

Iwi partnership

Waka Kotahi has worked in partnership with the mana whenua of this rohe (area), Ngāti Tama, and with the Mt Messenger Alliance over several years to develop the project.

Respect for the land and their values is at the core of Ngāti Tama's involvement with the project, which has included input into or leadership on:

- selecting a safer and more secure route with the minimum environmental impact
- the bypass design and cultural expression
- the significant environmental programme to improve the decline of the native flora and fauna, that is a key feature of the project
- the provision of cultural monitoring.

A significant milestone was reached in 2020 when iwi members voted with an 82 percent majority in favour of the agreements with Waka Kotahi, to allow land needed for the Mt Messenger Bypass to be exchanged.

The agreement includes a 120ha coastal property - re-named as 'Ngarautika' by Ngāti Tama - in exchange for 20ha of Ngāti Tama land, a cultural compensation payment and the project's environmental programme which will deliver enduring pest management over 3,650ha of the rohe of Ngāti Tama.

