

## MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

<b>Subject</b>	Tupua Horo Nuku Eastern Bays Shared Path Huringa Nuku/Sod Turning Event
<b>Date</b>	12 August 2022
<b>Briefing number</b>	BRI-2564

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
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### Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

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12 August 2022

## Minister of Transport

# TUPUA HORO NUKU EASTERN BAYS SHARED PATH HURINGA NUKU/SOD TURNING EVENT

## Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about Tupua Horo Nuku Eastern Bays Shared Path, that is being delivered by Te Ara Tupua Alliance (the Alliance), prior to the Huringa Nuku/Sod Turning on Wednesday 24 August 2022, from 9:30am to 10:30am.

## Project funding and costs

2. The project is led by Hutt City Council. To date the project has committed funding from:
  - Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (National Land Transport Fund funding will be sought) - \$7.5M
  - Hutt City Council - \$7.5M
  - NZ Government (COVID-19 Recovery Fund) - \$15M
3. Costs to deliver all 6 bays are forecast to be greater than the funding committed to date, and any split for additional funding has not yet been determined. Funding is committed to the first two bays.
  - Southern portion (2 bays) \$17M (approximately)
  - Northern portion (4 bays) TBC - currently being estimated by the Alliance.
4. The project is being delivered in partnership with iwi mana whenua, Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. This partnership is structured through the Mana Whenua Steering Group that also enables the partnership across Te Ara Tupua and RiverLink.

## Project features

5. Tupua Horo Nuku Eastern Bays Shared Path is being delivered alongside the Ngā Ūranga ki Pito-One section of Te Ara Tupua. They face similar design, construction, and environmental challenges due to the harbour environment, making them a good fit for integrated delivery by the Alliance.
6. Key project features include:
  - 4.4km long, 2.5-3.5m wide shared path through the communities of the Eastern Bays connecting Eastbourne to Seaview.
  - Integration with existing and future walking and cycling network in Lower Hutt.
  - New seawalls using a curved stepped design, replacing existing Marine Drive seawalls, some of which are nearing end of life.
7. The project includes conservation initiatives, including the construction of new bird protection areas, and a bird protection education campaign in the local community. Bishop Park (the event location) will be the site of a bird protection area aimed at providing a safe habitat for kororā (little penguins).

8. The project name and its cultural design reflect and honour the story of the two Tupua, Ngake and Whāitaitai, who, based on the traditional narrative, created Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

