

Manawhenua ki Mohua

Strategic Overview of Cultural Values

Of the Port Tarakohe Business Case

May 2019

Cultural context

Manawhenua Ki Mohua (MKM) is the umbrella entity for the three manawhenua iwi living in Mohua; Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Rārua and Te Ātiawa. MKM are the descendants of Māori chiefs, whom through raupatu (conquest) and intermarriage assumed the role of kaitiaki, or guardians of the rohe (area); a responsibility which was subsequently passed down by way of whakapapa (genealogy).¹ As the kaitiaki, MKM continue to carry out their obligations to uphold the cultural and environmental integrity of the rohe for past, present and future generations.

Background

Port Tarakohe is a community asset that provides for both recreational and commercial interests. The Tasman District Council (TDC) has facilitated the development of a Business Case for Port Tarakohe – to design and cost out a proposed upgrade; to inform future decision-making about further investment into the Port. This process was partially funded by the Provincial Growth Fund. The following groups were established to assist with this process:

Port Tarakohe Business Case Working Group; responsible for preparing the designs and costing out the upgrade works to put to the PT Steering Group; and

Port Tarakohe Business Case Steering Group; responsible for signing off on the Business Case

Iwi representatives have been part of the Business Case development process with Butch Little invited to attend Working Group meetings (attended on occasion by Fred Te Miha) and Kura Stafford appointed to the Business Case Steering Group in May 2019. In addition, Toni Grant has attended both the Working Group and Steering Group meetings as representative for Maara Moana since March 2019.

If the Business Case is approved and further funding is received, the Port re-development will go through the Resource Consent process.

To inform the discussion, the TDC approached Manawhenua ki Mohua to seek an overview of cultural values relating to the Business Case proposal – the subject of this report. In addition, a more detailed Cultural Impact Assessment will be developed to inform the Resource Consent process.

¹ These chiefs included: Te Meihana, Niho Tehamu, Te Aupōuri Mātenga, Henare Tatana Te Keha, Tāmami Pirimoana, Terahui Hekaka, and Takarei Tewhareaitu

