



Aotearoa Urban Street Planning and Design Guide

He whenua, he tangata

December 2022



Acknowledgements

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Ministry of Transport

Ministry for Culture and Heritage

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Tauranga City Council (Tier 1)

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Hutt City Council (Tier 1)

Upper Hutt City Council (Tier 1)

Porirua City (Tier 1)

Christchurch City Council (Tier 1)

Palmerston North City Council (Tier 2)

Whangarei District Council (Tier 2)

New Plymouth District Council (Tier 2)

Dunedin City Council (Tier 2)

Nelson City Council (Tier 2)

LGNZ (Local Government NZ)

RCA Forum

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NZILA: New Zealand Institute Landscape Architecture

NZIA: New Zealand Institute Architecture

NZPI: New Zealand Planning Institute

IPENZ - Institute Planning & Engineering NZ

Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa (including play lead)

NZ Police

Property Council

CCS Disability Action

Grey Power

Blind Low Vision NZ

ACC

Living Streets Aotearoa

NZ Property Council

Cycling Action Network New Zealand

Bike Auckland

Women in Urbanism

Generation Zero

Children's Commission

Ministry of Social Development

Utilities Group

District Health Board's

Record of issued document:

This document is subject to review and amendments from time to time. Amendments will be recorded in the table below.

Number:	Description of issue:	Issue date:	Updated by:
00	Draft Pilot Final	September 2021	Jane Nalder, Sam Bourne
01	Final	December 2022	Jane Nalder, Sam Bourne

Record of amendments:

This document is subject to review and amendments from time to time. Amendments will be recorded in the table below.

Number:	Description of change:	Issue date:	Updated by:
1	Minor text and graphic updates, alignment with speed management guide, and safety audit guidance	April 2023	Jane Nalder, Sam Bourne

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He whenua, he whenua, he tangata, he tangata Aotearoa streets

*Piki atu ki te taumata o tōku maunga,
Ka kite au i te mana,
I te ihi o te whenua nei nō ōku tūpuna.*

*E tū ana ki te maunga,
e whakaaro ana;
He aha te taonga katoa?
He whenua, he whenua!*

*Ka hōkio atu ki ngā raorao o te henua,
Ka kite au i te harakeke e tipu ana,
He tohu o te oranga.*

*E whakaaro ana ano,
Unuhia te rito o te harakeke,
Kei hea te kōmako, e kō?
Rere ki uta, rere i tai.*

*Kī mai koe ki au;
He aha te mea nui o tēnei ao?
Māku e kī atu;
He tangata, he tangata!*

Tihei Mauri Ora!

*I climb to the peak of my mountain,
Where I see the power,
And the ethos of my ancestors.*

*I stand above the mountain,
And I think;
What is most precious of all?
It is the land, it is the land!*

*I descend down to the lands below,
I see the harakeke growing,
A symbol of life.*

*I think again,
If we are to remove the centre of the harakeke
Where will the bellbird sing?
It will fly inland and fly seawards.*

*You would then ask me;
What is the greatest thing in this world?
I would say;
It is people, it is people!*

Behold, the sneeze of life!

The above, reflects the interconnectedness of all things and the importance of both land and people. This is reflective of the vision for the Aotearoa Urban Street Planning and Design Guide - He Whenua, He Tangata where the whakataukī (proverb) embedded within, metaphorically represents the shared relationships between land, people and place. This relationship is built on the concept of whakapapa (genealogy), which is understanding the layers of the past for the betterment of the present and future.

He Whenua, He Tangata is how we respond to the way we live. This has provided an approach designing for people at the heart of street planning and design, and supports the system level changes needed to achieve Vision Zero/ Road to Zero New Zealand road safety strategy. Street design and street thinking at the spatial, network and local scale with a 'safe system' lens (see section 1.1) is also at the centre of a sustainable, multi-modal, land transport system where public transport, active and shared modes of transport are also part of our daily transport choice and experience.

The street guide has been developed as a point of reference for Waka Kotahi, its partners and sector. The guide has been established to create common ground in relation to the form and function of streets as part of the land transport system.

**Kī mai koe ki au; he aha te mea nui
i tēnei ao? Maku e kī atu;
He whenua, he whenua,
He tangata, he tangata**

**If I were to ask you; what is the greatest thing
in this world? You would respond;
It is the land, it is the land,
It is the people, it is the people**

Background

Aotearoa urban street planning and design guide

Waka Kotahi recognises, respects and honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and is committed to upholding the principles of partnership, participation and protection. These principles underpin the relationship between tangata whenua and the crown. Waka Kotahi will work with tangata whenua to build strong, meaningful and enduring partnerships.

At its foundation this street guide establishes an ethos of 'He whenua, he tangata', which encapsulates the shared relationship between land, people and place. This is given effect through six objectives that bring together the wider objectives of a Safe System, inclusive access, environment, movement and place function.

- **MAHI TAHI - Partnership and engagement**
- **HE WHENUA ORA - A living environment**
- **TAONGA TUKU IHO - Places of value and meaning**
- **TĀTOU TĀTOU - Exclusivity for everyone**
- **TOIORA - Healthy and safe environments**
- **MAURI ORA - Prosperity and vitality**

These objectives highlight opportunities the land transport system can contribute to well-functioning urban environments, transport movement and place function, and social and environmental outcomes.

