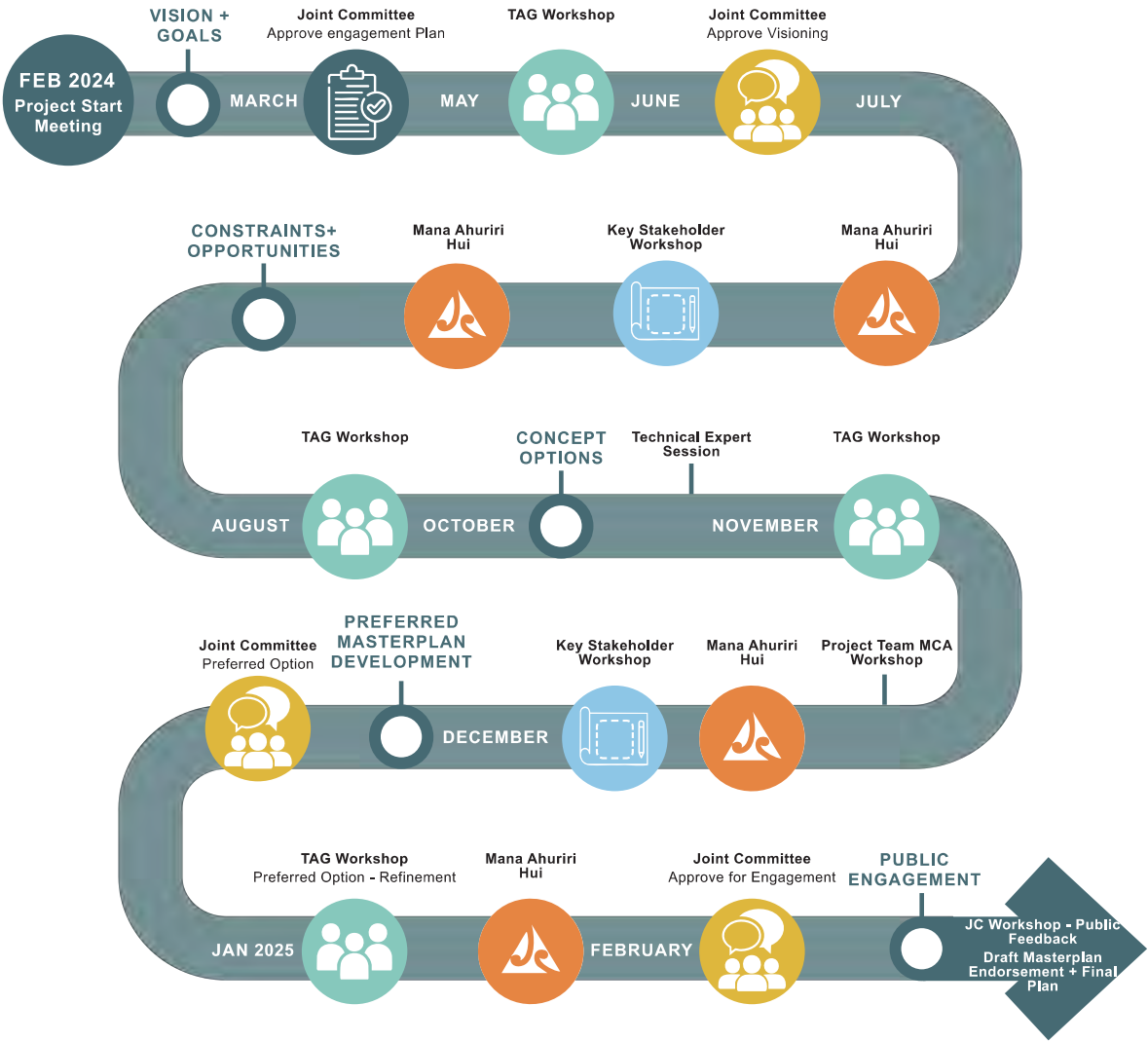
Left: Napier City Proposed District Plan Map - Note orange Airport Noise Boundary Overlay and blue highway designation on east side of site.







Masterplan Methodology



Engagement

The diagram at left outlines the collaborative process used to develop the Ahuriri Regional Park masterplan. A co-design approach was undertaken through a series of wānanga (workshops) involving the Joint Committee, Technical Advisory Group (TAG), design team, and Napier City Council staff at key stages.

Engagement with mana whenua and key stakeholders helped shape the direction of the plan, while a public engagement process was used to test the preferred concept with the wider community.

Discovery & Visioning

This phase focused on understanding the values, aspirations, and challenges identified by project partners, stakeholders, and the community—building a shared vision and stronger relationship with the site.

Optioneering

The design team developed and tested a range of concepts aligned with identified opportunities and constraints. As the process evolved, options were refined in response to new information, including Lagoon Farm wetland engineering inputs, cost estimates, stopbank modifications, and the need to mitigate bird strike risks near the airport. A multi-criteria analysis was used to identify a preferred concept, which was reviewed by the Joint Committee and TAG before being shared for public feedback.

Refinement

Following public feedback, the preferred concept was refined into the proposed masterplan. It outlines a range of sub-projects and priorities, with core projects forming the initial stages of development.

All projects identified in the masterplan will require further design development, technical analysis, and cost estimates before progressing through consenting, council approvals, and eventual construction.

Future Stage 2 and 3 projects are more aspirational and will progress as funding and partnerships allow. Many of the stage 2 and 3 components will require further detailed business case reviews to ensure feasibility and long-term sustainability.

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Public Engagement Period

The design team prepared an engagement package of graphics and information to support the public engagement process that was facilitated by Napier City Council staff.

The Public Engagement period opened on Wednesday 16th of April 2025 and closed on Friday the 9th of May 2025.

Engagement Material

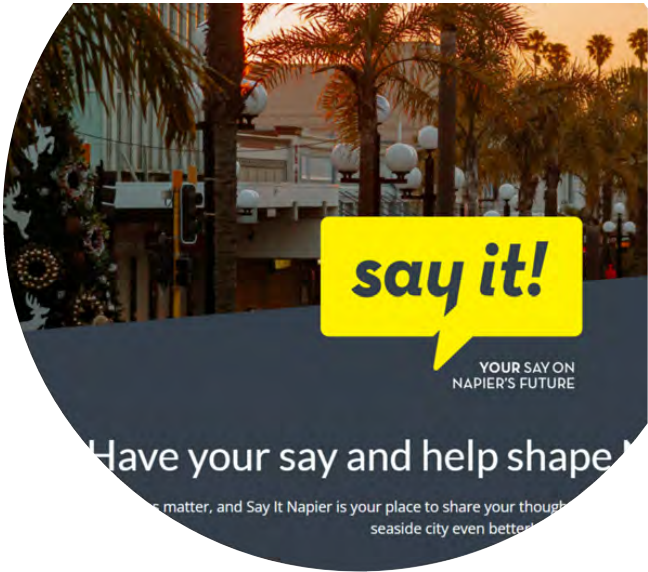
The following collateral was provided for the engagement

- Draft Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan Document
- [Video Footage - Introducing the Project](#)

Engagement Methods

Several methods for public engagement were provided through Napier City Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council. These being:

- [Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan webpage - Napier City Council](#)
- Say It! - Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan - seeking feedback
- Invitation for Written Submissions
- [Facebook Page](#)
- Stall at NCC 'Open House' event (15/04/2025) with 30 Information packs collected.
- Hosting of an Open Day at the site on Saturday 3rd of May 2025 - 10am - 12pm







Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan Summary Engagement

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## CHAPTER FOUR: TE MAHERE TAONGA O TE WHANGA | MASTERPLAN

*Pou Tarāwaho | Framework*

*Ngā Mātāpono | Master Plan Principles (Aspirations)*

*Stage 1 - Core Regional Park Programmes*

*Stage 2 Regional Park Programmes*

*Stage 3 Non-Funded Potential Future Partnership Opportunities*

*Enlargement Plans and Character Images*

*Masterplan Diagrams*



Pou Tarāwaho | Framework



MOEMOEĀ | VISION

MAHINGA KAI (CULTURAL NARRATIVE) - A PLACE OF GATHERING

Ahuriri Hapū have long maintained ahi kā roa in Ahuriri. Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū is a place of great significance to Ahuriri Hapū which is central to their existence and identity and wellbeing (Te Whare Tapa Whā). Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū was a significant mahinga kai resource. From the earliest of times it was highly prized for its enormous food resources and its access to major river systems and forest areas. So greatly was it valued through the generations that songs were sung, poetry composed and dances created in praise of its productiveness. It was the most valuable part of the patrimony.

