

**Orākei Local Board Plan Consultation June 2017**  
**Submission of Ngāti Whātua Orākei**  
**29 June 2017**

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*He aha te hau e wawa ra, e wawa ra?*

*He tiu, he raki, he tiu, he raki*

*Nana i a mai te puputarakihi ki uta*

*E tikina atu e au te kotiu*

*Koia te pou, te pou whakairo ka tu ki Waitemata*

*Ka tu ki Waitemata i oku wairangitanga*

*E tu nei, e tu nei!*

What is that roaring and rumbling?

It was a wind in the north

A wind that brought the nautilus shell ashore

I must fetch that new power and stand it here in the Waitemata alongside and as a new mana

That is my vision.

Ngāti Whātua Orākei welcomes the opportunity to work with the Orākei Local Board on the review of the Local Board Plan.

The above tauparapara relates the vision of the seer Titahi. It foreshadows the initiative of Apihai Te Kawau in inviting Captain Hobson and his administration to relocate to Waitemata, and the subsequent gifting by Ngāti Whātua of the land on which Auckland is founded. The wind in the north is the Treaty of Waitangi, the nautilus symbolises the white sails of the ships and the unfolding of a new order alongside that of Ngāti Whātua at the invitation of Apihai Te Kawau.

In 1841 Governor Hobson was greeted by Apihai Te Kawau and over one thousand Ngāti Whātua people at Okahu Bay. Te Kawau spoke for them all and invited Governor Hobson to share the land, saying: *“Governor, Governor, welcome, welcome as a father to me: there is my land for you... go pick the best part of the land and place your people, at least our people, upon it.”*

This tauparapara has been transmitted orally within the Ngāti Whātua of Tamaki for almost 200 years. Throughout this time Ngāti Whātua have consistently sought to realise the partnership of peoples envisioned in the Treaty.

For a long time, this vision of partnership and mutual benefit has not been realised. There is now, however, a much greater appreciation of the unique benefits, opportunities and obligations enshrined in the Treaty. The statutory acknowledgement of the Crown in relation to Ngāti Whātua Orākei states:

*3.1 The Crown acknowledges that Ngati Whatua Orakei endeavoured to establish a relationship with the Crown from 1840 and sought to strengthen this relationship, in part, by transferring lands for settlement purposes. These lands have contributed to the development of New Zealand and Auckland in particular. The Crown also acknowledges that Ngati Whatua sought to strengthen the relationship by expressing loyalty to the Crown.*

*3.10 ... The Crown looks forward to repairing its relationship with Ngati Whatua Orakei based on mutual trust, co-operation and respect for the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.*

It is in this enduring spirit that Ngāti Whātua Orākei approaches Orākei Local Board and the 2017 review of the Local Board Plan.

The current (2014) Local Board Plan is a sound planning document, which sets out a range of priorities and projects appropriate to the local area. We are pleased in this regard to see that the 2017 plan is intended to be a "refresh" rather than a wholesale review - much of the 2014 plan retains currency. The focus of the 2017 plan is appropriately identified in the foreword to the consultation document: *"Our intention is to refresh the previous plan so we can build on the work of the board during its first six years and deliver benefits for all the communities in our area."* (From the Chairman, p5).

The aims of the Plan have much in common with those of Ngāti Whātua Orākei. We see great opportunities for the Local Board and Ngāti Whātua Orākei to work together in the spirit of partnership to achieve the vision of common benefit captured in the words of the Chair.

Ngāti Whātua Orākei is now entering a new phase of development. We continue to invest significantly in the local area and plan to increase this rapidly which would help to realise many of the aspirations identified in the Local Board Plan. Particular cases are outlined below with reference to the consultation document. In each of these cases there is enormous opportunity for the Local Board and Ngāti Whātua Orākei to work collaboratively for the greater good of Orākei as a whole.

## 1. Outcome 1: Our local parks and open space areas are valued and enjoyed

**Objective:** *Quality sports parks that cater for a wide range of activities*

**Key initiative:** *Develop a plan for Orākei Domain*

- 1.1. Ngāti Whātua Orākei intends to develop a multi-sports and community activities centre in the local area. This will be a major investment and it makes clear sense for benefits to be maximised for all sections of the local community. It is obvious that there is a very strong alignment with the objectives of the Board, and we wish to work together collaboratively to achieve this outcome.
- 1.2. We believe that the Orākei Domain is the obvious location for such a facility given the existing fields, carparks and under-utilised space . This would deliver a major asset accessible to all local communities. We look forward to constructive engagement with the Local Board in development of the plan for the Orākei Domain.

**Additional initiative:** *Pourewa Reserve*

- 1.3. Ngāti Whātua Orākei intends to develop its lands at Pourewa Creek to provide a range of facilities and services. Potential activities include parkland, walkways, cafe, bike/skate park, eco-education centre, food forest, urban farm, paddling club, retail shops, native vegetation regeneration with on-site nursery, pest control and public artworks.
- 1.4. Clearly this is a significant development which will be of benefit to the entire community. We would appreciate and invite the Local Board's input in planning for the Pourewa Reserve. We think this merits specific consideration in the Local Board Plan.