Streets are part of the land transport system shaping the urban form of the towns and cities of Aotearoa. However, the dynamic and multi-functional use of streets has changed over time.

For Māori, streets were understood as ara (traditional pathways) connecting tangata and whenua (land and sea). Ara were formed by understanding the landscape. Early colonial settlements formed streets, some of which followed ara (A Brief History of Auckland's Urban Form, 2019), other through survey. Streets were a space for a mix of pedestrians, horses and carts and later trams. Users negotiated this space with limited regulation. The introduction of private motor vehicles in the 20th century gradually changed the use of streets as shared spaces to ones dominated by vehicles. Due to the risks associated with the increased speed and numbers of cars, pedestrians and place based activities for people became increasingly separated from the street.

As urban environments continue to change, a complete approach to street planning and design must focus on:

- Safety for all road users and reducing harm overall
- Urban mobility and developing a multi-modal transport system
- Improved urban development, urban form and good urban access
- The provision of integrated transport and land use, and places for people that fits the context
- Environmental and sustainability outcomes such as addressing urban stormwater management, heat island and micro climate, better air quality and reduced emissions and connectivity
- Methods for movement network and place-based development that provide pathways to permanence that include adaptive urbanism and staged approaches
- Investment to optimise and make the best use of existing streets before creating new ones
- Partnerships (including with iwi) in developing the above
- Collaboration, and engagement with stakeholders and local communities

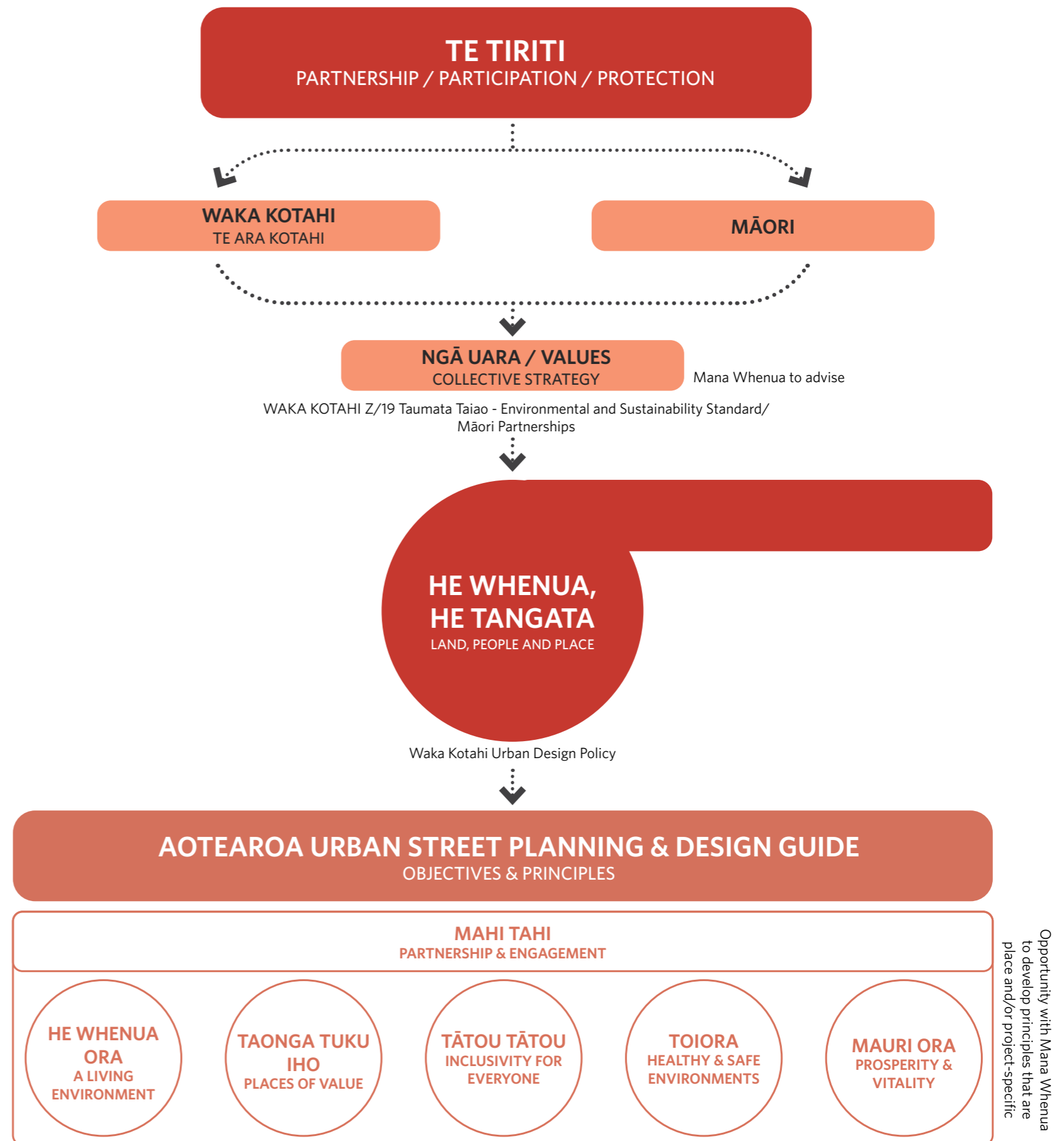


Figure 1: Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Aotearoa street objectives and principles, an overview.