This oriori by Ngāti Mahu ancestress Te Whatu forms a foundation for the masterplan.

NGĀ UARA | OVERARCHING VALUES

**Mauri** – vitality of all living things  
**Tikanga** – philosophies related to whakapapa  
**Mana** – power of autonomy to protect, define rights, decide and develop  
**Rangatiratanga** – self determination and working together kānohi ki te kānohi for better outcomes  
**Manaakitanga** – respect and care for one another

**Kaitiakitanga** – responsibility fulfilling the roles of guardians and stewardship of te taiao  
**Ahi kā roa** – the longstanding residence of iwi, hapū maintaining tikanga, kawa and mātauranga  
**Mahinga Kai** – traditional economy of transmitting mātauranga through the sharing and gathering of resources  
**Whakapapa** – linking past, present and future; the continuance of mauri and mana  
**Whānaungatanga | Movement of People** – movement of people and relationships to place

NGĀ MĀTĀPONO | GUIDING PRINCIPLES APPROACHES

NGĀ KAI O TE WHANGA - THE BOUNTIFUL FOOD OF TE WHANGA

The pepeha of Tamatea Pōkaiwhenua reflects the rich and plentiful resources (kai) within Te Whanga. These six kaitiaki (guardians) or tohu (symbols) weave together the skies, the seas/waters and the land. This reflects the interconnected relationship between Te Taiao (the natural world) and Tangata Moana Tangata Whenua.

These six kaitiaki/tohu some guiding values interpreting the nature of each to inform the overall masterplan development. Together, they create a holistic and interconnected system.

The six guiding principles reflect:

- **Kāroro** - Adaption, Management and Resilience
- **Pātiki** - Sustainable Communities
- **Pāua** - Connections and Creative Expressions
- **Pūpū** - Cultural Preservation and Knowledge (Mātauranga-a-hapū)
- **Kiōre** - Economy & Trade
- **Aruhe** - Health and Wellbeing

Te oriori o Te Whatu | The lullaby of Te Whatu

*Kia hora te haere ngā taumata i Te Whanga i Te Pōraitī,  
Ko te kāinga tena i pepehatia e o tūpuna,  
Ko rua te paia ko Te Whanga,  
He kāinga to te Ata,  
He kāinga ka Awatea,  
He kāinga ka Ahiahi e tama e.*

*Go quickly to the land that is Te Whanga and Te Pōraitī,  
For that is the land in a proverb of your ancestors,  
Te Whanga is the storhouse that never closed, providing;  
A meal in the morning,  
A meal a noon,  
A meal in the evening my son.*

Te pepeha o Tamatea Pōkaiwhenua | The motto of Tamatea Pōkaiwhenua

*Te Kāroro tangi tararau mai i runga o Tapu Te Ranga.  
Te Pātiki tahanui o Otiere e.  
Te Pāua patoto mai i runga o Tuhinga.  
Te Pūpū tangi mai i runga o Matarohirohi.  
Te Kiōre pakenui o Rimariki  
Te Aruhe maomaonui o Pukekohu*

*The seagulls cry as they hover above Tapu Te Ranga.  
The fat flounders of Otiere.  
The pāua knocking on the rocks at Tahinga.  
The pūpū crying at Matarohirohi.  
The rats jumping at Rimariki.  
The thick-fleshed fern roots of Pukehou.*

Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan | MOEMOEĀ | VISION

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Ngā Mātāpono | Masterplan Principles (Aspirations)



Te Whanga Taurikura  
Environmental Wellbeing

- Importance of 'Wai' – letting water back in and restoring connections to Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (physical and spiritual), reclaiming natural ecosystems (wetlands, freshwater habitat).
- Improving water quality and establishing effective stormwater management practices led from a mātauranga-ā-hapū lens and understanding the wider catchment – ki uta ki tai (mountains to sea).
- Restore indigenous diverse ecosystems (saltmeadows, saltmarsh, raupo reedland, flaxland, wetlands, swamp forest, mānuka-kahikatea forest) recreating habitats for significant indigenous fauna (endangered and common – birds, fish, mammals).
- Enhancement of areas to replace monoculture habitat with a rich diversity of indigenous lowland and aquatic margin habitats.
- Restoring natural resources to sustain life and people – rongōā, rauemi, kai.
- Embedding nature-based solutions and softening the estuarine edge.



Te Whanga Ahuwhenua  
Activation & Cultivation

- Restore mātauranga-ā-hapū (ngā mana whenua) activating traditional practices that we once prevalent within Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū – waka building/voyaging, gathering kai, harvesting materials (pā harakeke – whare pora), construction.
- Celebrating the uniqueness of Ahuriri and Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū as a place with long association with 'Kai' building on the overall ethos of Te Matau-a-Maui (Hawke's Bay) as a food destination.
- Supporting opportunities to establish multifunctional recreational activities for walking, cycling and exploration, enabling a unique regional park for community to connect to nature and their environments. Are there opportunities for commercial activities associated to water – pools, waka voyages.
- Offering opportunities for people to learn and grow knowledge of their environment, water systems and quality, and stormwater management – education centre, cultural hubs.
- Allowing spaces to change and adapt with climate enabling areas for activities to change with climate – detention vs retention.



**Te Whanga Ōhanga**  
Economic Prosperity

- Opportunity to develop a sustainable and localised economy for community attracting visitors. Opportunities:
  - Eco-sanctuary – could the site become an ecosanctuary to support endemic habitats and environments.
  - Cultural Hub – establishing a cultural heart which supports mana whenua, could mana whenua establish their HQ, facilities on this whenua.
  - Eco-tourism/accommodation – close proximity to the airport, is there an opportunity for visitors to stay, eco-pods, marae.
  - Nursery – opportunity to develop a nursery to support community.
  - Art Park – celebrate the local creativity of community through various art mediums and modes – land art, sculptures (temporary/permanent), mahi toi hub (raranga, rongoā).
  - Recreational Activities – retain blow carts, water sports (pools, waka, kayaking, boat tours), horse riding, camping, playgrounds, adventure park, skatepark.
  - Production – food and resources
  - Establishing a whare wānanga focusing on science and technologies (wai and kai), and arts.
- Implementing stormwater infrastructure to manage high intensity rainfall events and flooding, protecting residential areas, and saving millions on potential loss.



**Te Whanga Tangata**  
Healthy Communities

- Enhancing mana whenua identity by celebrating local pūrākau and placemaking/storytelling opportunities – narrative trails, mahi toi (artwork).
- Ensuring community awareness and education of water and how we live, work and interact with it.
- Activating the coastal edge for communities to connect and interact with – an area which has been shut off.
- Ensuring safe and inclusive access for all communities and recognising mana whenua exclusive rights as kaitiaki.
- Creating a place of welcome and manaakitanga (hospitality) – welcoming visitors from afar (the airport and SH2 as the main entrances into Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū.
- Enabling the concept of Te Whare Tapa Whā for our overall health and wellbeing (connection to land, social/cultural, physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions).







Stage 1 - Core Regional Park Programmes



- Toilets
- Wayfinding and Cultural Story telling nodes
- Existing waterway link to wetland south of stop bank maintained
- Existing Blokart Hawke's Bay Facility
- Proposed vehicle access
- Pedestrian/ cycleway

CORE REGIONAL PARK PROGRAMMES

- 1 Ahuriri Regional Park Waharoa | Entrance
- 2 Lagoon Farm Treatment Wetlands (Delivered as separate project)
- 3 Carpark
- 4 Entry plaza and welcoming space
- 5 Plant production nursery for on-site use
- 6 Naturalisation of existing drain channel as part of wetland earthworks
- 7 Manuka/ Kanuka Plantation
- 8 Trail connections to existing cycleway
- 9 Island nodes with Picnic facilities
- 10 South Marsh and estuary viewpoint
- 11 Pump station Waka Landing
- 12 Community Foraging Zone
- 13 Grazing land retained as interim landuse

The core park programmes are prioritised to support the establishment of the Lagoon Farm Wetlands—the first step in addressing water quality challenges in the receiving estuary. The first priority is to create a new entry point off the Ōrotu Drive roundabout, featuring a waharoa (gateway) to mark the entrance to the site. This will improve construction access and serve as the primary public entry to the wider park.

Space for a nursery is allocated - this could be an expansion of the existing council nursery or a partnership with a commercial operator or NGO to supply onsite plant materials.