Cultural values²

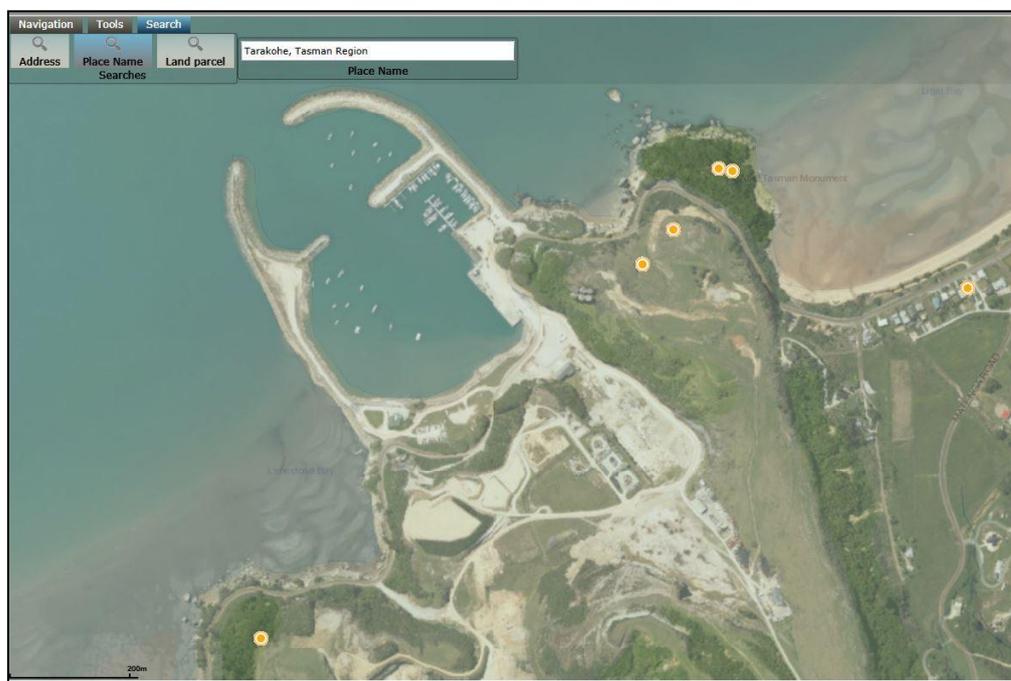
1. Cultural significance of area

The coastline from Pohara to Tata was of great significance to tūpuna (ancestors). The whole area derives its importance from the traditions maintained and passed on through many generations. Papakāinga, fishing grounds, urupā and other tapu sites are all associated with the cultivation and occupation of land along this stretch of coastline. Modified soils, midden, gardens, pits, stake holes and artefacts reflect the variety and abundance of kaimoana collected from the sea. 600 year old fish hooks, of national significance, were recently found in the vicinity of Port Tarakohe.³

Each cultural site in the area relates to others, and together, they form a cluster of sites, which are intrinsically important. Clusters of sites provide valuable information about the relationship of tūpuna with local resources and the customs and traditions practised over time. They are important in determining settlement patterns – the length of settlement and patterns of resource use. Given the range and number of known sites that exist along this coastline, the likelihood that unrecorded sites exist in the adjacent limestone cliffs and the surrounding area is high.

As kaitiaki of the rohe, Manawhenua ki Mohua seek to protect the whole locality; the sites and associated taonga. Guardianship of these treasures is integral to the cultural well being of present and future generations.

The location of recorded sites adjacent to Port Tarakohe are illustrated in the map below⁴



² Content identified at the first working group Hui on Thursday 23rd May 2019.

³ Pers comm. Chris Hill (May 2019)

⁴ Maps provided by Christine Barnett (Central Region, Heritage NZ) May 2019

2. Relationships

The ancestral relationships and significance of Port Tarakohe and surrounding area to MKM needs to be recognised in the level of engagement the TDC undertakes through the Port Re-development process. It is important that this engagement extends to road upgrades and any other infrastructure, which may be developed to service the Port.

3. Dredging

a. Disposal of dredged material

It is important that any material dredged from Port Tarakohe is disposed of in a way that protects cultural and environmental values.

b. Toxicity of dredged material

MKM support the monitoring of material dredged from the Port to determine its toxicity and enable safe disposal

4. Reclamation

a. Proposed narrowing of the Port entrance.

MKM understand that the existing entrance to Port Tarakohe is already reclaimed at sea bed level. Therefore narrowing the entrance will not involve further reclamation, but rather in-filling. However, two important considerations for this work are the choice of fill, and calculating the change in wave dynamics at the Port entrance.

5. Earthworks for supporting infrastructure

a. Placement of new ramp

b. Recreational marina piles

c. Wastewater pipeline for proposed toilets

MKM seek an archaeological assessment in un-reclaimed areas, where earthworks are required to develop additional Port infrastructure. Cultural monitoring and assessment of significant sites in the area may also be required.

6. Reciprocity

a. Planting Plan

b. Penguin habitat restoration

For manawhenua iwi reciprocity is an important cultural practice. One way to give back to the natural world (the environment) is to enhance net restorative environmental outcomes. In this instance, a landscape and planting plan for the Port area is recommended. MKM advocate the use of indigenous plants for restoration work and the enhancement and extension of habitats for indigenous species, such as penguin

habitat. As kaitiaki, MKM recommend the hauora (health) of indigenous species within the Port coastal environment is explored further to inform decision-making processes.

7. Cultural activities

a. Access to culturally sites

MKM wish to maintain their association with culturally important sites and areas in and around the Port. Therefore, it is important that this relationship is provided for in the development of the area.

b. Waka ama

A cultural practice which is takes place at Port Taranaki is Waka Ama. This activity involves the wider community as well as whānau. Recognising the value and importance of cultural traditions in the present day is important. One way to encourage and support Waka ama would be to establish a shed to house the waka and or related other utilities.

NB: The recommendations in this Section are consistent with the Ngāti Tama Environmental Management Plan 2018: see Pages 36 and 49.