

2 Waihi to Ōmokoroa

Partnering with tāngata whenua

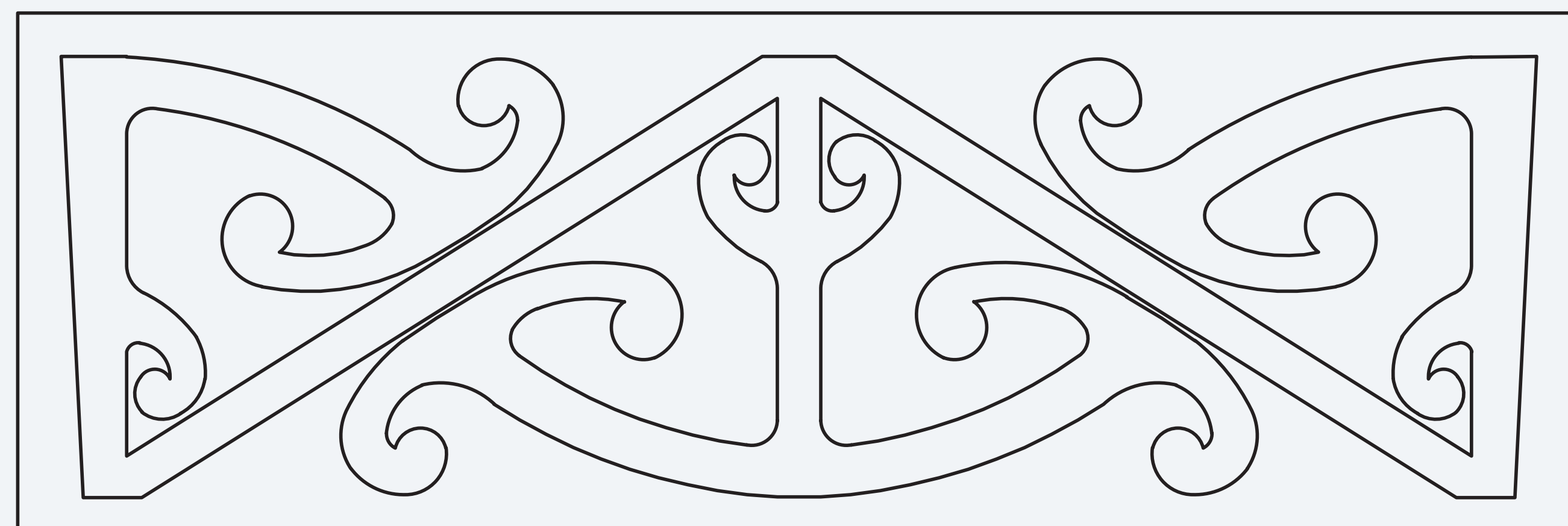
Tāngata whenua have been concerned for a long time about the safety of the community who travel this section of SH2, and the impact that deaths and serious injuries have on hapū, iwi and the community.

As longtime partners at the table Pirirākau, Ngāi Tamawhariua, Ngāti Te Wai and Te Whānau a Tauwhao have contributed to the project in a meaningful way by providing cultural and environmental advice and support for the project, including designing the cultural recognition.

The group meet regularly to work through project priorities and opportunities for input and decision making.

"Even today, years after a fatal incident our hapū are still working with the family of the person that tragically died on this stretch of highway and will continue to manaaki the whānau."

Pirirākau hapū representative,
Carlton Bidois



The roundabout design, pictured, was a taonga (gift) from Te Whānau a Tauwhao and derives from a mangopare (hammerhead shark) pattern found in the whareniui at Otawhiwhi marae.



Te Whānau a Tauwhao are re-establishing their kaitiakitanga (guardianship) leading the ecological restoration of 5.3 hectares of wetland at Te Waiau awa near Athenree, enhancing the mauri (life essence) of this once teeming environment.

The project has created a strong partnership between the hapū of Te Whānau a Tauwhao with the support from Ngāti Te Wai, Ngāi Tamawhariua and Pirirākau as well as Waka Kotahi, Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council.