During the wetland earthworks, the northern section of the receiving drain will be naturalised, with excess cut material used to create mounding south of the wetland. Restoration planting will begin around the wetland area, converting existing pasture into native tree and shrublands less attractive to bird species which pose a risk to airport operations.

A welcoming entry space developed at the Ōrotu Drive access will provide parking, toilets, signage, furniture, shelter, and interpretive and cultural storytelling/wayfinding information. Pedestrian and cycling trails will be built across the site.

Existing farming operations will continue on the remaining land.

Stage 2 Regional Park Programmes



- Legend:**
- Toilets
  - Wayfinding and Cultural Story telling nodes
  - Existing waterway link to wetland south of stop bank maintained
  - Existing Blokart Hawke's Bay Facility
  - Proposed vehicle access
  - Pedestrian/ cycleway
- STAGE 2 REGIONAL PARK PROGRAMMES**
- 1 Ahuriri Regional Park Visitor Hub
  - 2 Regenerating Native Wetland and shrubland
  - 3 Te Wao Nui | Regenerating Forest (staged planting with community groups)
  - 4 Trail connections and network connections
  - 5 Taipō Stream confluence viewpoint and high tide waka and kayak landing
  - 6 Discovery + Learning | Play + Sculptural Park
  - 7 Pa Haraakeke flax collection
  - 8 Flexible use amphitheatre space
  - 9 Redeveloped Woolshed multi-use Community Events Centre
  - 10 Community Foraging Trails
  - 11 Regional Park Eco Camp - organised groups such as schools and scouts

Once the core park programmes are completed, secondary site initiatives can be developed as funding becomes available.

A key component of this next stage is the expansion of the welcome area to include a visitor centre that enhances the overall visitor experience. The scale and form of this facility will be determined through a detailed business case, ranging from a simple shelter with interpretive information to a fully staffed centre with a café and multi-use community spaces.

Revegetation across the wider site will continue in stages. The existing farming operation will be phased out once remaining pasture is no longer viable. The existing woolshed complex is identified for redevelopment into a bookable community facility, with an open amphitheatre space to the north offering scenic views over the wetlands.

A site-wide trail network is also planned, along with an eco-camping facility on the western side of the site. This area is intended for organised groups such as schools, scouts, and other community organisations, and would likely be managed by a private operator.

Supplementary furniture, play and learning nodes sculpture and art would be progressively installed over time, as funding allows.



Stage 3 Non-funded Potential Future Partnership Opportunities



- Toilets
  - Wayfinding and Cultural Story telling nodes
  - Existing waterway link to wetland south of stop bank maintained
  - Existing Blokart Hawke's Bay Facility
  - Proposed vehicle access
  - Pedestrian/ cycleway
  - Predator proof fence
  - Predator proof fence gateway
- NON FUNDED POTENTIAL FUTURE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
(Developed with public + private partnerships and NGOs)
- A Expansion to Plant nursery for commercial, retail & educational capacity
  - B Expansion area for active recreational activities
  - C Development of complementary commercial use area
  - D Whare Wānanga | House of learning multi-use facility with accommodation. Focused on education around healing, restoration and renewal of te taiao | natural world
  - E Eco-Sanctuary Main Entrance
  - F Predator Proof Fence (indicative potential alignment only)
  - G Freshwater research and demonstration ponds (e.g. tuna | eel, kōura | freshwater crayfish)
  - H Salt water research and demonstration ponds (e.g. Papaka | Crab, Patiki | Flounder, Pūrimu | Cockles)
  - I Whare Wānanga | Learning & Research Hub
  - J Te Whanganui-ā-Orotu Landmark Gateway Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge.

Stage 3 initiatives are aspirational elements intended to enhance the park's wider function and amenity. These projects are not intended to be funded by ratepayers and will rely on external funding sources such as central government, commercial partnerships, or support from NGOs.

Whilst the masterplan allocates space for these potential developments, it remains flexible—able to adapt if only some or none of the initiatives prove viable. Alternative uses or facilities may be proposed in future as opportunities arise.

Any built structures within flood-prone areas must be designed to withstand flooding and challenging ground conditions. These developments are envisioned to showcase regenerative architecture, incorporating sustainable materials and self-sufficient energy and water systems.

Potential commercial development along the park's southern boundary is intended to complement the overall vision. Possible uses include businesses focused on native mahinga kai processing (food, fibre, and medicine), cultural and eco-tourism, or environmental services.



**VIEWPOINT A - TAIPŌ STREAM**

A lookout structure, nestled within regenerating native forest, provides elevated views over the existing stopbank and across Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. Internally, it offers sightlines over the replanted forest and wetland areas to the east. The existing bike and walking trail connects to an informal access point leading to the water's edge, featuring seating, cultural and interpretive signage, and sculptural elements that celebrate the site's natural and cultural heritage.



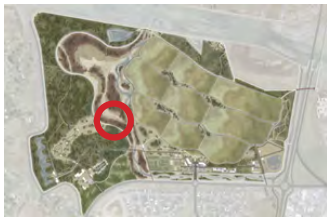




**VIEWPOINT B - PUMP STATION**

The existing pump station building is retained, with an adjacent viewpoint and informal landing providing access to the water's edge. Seating, along with wayfinding and interpretive signage, encourages visitors to pause and enjoy the dynamic, ever-changing views across the estuary. During higher tides, there is also an opportunity for canoe or waka to travel up the estuary and access these landing points. This will be key node for trail access back into the regional park.





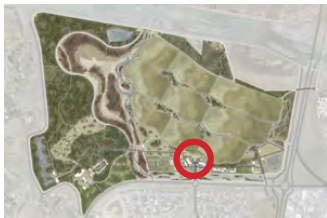
**VIEWPOINT C - NATURALISATION OF THE EXISTING LONG DRAIN**

Building on the cleaner water flowing from the treatment wetland, the existing farm drain is recontoured to create a more natural stream profile and planted with native wetland and riparian species of trees and shrubs. While open water areas will be limited to minimise attraction of waterfowl, carefully designed overflow points and small pools will provide opportunities for visitor interaction, play, and education about wetland ecosystems.

The alignment of the wetland and channel is designed to work around the existing powerline corridor. The pathways will provide a north-south connection across the site.







VIEWPOINT D - VISITOR CENTRE

This image illustrates a potential long-term opportunity to develop a visitor centre at the Orotu Drive entry. The centre could include a range of built forms to accommodate multiple uses—such as office and administration spaces, exhibition areas, a café, and educational facilities.

Parking is located to the south, with stormwater runoff managed through vegetated swales. An expanded nursery operation could supply plant material for both the regional park and other restoration projects across the wider region.

This nursery could serve both retail and wholesale markets, with opportunities for training, community enterprise, local iwi and other NGO involvement.

The development is anchored by a welcoming entry space that frames views across the treatment wetland and features a landmark sculptural pou element. Mown grass areas would be strictly limited to minimise attractants for waterfowl and associated risks to airport operations.







VIEWPOINT E - TREATMENT WETLANDS

This view captures one of the mounded 'islands' within the central treatment wetlands. Maintenance access tracks along the wetland edges double as pedestrian and cycle paths, encouraging active exploration of the site. Boardwalk structures span the spreader sills between wetland cells, allowing safe public access through the treatment area.

Massed wetland vegetation is complemented by diverse shrub and tree plantings on the islands, creating sheltered spaces for picnics and large sculptural features that invite visitors to engage

with the landscape as they move through this expansive environment.





placeholder

Park Entry Zone Enlargement



CORE REGIONAL PARK PROGRAMMES

- 1 Ahuriri Regional Park Waharoa | Entrance
- 2 Carpark
- 3 Entry plaza and welcoming space
- 4 Plant production nursery for on-site use

STAGE 2 PROGRAMMES

- 1 Ahuriri Regional Park Visitor Hub
- 2 Discovery + Learning | Play + Sculptural Park

STAGE 3 OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Expansion to Plant nursery for commercial, retail & educational capacity
- 2 Development of complementary commercial use area
- 3 Eco-Sanctuary Main Entrance
- 4 Development of complementary commercial use area

Entry Zone

The primary access to Ahuriri Regional Park is proposed via a new connection from the existing Orotu Drive roundabout. This new crossing will accommodate vehicle, pedestrian and cycle connections, linking to external trail networks and providing direct access for neighbouring communities to the south.

A key design feature of this entry will be the construction of a landmark bridge element, with detailing to create a formal wāharoa (gateway) that marks the transition into the park and welcomes visitors.