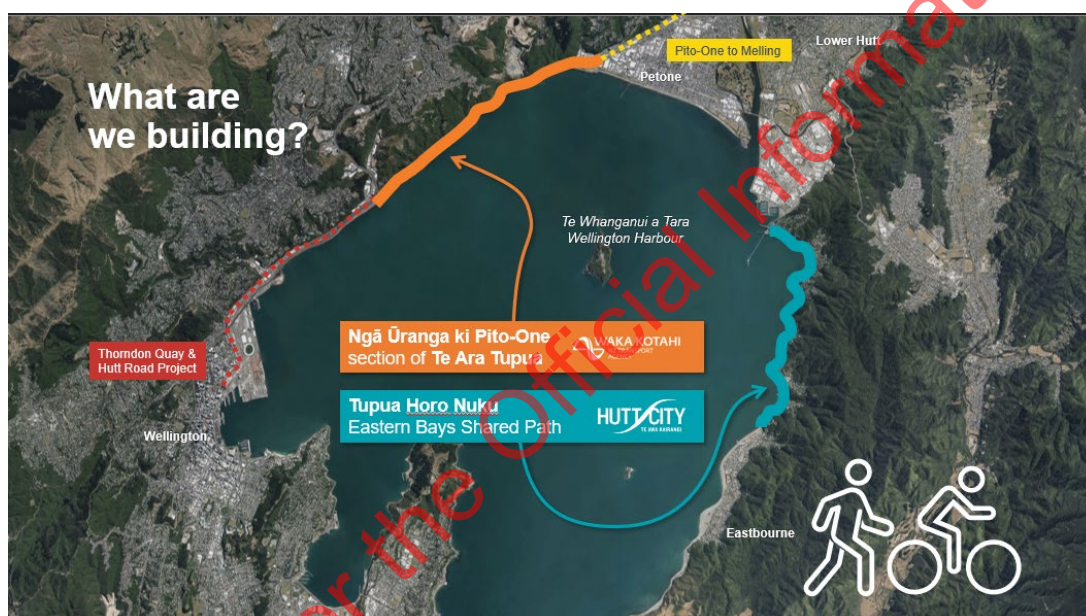
## Project benefits

9. Five thousand people live in Eastbourne and the Eastern Bays, with Marine Drive providing the only road and infrastructure service connections. Residents have identified that the completion of the Eastern Bays Shared Path and concern about climate change, as the two most important issues facing the Eastbourne community.
10. Tupua Horo Nuku Eastern Bays Shared Path provides opportunities for protecting the resilience of the road and underground services by replacing the supporting seawalls. The new seawalls will be less prone to damage compared to what is existing.
11. The new seawalls will also have the potential for future resilience upgrades, including raising the level of the road or providing a solid barrier in response to sea level rise, and to protect against a significant increase in storm events.
12. A 4.4 km path will run along Marine Drive in two sections: between Point Howard and the northern end of Days Bay, and the southern end of Days Bay (Ma-Koromiko / Windy Point) to Eastbourne (Muritai Road/Marine Parade intersection). The path will provide enhanced connections:
  - within the individual bays (for recreation and access);
  - between different bays (to shops, schools, recreation);
  - to and from Lower Hutt and beyond (to work, school or for recreation);
  - with other regional cycle routes
13. Enhanced connectivity will unlock significant social, economic and recreational benefits, including:
  - improved safety for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users;
  - recreation and tourism opportunities; and
  - positive benefits to health and wellbeing.

## Project context

14. The Alliance is delivering two harbour-side walking and cycling path projects in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington. The projects will support uptake of active travel in the region and improve the resilience of existing coastal infrastructure.
15. The Alliance is made up of Waka Kotahi (as owner), with Downer NZ, HEB Construction and Tonkin + Taylor as the design and construction partners.
16. The Alliance was initially procured by Waka Kotahi to deliver the Ngā Ūranga ki Pito-One project. They were selected based on track record and skill set, as Alliance procurement is based on non-price attributes.
17. During the Interim Project Alliance Agreement (IPAA) phase, the Alliance was also identified as a suitable team to deliver Tupua Horo Nuku given the common challenges and requirements of the two projects.
18. The prices have now been developed for the southern two bays of Tupua Horo Nuku, with the remaining four bays being estimated by the Alliance.

19. The Huringa Nuku/sod turning for Tupua Horo Nuku is an important milestone that enables the start of construction, beginning with the bird protection areas required for the project just south of Ma-Koromiko (Windy Point).
20. The start of construction and the first breaking of ground also represents a coming together of the parties who have worked hard together for many years to make this project a reality – iwi mana whenua (Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa), Hutt City Council, Waka Kotahi, and passionate local residents.
21. As well as a strong example of partnering with iwi mana whenua, it is another example of central-local government collaboration to deliver community benefit.
22. Tupua Horo Nuku also complements other project works currently underway on the Petone to Melling section of Te Ara Tupua (under construction), the Ngā Ūranga ki Pito-One section of Te Ara Tupua (construction beginning late 2022) and improvements planned as part of the Let's Get Wellington Moving section of Wellington to Ngauranga.



## Key messages

23. Delivering better opportunities for Kiwis to be able to leave their cars at home and take up more active transport options, like walking and cycling, is a critical part of addressing climate change.
24. Transport accounts for a large amount of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions, so we need to make sure we are delivering real options for Kiwis to make the change.
25. Greater walking and cycling opportunities will help lower emissions from transport and alleviate pressure on our roads and public transport services.
26. Five thousand people live along the Eastern Bays, with Marine Drive providing the only road and infrastructure service connections.

27. In the eastern bays of Lower Hutt, current infrastructure forces pedestrians and cyclists to use the road shoulder, which is dangerous or non-existent in some parts.
28. The new Tupua Horo Nuku Eastern Bays Shared Path will make walking and cycling safer, as well as protecting the road and essential services for these local communities.
29. Local residents have identified that the completion of Tupua Horo Nuku, and concern about climate change as the two most important issues facing the Eastbourne community.
30. Tupua Horo Nuku provides opportunities for protecting the resilience of the road and underground services by upgrading the supporting seawalls.
31. The road is currently subject to closure, and/or reduced operation, in part due to wave overtopping because of the current state of the coastal edge.
32. In addition to increased connectivity, the new shared path will provide the first step in enabling the Marine Drive corridor to respond to the challenges of sea level rise.
33. Alongside other key projects in the region, Tupua Horo Nuku will help create amazing new pieces of harbour waterfront and contribute to an integrated spine of walking and cycling infrastructure right around the edge of Te Whanganui a Tara.

### **Ministerial Huringa Nuku/Sod Turning**

34. The event will be located at Bishop Park, opposite 19 Marine Parade, Eastbourne.
35. A mana whenua welcome, speeches, and a sod turning ceremony will take place.

### **Key attendees to acknowledge**

36. The key attendees invited for the contract signing ceremony include the following:
  - Iwi mana whenua: Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa
  - Hutt City Council: Mayor, City Councillors, and Community Board Members
  - Te Ara Tupua Alliance representatives: Tonkin + Taylor, Downer NZ, and HEB Construction
  - Waka Kotahi representatives

### **Media**

37. We expect some local and national media interest.
38. Recent media has been critical of the costs associated with these walking and cycling projects. Given recent weather events, media have highlighted the need for better coastal protection along the Eastern Bays coastline.

**It is recommended that you:**

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing.



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**Emma Speight,**

Director Regional Relationships (Wellington and Top of the South Island)

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**Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport**

Date:

2022

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