Parking facilities are planned on both the eastern and western sides of the entry point. These will be staged over time, in line with park development and visitor capacity needs. A core intent of the park design is to minimise internal vehicle movement, creating a predominantly traffic-free environment that enhances visitor experience and protects sensitive ecological areas and wildlife habitats.

Flanking the entry, areas have been identified for potential limited commercial or community development in the future. Any development would be staged and subject to further investigation and business case assessment. Opportunities may include partnerships with commercial or community organisations, with the aim of creating revenue streams to support ongoing investment in the park.

Any such development would be required to align with and support the broader goals of the park, ensuring compatibility with its ecological, cultural, and recreational values.

Character Images

Ahuriri Regional Park Waharoa| Entrance

The primary site entry is off the existing Prebensen/Orotu Drive roundabout across the Prebenson Drive Reserve channel. This is envisioned as a landmark bridge or culvert crossing with a strong axial viewshaft into the proposed Lagoon Farm treatment wetlands to form the primary waharoa / entry to the park. The entry is flanked by stormwater filtration swales that will collect and cleanse surface runoff from hardstand areas before it enters the Prebenson Reserve Channel. Design elements on the sides of the bridge.

Ahuriri Regional Park Visitor Hub

The Regional Park Visitor Hub is orientated around central landmark Pou and plaza space facing an interactive wetland play zone.

The buildings wrapping around the open space area could be phased initially as a simple shelter with static information and signage. In the long term this can be replaced or complemented with a purpose designed visitor education & discovery centre that provides a range of spaces space for displays and exhibits telling the cultural and natural histories of the park and wider Te whanganui a orotū landscape.

Complementing this could be a cafe, gift shop and multi-use community spaces. A second building to the east would accommodate other compatible uses such as museum or tertiary education outreach space, research, consulting, tourist and visitor services. Supporting this will be seating, picnic tables and shelters. The proposed location is on the higher part of the site than therefore more resilient to current and future flood risks.



PAPAMOHA HILLS CULTURAL HERITAGE PARK, TAURANGA



PUNAKAIKI VISITOR CENTRE, PUNAKAIKI



POU AIO-NUKU AIO-RANGI, TAUPŌ



TE KURA WHARE | TE URU TAUMATUA, TĀNEATUA



TE KAARORO NATURE PRECINCT, HAMILTON



POUWHENUA, PAKOWHAI



Landmark Poi & Interactive Wetland

The landmark poi is sited on the shore of an interactive wetland play area. While this is visually connected the lagoon farm treatment wetlands, is proposed to be hydraulically separate to allow this to be managed for learning and interactive play for visitors to explore, an outdoor classroom. The poi sculptural element sits on the main entry axis and will provide a visual beacon to draw visitors into the site navigate through the wider landscape. It would serve as a key cultural narrative statement opportunity.

Discovery + Learning | Play + Sculptural Park

To the east of the visitor hub excess materials from the wetland construction would be sculpted into a series of mound to form 'island' formations with clusters of trees for shade and biodiversity values set amongst a native shrubland and periodically mown meadow areas. Set within this will be pathways linking several nature-play zones potentially incorporating Maori play activities. Additional sites for sculptural art are available in this zone and could form the nucleus for a park wide sculptural trail.

Plant Nursery

Part of the commercial opportunities identified is a Native Plant Nursery, in the first stage this would be aimed at supplying onsite planting needs. This maybe an iwi or community managed operation or could be leased back to an existing operation. As a second stage it is suggested that this could be expanded to supply wholesale and retail markets with potential of research and training opportunities. This could include an agri-solar component where plant production is undertaken amongst and under solar panel arrays.



South-western Zone Enlargement



CORE REGIONAL PARK PROGRAMMES

The Western side of the site featured in the plan to the left will remain as grazed land prior to stage 2 and 3 being developed.

STAGE 2 PROGRAMMES

- 1 Te Wao Nui | Regenerating Forest (staged planting with community groups)
- 2 Trail connections and network connections
- 3 Pa Harakeke flax collection
- 4 Regional Park Eco Camp - organised groups such as schools and scouts

STAGE 3 OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Whare Wānanga | House of learning multi-use facility with accommodation. Focused on education around healing, restoration and renewal of te taiao | natural world
- 2 Predator Proof Fence (indicative potential alignment only)
- 3 Freshwater research and demonstration ponds (e.g. tuna | eel, kōura | freshwater crayfish)
- 4 Whare Wānanga | Learning & Research Hub

South West Zone

This part of the site is relatively sheltered—set back from main airport flight paths and nestled alongside the Taipō Stream—making it well-suited to quieter, more passive uses.

Initial works, following the retirement of grazing, will focus on restoration planting, preserving flexibility for future Stage 2 development and other potential programmes. Due to the low-lying nature of the land, any future development will require careful design to ensure resilience to flooding and climate impacts.

Character Images

Pā Harakeke | Flax Collection

Boardering Prebenson Road to the west of the park is a large area is identified for a future collection of Harekeke | Flax that can be utilised for traditional weaving arts. This would be structured with access trails and, where appropriate, interpretation information. A biodiverse arrangement of shrubs interplanted with areas of harekeke will be utilised to increase ecological value and reduce attraction of large flocks of starlings that are identified as a risk species for the airport operations.

Whare Wānanga | Learning & Research Hub

Co-located with the Pa Harakeke, the Whare Wānanga facility is positioned in the south-west corner of the site fronting the Prebenson Drive frontage. A new vehicle entry connects to a parking area and multiuse buildings. Program opportunities include a school of weaving based on use of traditional fibres such as harakeke and tī kōuka harvested onsite. This could be a flexible space that can accommodate a variety of other cultural education and tourism activities such as whakairo | carving, and mahinga kai tours.

Though a joint venture with crown, university or private institute, the hub can focus on the science underpinning restoration of these low-lying coastal landscapes, carbon sequestration, biodiversity credits and opportunities for fresh and brackish to saltwater aquaculture.



As an extension to the Whare Wānanga a short stay accommodation facility is illustrated set into the regenerating forest as an alternative option to the more basic eco-camp to the north. This could offering wellness related activities that complement the Wānanga learning programmes. A series of well-designed cabin units are arranged around a central water feature that could be designed as a natural swimming pool. Spaces are provided for practice of traditional rongoā including gathering and use of medicinal plants and other resources from within the park.



Regional Park Eco Camp Village

Offering a unique experience of staying in a wilderness on the doorstep to the City the Camping & Eco Village Accommodation offers short term stays in cabins or glamping style tents, catering to organised school and community groups such as scouts. This is modelled on similar facilities within in other regional parks around the country and is intended to offer the opportunity to be immersed in learning and experiences around regeneration of the native ecosystems, matauranga māori, mahinga kai practice and potentially participate in restoration activities. This would be particularly special should a wildlife sanctuary be established this will allow guests to experience staying amongst a variety of native birds, lizards and invertebrates.



North-western Zone Enlargement



CORE REGIONAL PARK PROGRAMMES

The Western side of the site featured in the plan to the left will remain as grazed land prior to stage 2 and 3 being developed.

- 1 Naturalisation of existing drain channel as part of wetland earthworks

STAGE 2 PROGRAMMES

- 1 Regenerating Native Wetland and shrubland
- 2 Te Wao Nui | Regenerating Forest (staged planting with community groups)
- 3 Trail connections and network connections
- 4 Taipō confluence viewpoint and high tide waka and kayak landing

STAGE 3 OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Predator Proof Fence (indicative potential alignment only)
- 2 Salt water research and demonstration ponds (e.g. Papaka | Crab, Patiki | Flounder, Pūrimu | Cockles)

North West Zone

As the lowest and most flood-prone part of the site, this zone is proposed for restoration with native forest, shrub, and wetland plant communities that can withstand periodic inundation. Planting could be staged and delivered in collaboration with community groups and volunteers.

Wetland construction will include regrading the existing Long Drain into a more naturalised channel. Excess earth from this work can be used to create gentle mounding, adding topographic variation and enhancing habitat diversity.



Character Images

Te Reporepo | Regenerating Native Wetland

Working with the existing slow lying topography in the north-western corner of the site, an expansive wetland plain is proposed to be created through shallow regrading of the existing drains and surfaces. This will be supported by the additional water from the treatment wetlands and periodic inundation when large flows pass through the site via the Prebenson Channel. Open water will be minimised, and dense plantings of reeds, flax, shrubs and trees are proposed to reduce habitat attractiveness for waterfowl and wading birds that pose the most risk for airport operations.



Te Wao Nui | Regenerating Forest

The ambition is to support development of Kahikatea / Pukatea Forest that can tolerate occasional flooding and support ongoing mahingakai activities including Tōtara for long term use for whakaaro [carving & waka, and plants for rongoā. The planting strategy will need to be adapted to suit the existing soils and groundwater conditions and allow room for future evolution and adaption as these change due to factors such as sea level rise. The final species composition and succession sequence to enable transition from the current pastoral landuse will be developed in consultation with experts from local mana whenua, and ecological restoration groups.



Saltwater Research and Demonstration Ponds

Given the proximity to the estuary channel, there is potential to establish saline pools to support research and demonstration ponds for cultivating key species such as papaka (crab), pātiki (flounder), and pūrimū (cockles), either for harvest or reseedling into the wider estuary. This could potentially be incorporated in the predator proof zone should a fenced sanctuary be established. This initiative would require partnership with a research organisation and/or tourism operator and must be carefully managed to avoid attracting high-risk bird species that could impact airport operations.

Complementary Recreational Activities

As the park facilities are established complementary businesses such as bike rental and waka tours could be accommodated on a seasonal or full time basis depending on demand. Informally the park will offer a wide range of recreational opportunities including running, cycling, walking, bird watching, learning and play.

Wetland Trail & Eastern Boundary





Character Images

Mānuka Plantation

On the northern boundary of the treatment wetlands a large area of manuka dominated planting is proposed to provide a low hardy vegetation cover for this part of the site with low bird attractiveness and opportunity for harvest of oils and honey. It will be interspersed with bands of herbaceous low flammability planting for added biodiversity value and fire risk mitigation.

Lagoon Farm Treatment Wetlands

Currently being designed as part of a separate workstream, the masterplan has been shaped around the engineering requirements to site the proposed Lagoon Farm treatment wetlands on the highest part of the site to allow gravity fed flow through the wetlands. The system will receive water pumped from the Pūrimu channel on the eastern boundary that will flow through a series of up to six flow channels though densely planted wetlands. Urban pollutants and excess pollutants will be captured before the cleansed water overflows from the western end of the wetland cells into the wider drainage system that is picked up by Lagoon Farm pump station and discharged to the estuary. An access road will surround the wetland cells offer access for pedestrian and cyclists. The proposed planting patterns use contrasting foliage to form bold patterns within the wetlands that reference the forms of sandbanks and channels captured in historic maps of the former lagoon. The final shape and form of the wetlands may vary from that depicted in the masterplan so it will be essential to allow for a degree of flexibility in the masterplan implementation to adapt to this.



Flexible Amphitheatre Open Space

To the east of the Visitor Hub a grassed amphitheatre area is proposed adjacent to the existing Lagoon Farm Woolshed complex that can host a variety of concert, festival and market events. Existing and supplementary trees will screen and shelter this area from the east and south while allowing for views out over the treatment wetlands to the Poraiti Hills. Turf areas may require treatment with bird deterrent inoculants to reduce the attractiveness to waterfowl and other species that present a higher risk to airport operations.

Woolshed Multiuse Community Events Hub & Restaurant

A renovated and re-purposed woolshed building provides opportunity for a multi-use community events centre that will complement the amphitheatre space. This could include opportunity for a hosting seasonal market celebrations food and materials grown in adjacent gardens and gathered from the wider park space and the greater region.

Forage Garden & Trails

Along the eastern boundary of the park the area between the Purimū and Treatment Wetlands provide a productive landuse opportunity with plantings of fruit, nut and other food producing plant species. More intensive areas of urban agriculture could be provided within this zone as lease opportunities for small scale urban farmers supporting local markets, stalls or vegetable box subscriptions. This area will accommodate public trails and visual interest for viewers passing along the highway corridor. As this lies within a NZTA designation long term restoration or wetland treatment infrastructure have not been proposed in this area.



Masterplan Diagrams

Programming



- Regenerating Forest, wetland & shrubland (175 Ha)
- Nurseries (14.5 Ha)
- Cultivation and Production (30 Ha)
- Eco-camp and Village (8 Ha)
- Arts, Research and Wellbeing Precinct (4 Ha)
- Adventure Recreation Precinct - Existing Blokart course
- Treatment Wetlands (85 Ha)
- Entrance hub Facilities (1 Ha)
- Complementary Commercial Hub (1.5 Ha)

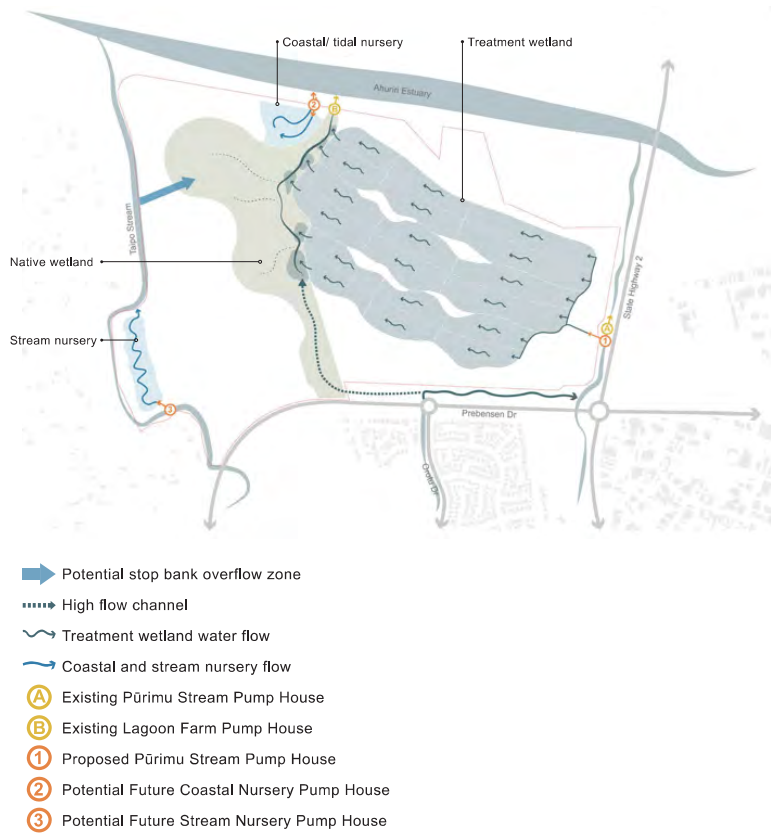
Ecotones



- Regenerating native coastal Forest (53 Ha)
- Native shrubland medium (8 Ha)
- Native shrubland low (4 Ha)
- Native wetland (43 Ha)
- Treatment wetland (85 Ha)
- Coastal Tidal Nursery - Patiki & Pakaka (4.5 Ha)
- Stream Nursery - Tuna & Eel (4 Ha)
- Harakeke plantation (9 Ha)
- Kanuka/ Manuka Plantation (11 Ha)
- Community and Cultural use areas ( 75 Ha)
- Fenced sanctuary (250 Ha)

Masterplan Diagrams

Water flow/ distribution



Way finding and public art strategy



Masterplan Diagrams

Access and circulation



- Cycleways/ pedestrian (approx 8km)
- Pedestrian pathways (approx 8km)
- Vehicle access (approx 2.5km)
- - Shared access - Vehicle and cycle/ walk (approx 2.2 km)

Wider context cycleway connections

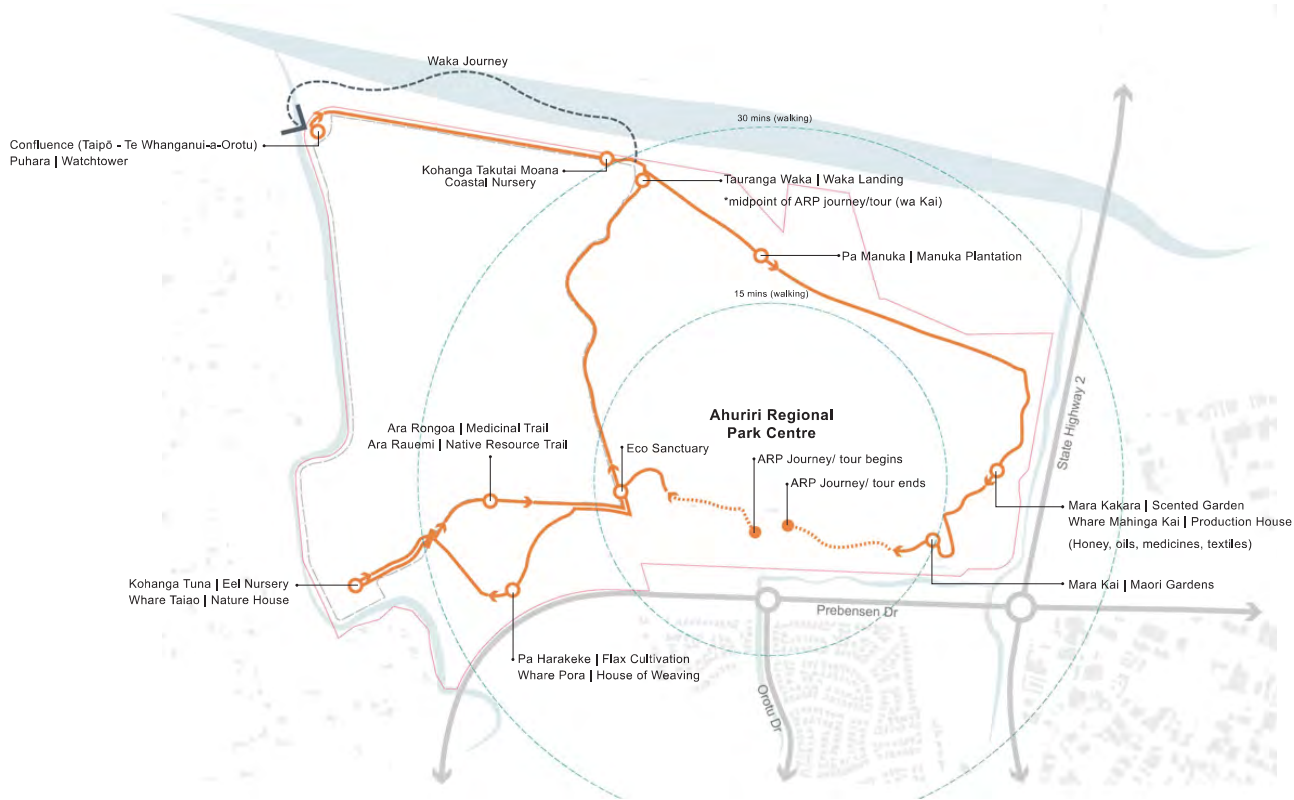


- Ahuriri Regional Park is connected by a network of trails that link to Napier's town, beaches and suburbs.
- Existing cycleways
  - ..... Potential future connections
  - Major roads



Masterplan Diagrams

Ahuriri regional park day tour/ journey







## APITIHANGA | APPENDICES

*Option Studies*

*Program Staging*

*Engagement Summaries*

Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan | Masterplan Diagrams  
60

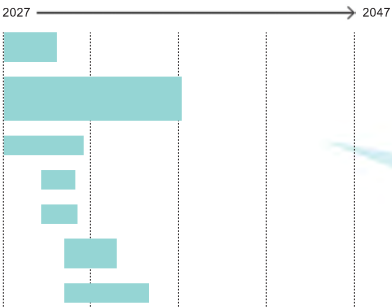
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MASTERPLAN STAGING

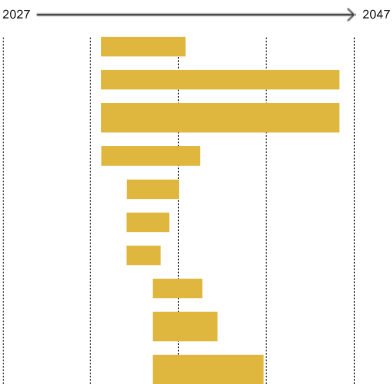
CORE REGIONAL PARK PROGRAMMES

- (a) Ahuriri Regional Park Waharoa | Entrance
- (b) Lagoon Farm Treatment Wetlands and earthworks for naturalisation of existing drain channel
- (c) Plant Nursery for on-site use
- (d) Manuka and Plantation
- (e) Creation of Island nodes
- (f) South Marsh & Pump station Waka Landing and Viewpoints
- (g) Community Foraging Zone and Trails



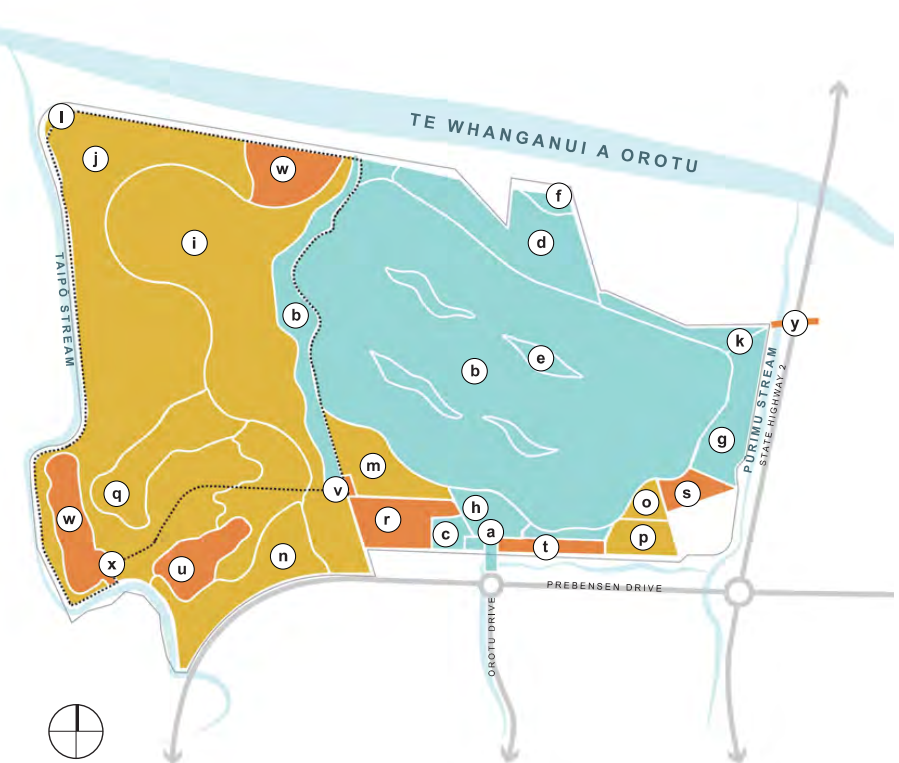
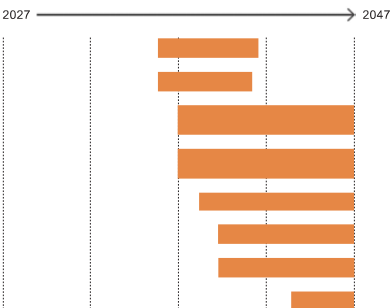
STAGE 2 PROGRAMMES

- (h) Ahuriri Regional Park Visitor Hub
- (i) Regenerating Native Wetland
- (j) Te Wao Nui | Regenerating Forest and Shrubland
- (k) Trails and Cycleways
- (l) Taipō Viewpoint and Waka/ Kayak landing
- (m) Discovery/ Learning Sculptural Park
- (n) Pa Harakeke flax collection
- (o) Flexible use Amphitheatre Space
- (p) Woolshed Multi-use Community Events Centre
- (q) Regional Park Eco Camp - short stay guests



STAGE 3 POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- (r) Expansion to Plant Nursery
- (s) Expansion of Recreational Area
- (t) Complementary Commercial-use Development
- (u) Whare Wānanga| House of Learning multi-use facility
- (v) Predator Proof Fence/ Eco-Sanctuary Hub
- (w) Fresh and Saltwater Research Ponds
- (x) Learning & Research Hub
- (y) Te Whanganui-a-Orotu Landmark Bridge



MASTERPLAN PROGRAM AND OUTCOMES



Key

- Core Regional Park Programmes
- Stage 2 Regional Park Programmes
- Stage 3 - Non funded potential Future partnership opportunities

- Te Whanga Taurikura  
Environmental Wellbeing
- Te Whanga Ahuwhenua  
Activation & Cultivation
- Te Whanga Ōhanga  
Economic Prosperity
- Te Whanga Tangata  
Healthy Communities
- Resilient Water Infrastructure

Core Regional Park Programmes

KEY	PROGRAM	AREA/UNIT	PROJECT PRINCIPLES
a	Ahuriri Regional Park Waharoa   Entrance	0,5 Ha	
b	Lagoon Farm Treatment Wetlands and earthworks for naturalisation of existing drain channel	85 Ha	
c	Plant Nursery for on-site use	3,5 Ha	
d	Manuka and Plantation	20 Ha	
e	Creation of Island nodes	2 Ha	
f	South Marsh & Pump station Waka Landing and Viewpoints	0,6 Ha	
g	Community Foraging Zone and Trails	5 Ha	

Stage 2 Regional Park Programmes

KEY	PROGRAM	AREA/UNIT	PROJECT PRINCIPLES
h	Ahuriri Regional Park Visitor Hub Area	2,5 Ha	
i	Regenerating Native Wetland	43 Ha	
j	Te Wao Nui   Regenerating Forest and Shrubland	64 Ha	
k	Trails and Cycleways	10 675 Lm	
l	Taipō Viewpoint and Waka/ Kayak landing	0,1 Ha	
m	Discovery/ Learning Sculptural Park	5,5 Ha	
n	Pa Harakeke flax collection	3,5 Ha	
o	Flexible use Amphitheatre Space	0,7 Ha	
p	Woolshed Multi-use Community Events Centre	2 Ha	
q	Regional Park Eco Camp - short stay guests	8 Ha	

Stage 3 Potential opportunities

KEY	PROGRAM	AREA/UNIT	PROJECT PRINCIPLES
r	Expansion to Plant Nursery	2 Ha	
s	Expansion of Recreational Area	1,5 Ha	
t	Complementary Commercial-use Development	1,6 Ha	
u	Whare Wānanga  House of Learning multi-use facility	1,7 Ha	
v	Predator Proof Fence/ Eco-Sanctuary Hub (110 Ha)	5000 Lm	
w	Fresh and Saltwater Research Ponds	8,4 Ha	
x	Learning & Research Hub	0,4 Ha	
y	Te Whanganui-a-Orotu Landmark Bridge	x1	

Ngā Aheinga | Optioneering



OPTION 1: RECREATIONAL FOCUS

Option 1 provides for a larger proportion of recreational activity and areas allocated towards development of facilities including a visitor hub, education, and cultural hubs. An area for complementary commercial activity is included along with allowance for a larger recreation area that could be used for a variety of future active and passive sports activities. The west part of the site is within the flood hazard zone so any development or built elements in this area will need to be adaptable and resilient to this environment. Human activity is focused on the southern part of the site with the northern part of the site offering a more natural environment.

This option has been the least preferred when reviewed with the TAG and Key stakeholder groups. Concerns were raised about the level of development and related costs compromising the nature first priority of the project.



OPTION 2: INTERWOVEN LANDSCAPE

This option provides a more balanced approach with programmes and development opportunities still generally located on the southern portion of the site but more dispersed and at a smaller scale set within larger restoration areas. The recreational open space zone is replaced with larger areas of coastal forest and shrubland. Several island forms are dispersed through the site will reuse excess cut material from the wetland construction and provide a sequence of vantage points through the site echoing the landforms in the wider coastal landscape.

This option had more support amongst the Key Stakeholder Group as this seems to have the best balance of recreation and nature priorities with opportunity for some economic return. This is also most consistent with the four pou identified in the design masterplan framework



OPTION 3: NATURE FIRST

Option 3 explores consolidation of the majority of the proposed development programmes to a more compact zone around the proposed entry off Prebenson Drive. This option illustrates the Tonkin Taylor option 2 wetland that has a smaller footprint with reduced treatment capacity. Should the larger option 1 wetland (as shown in the masterplan option 1 and 2) be selected this would reduce the area available for the proposed developed projects by about 50%.

A key element of this concept is the provision for an 8km long predator proof fence enclosing 234 Ha of the site to create a mainland island that could support a diverse range of native wildlife on the doorstep to Napier. For reference the Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne sanctuary in Wellington is 225Ha with an 8.6km long predator fence. Within the fenced area smaller scale eco-camp/cultural hub is located on the western boundary of the Taipō. This Hub will provide opportunity for a wilderness experience on the doorstep of the City where visitors can be immersed in an expansive, regenerating mosaic of native forest, shrubland and wetlands. The Hub and could accommodate school, community, and possibly eco/cultural tourism groups.




Ngā Aheinga | Optioneering

PREFERRED OPTION: REVISED OPTION 2



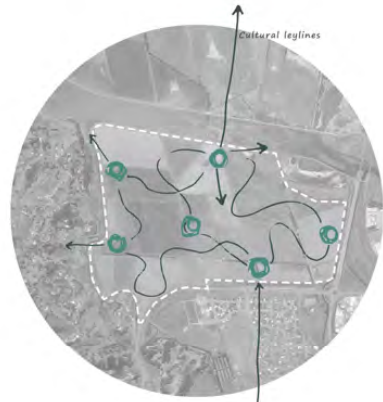
Tātari Whenua: Analysis

Initial Option Explorations




**BRINGING ESTUARY IN**

Testing whether the stopbanks could retreat inland to provide more room for the estuary. This was put aside due to significant cost of relocating stopbanks that are currently in good condition and potential to increase bird strike risk for the airport.



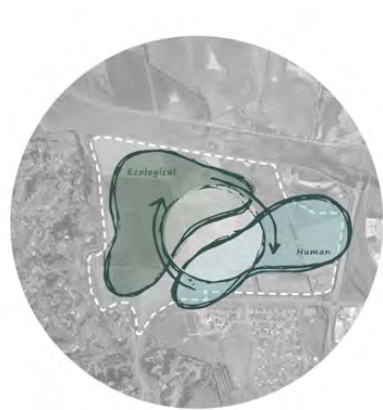
**CULTURAL JOURNEY MAPPING**

Given the huge scale of the site there are opportunities to create a cultural journey that showcase different ecosystems and associated significance for Mana Ahuriri Hapū both historically and into the future.



**REDEFINING STOPBANK EDGES**

This tested whether there was opportunity to increase the diversity of the stopbank edges to create enhanced habitats and visual interest. Engineering review highlighted cost to modify stop banks as prohibitive and the structural integrity is reliant on a smooth consistent estuary side surface to reduce erosion potential



**ECOLOGICAL + HUMAN INTERACTION**

A key consideration was how to balance areas of human activity with providing habitat of undisturbed habitat for sensitive species such as Bitten birds. While the arrangement of this has been modified by the final proposed wetland layouts, this thinking has been carried through into the draft masterplan.

# AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE Open Minutes

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Meeting Date: Monday 17 February 2025

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Time: 9.30am – 11.15am

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Venue Large Exhibition Hall  
War Memorial Centre  
Marine Parade  
Napier

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Present: **Chair:** Deputy Mayor Brosnan (NCC)  
Councillor Price (NCC)  
Councillor Ormsby (HBRC)  
Councillor Williams (HBRC)  
Peter Eden (MAT)  
Joseph Reti (Deputy Chair) (MAT)

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In Attendance: **Napier City Council**

- Executive Director City Strategies (Rachael Bailey)
- Strategic Planning Lead (Connie Mills)
- Manager Water Strategy (Phil Kelsen)
- Project Manager (Antony Rewcastle)
- Councillor Browne (alternate) [via Zoom]

**Hawke's Bay Regional Council:**

- Regional Park Planner (Bart Leslie)
- Team Leader Asset Planner (Johan Kirsten) [via Zoom]

**Mana Ahuiriri Trust:**

- Environmental Manager (Gareth Boyt)
- Chief Executive (Parris Greening)

**Consultants:**

- Cameron Drury (Stradegy)
- William Hatton (Boffa Miskell) [via Zoom]
- Greig Wilson (Beca) [via Zoom]
- Gabe Ross (Boffa Miskell) [via Zoom]
- Rebecca Ryder (Boffa Miskell) [via Zoom]

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Administration Governance Advisor (Carolyn Hunt)

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# AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK JOINT COMMITTEE – Open Minutes

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# ORDER OF BUSINESS

## Karakia

Mr Reti gave the opening karakia for the meeting.

## Apologies

Councillor Price / Councillor Ormsby

That the apology for absence from Evelyn Ratima (MAT) be accepted.

Carried

*Councillor Tareha was not present at the meeting.*

## Conflicts of interest

N/A

## Public forum

Nil

## Announcements by the Chairperson

Nil

## Announcements by the management

Nil

## Confirmation of minutes

Joseph Reti / Councillor Ormsby

That the Minutes of the Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee meeting held on 9 December 2024 were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

# AGENDA ITEMS

## 1. AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK - PROJECT MANAGER'S UPDATE

Type of Report:	Information
Legal Reference:	N/A
Document ID:	1829161
Reporting Officer/s & Unit:	Connie Mills, Strategic Planning Lead

### 1.1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a Project Managers update.

### At the meeting

The Project Manager, Mr Drury spoke to the report providing a summary and overview of the progress made over the period December 2024 to January 2025.

He noted that the risk area remained unchanged with the issue of birdstrike at the Hawke's Bay Airport remaining the primary risk. A meeting is to be held with the avifauna specialist on the project this week with the vision to provide a project status update to the Airport's Board in the coming month

The Strategic Planning Lead, Ms Mills advised that rescheduling the second wānanga with Mana Ahuriri Trust (MAT) had not occurred and it was intended that what the Committee endorsed at this meeting would be circulated to MAT for feedback prior to any public feedback.

It was noted that as the project was a collaboration with Napier City Council (NCC), Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and MAT, all design aspects were from the results of working together. Briefing the MAT Board to get their feedback and encouraging whanau to go along to the open day on site, walk the land, and see the vision, would assist in getting the message out.

### In response to questions the following was clarified:

- The Taiapo Stream had not been included in the draft masterplan as it is not within the scope of the Lagoon Farm Stormwater Diversion Project which is the stormwater treatment design to this Park (being delivered through wetlands).
- The Taiapo Stream has not been included in the project as it does not form part of the jointly held resource consent for stormwater discharge, there are hydraulic limitations, and the volume of water through the Taiapo Stream is far larger than the combined other urban stormwater drains.
- Achieving the existing jointly held stormwater discharge consent is being investigated as the design progresses.



- The Technical Advisory Group team are not involved in the Lagoon Farm Diversion Project, instead received this project's outputs.
- Mr Kelsen advised that strategic catch-ups with HBRC is held six weekly in regard to all stormwater issues across Napier. Any new information could be included in a routine agenda item.
- During an emergency event, wastewater that has been directed into the urban stormwater network through the drains incorporated into the Lagoon Farm Stormwater Diversion Project will go through treatment in the wetlands, if capacity is available. The specific volume of the wetlands is to be determined as part of the Lagoon Farm Stormwater Diversion Project, early investigations consider that the "first flush" of stormwater during a severe weather event will be treated through the wetlands.

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Peter Eden / Councillor Ormsby

The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:

- a) **Receive** the report titled "Ahuriri Regional Park - Project Manager's Update" dated 17 February 2025.

**ACTION:** *Officers to provide a report in relation to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the following:*

- *Current workstreams and their progress;*
- *Avifauna and relationship with Hawke's Bay Airport*
- *Stormwater treatment project*
- *Fish passage in the park*
- *Include understanding interaction with NCC's Water Strategy Group to ensure working to the same output.*

Carried

## 2. CONCEPT DESIGN ENDORSEMENT

Type of Report: Procedural

Legal Reference: N/A

Document ID: 1829162

Reporting Officer/s & Unit: Connie Mills, Strategic Planning Lead

### 2.1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks endorsement of the Concept Design of the Ahuriri Regional Park Masterplan for public feedback.

### At the meeting

The Strategic Planning Lead, Ms Mills spoke to the report and displayed a PowerPoint presentation (Doc Id 1832625) on the Master Plan.

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Mr Hatton, Consultant with Boffa Miskell, spoke to the PowerPoint presentation and provided the Committee with a summary of the key elements within the Masterplan Concept Core Park Programmes that are proposed, being stormwater, water quality, mauri (life spark), ecological excellence, natural environment and significant infrastructure.

A framework had been developed on how to work with the Masterplan with the centre of everything being the concept around mahinga kai (traditional value of natural resources including food etc), which has driven a lot of stakeholder meetings, community, TAG and committee workshops. The primary principles are centred around environmental well-being activation, cultivation and economic prosperity and healthy communities.

A map of the park was displayed to show the extent of the park that would be developed over time. Mr Hatton highlighted and spoke to the core programmes and the potential future programmes for the park. This is the plan package that would be informing the community and seeking feedback to “tell us what you think” and picking up any potential changes that may result. The full design of the whole process will be reported back to the Committee after community feedback.

**In response to questions on the Masterplan the following was clarified:**

- The wetland facility is a treatment facility before water enters the Estuary and at the current level of information is not showing any notable benefits for retention. There will be some natural retention in the north western area of the park that will operate like a “sponge” as it currently does.
- Feedback following the site visit with elected members and workshop has been incorporated into this version of the plan.
- Key changes have been prioritisation of work around the core function of the park and some potential future workstreams that may require partnerships with other organisations.
- In regard to Item 6, preparation for plantings in the nursery could be commenced earlier rather than later, noting that indigenous plants would be used.
- On the layout of the park any built form in the north western area had been avoided to enable worst case scenario in heavy rainfall events to enable this space to operate as a “sponge”. However, consideration is given to what is released into the park to ensure that it does not go back up the Puririmu Stream and accidentally flood residential areas.
- In terms of urban stormwater treatment, the project seeks to treat approximately 70% of the urban stormwater currently discharging through the Puririmu Stream catchment.
- A lot of the core programmes were discussed as part of the workshops and definitely the first part of the programmes considered the key views from stakeholders and community in regard to what could be implemented as part of the early staging of work.
- To assist in public feedback, the Committee directed that a separate plan be provided showing the core business works including stormwater treatment and biodiversity opportunities. The second plan would include the partnership opportunities.
- No. 8 – Woolshed Multiuse Community Events on the plan is where the walk on the site visit ended and the feedback received was that it would be great to keep the woolshed as an event space because of the recreational interaction with the park and have an open amphitheatre that has been included in the plan. It was situated away from habitat outside of the airport’s mapped flight path and this would probably be the best location and fit for an event space.

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- The potential to have a restaurant may result out of community feedback but would not be something run by Council. The Committee encouraged that this be considered as an “event space” and that this element could be included in future potential programmes with partnership opportunities.
  - Ms Mills advised that in relation to the cost of the project HBRC had included approximately \$9m in their LTP and NCC had allocated \$13m over an eight year period from year four in the LTP. In the next ARP workshop costings will be provided.
  - The Chair advised water quality testing that happens at managed discharges when the wastewater is overwhelmed with stormwater, shows there is a very low level of contamination due to the volume of fresh water mixing. The long term goal of interventions is that every discharge into the Estuary receives treatment through the network, which is not the case currently.
  - As the number of birds increase in the locality the avifauna specialist can provide comment and information on their effects on water quality in the environment.

*Councillor Price withdrew from the meeting at 10.50am and rejoined at 10.53am.*

*It was noted more information would be provided following community consultation and more detailed work at TAG level around how the water will come in and out of the park, quantities and inlet areas, and what the effect on infrastructure will be. As part of the consideration of the consenting framework a complete assessment of environmental effects, including what habitat or environment are affected and what mitigation would be required to inform a consent application.*

## **Engagement Plan**

The Strategic Planning Lead, Ms Mills provided a summary of the Engagement Plan Overview which reflected the previously endorsed Engagement Plan at the beginning of the Masterplan planning process. Feedback has been received from key stakeholders and those really interested in the Park and are now moving to the general public for their views.

The key message is that it is a stormwater facility and there is an infrastructure driver for a resource consent solution. There is a need to clean up the water before discharging into the Estuary. Secondary messaging is that there are more benefits than just stormwater and this is an opportunity to consider multiple council and community functions within the park.

It is proposed to promote the Park in the NCC Neighbourhood newsletter, have a public open day to walk on the site, open day at either the urban market or along Emerson Street and have social media campaign.

### **In response to questions on the Engagement Plan the following was clarified:**

- An overview of the project and the process-to-date be presented to Councils and partners prior to community consultation.
- The information would be provided to public on 12 March 2025 seeking feedback with a community workshop in May, prior to progressing to final endorsement in June 2025.
- The meeting agreed to the suggestion to have one plan showing the core programmes as the focus and a second plan overlaid with the potential future programmes, which may be aspirational.



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**COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION**

Deputy Mayor Brosnan / Councillor Williams

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The Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee:

- a) **Endorse** the Ahuriri Regional Park Concept Design for public consultation with the following amendments to:
- key map reflecting the prioritisation of projects to the principles; and
  - splitting potential future programmes into a second map.

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Carried

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**Attachments**

- 1 PowerPoint Presentation Ahuriri Master Plan (Doc Id 1832625)
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**Minor matters**

There were no minor matters to discuss.

*Mr Reti gave the closing karakia  
The meeting closed at 11.15am*

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Approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairperson .....

Date of approval .....