**Objective:** *Beaches and their associated open space and amenities are accessible, safe and well maintained.*

**Key initiative:** *Continue to maintain and enhance our beaches and their adjoining amenities to accommodate increasing use.*

- 1.5. Ngāti Whātua Orākei has a specific interest in Okahu Bay. Originally a pristine source of our kai and wellbeing, Okahu Bay has over time suffered gross environmental degradation. We wish to see the mauri of the Bay restored. Specifically, we wish to see improved water quality - including remediation of the inland catchment, a sand regeneration project for the beach, and improved access and public facilities to encourage user groups for waka-ama, sailing, paddling and swimming.
- 1.6. Ocean Blue Sports Club. Ngāti Whātua Orākei whanau are active members in this Waka AMA club, and the club is active in providing waka ama lessons for our tamariki. This is a significant activity in terms of NWO maintaining mana Moana. We therefore specifically request that the Okahu Bay landing reserve grass land at the western end be made available for recreational activity and support the current use by the Ocean Blue Sports Club.
- 1.7. It should be noted that Okahu Bay is subject to an application by Ngāti Whātua Orākei to the Office of Treaty Settlements for coastal marine title.

## 2. Outcome 2: Our residents are proud of their community facilities and public places

**Objective:** *Neighbourhoods, community centres and public places are safe and attractive*

**Key initiative:** *Identify where growth will occur around our public places and corridors and develop local plans to support these places being well-planned and designed*

- 2.1. Orākei is our heartland. We share the desire of the Local Board to see the area develop in a well-planned and designed manner. To this end we propose a specific Orākei Local Area Plan, to be developed as a joint venture between the Orākei Local Board and Ngāti Whātua Orākei. A well-crafted masterplan for Orākei would serve to integrate and optimise many of the themes outlined in the consultation document, and ensure that they are integrated with the designs of Ngāti Whātua Orākei.
- 2.2. We note the specific mention in the consultation document of the untapped potential of the Kupe Street / Kapa Road shopping area. This location is a key gateway to the Ngāti Whātua Orākei papakainga, and we share the aspirations of the Board to see this area revitalised to serve as an attractive and vibrant service centre.

**Key initiative:** *Support residents' groups and community patrols to ensure Orākei's public places are safe*

- 2.3. The consultation document makes specific reference to challenges of anti-social behaviour. We would add traffic safety as specific matter which should be addressed. Orākei is a predominantly residential area, but road related death, trauma and serious injury remains a significant threat to public safety. Ngāti Whātua Orākei supports the "Love our Kids, Slow Down", "He taonga ngā Tamariki, Āta Haere" road safety campaign. We consider that this issue merits specific reference in the Local Board Plan. As a specific matter, we would like to see the installation of traffic calming measures on Kupe Street.

**Additional initiative:** *Support for youth programmes and activities*

- 2.4. It is unfortunate that anti-social behaviour is often seen as a youth-specific issue, and that consideration of young people is limited to this dimension.
- 2.5. Young people have particular needs which should be acknowledged and provided for. The consultation document is silent in this regard. We would be happy to assist the Board in developing appropriate themes.

**Objective:** *Public art and local heritage is supported by the community*

**Key initiative:** *Work with community groups to identify opportunities for public art projects.*

- 2.6. The identity of Orakei is intimately woven with that of Ngāti Whātua. We support public art as an expression of that identity, and are pleased to see this aim shared by the board in the consultation document. Ngāti Whātua Orākei is ready to fund and develop appropriate public art installations.

### 3. Outcome 3: People can move around our area easily

- 3.1. Ngāti Whātua Orākei supports the development of sustainable transport options. The draft plan appropriately identifies relevant issues, objectives and initiatives. We wish to work with the Local Board to help with delivering these outcomes, including funding options, detailed planning and implementation.

### 4. Outcome 4: The natural environment is valued, protected and enhanced by our communities

- 4.1. Ngāti Whātua are kaitiaki of Orākei. We support measures to restore the mauri of our land and waters. We are pleased to see the Local Board giving environmental restoration a higher profile in the Plan refresh.
- 4.2. We support all the objectives and initiatives set out in this section of the consultation document. We are able to assist the Board in realising the stated objectives and key initiatives.
- 4.3. We would also like to highlight the following specific aims of Ngāti Whātua Orākei, which are in accordance with the aims of the draft Plan, and we think merit the support of the Board.
- **Okahu Bay:** As mentioned under section 1, above, Okahu Bay is of particular interest and concern to Ngāti Whātua Orākei. Okahu Bay is at the very heart of our rohe, but it is severely degraded. We wish to see restorative action as a matter of priority. The first priority should be development of an integrated catchment management plan to address surface waters feeding into the bay.
  - **Whenua Rangatira and Pourewa Reserve:** Ngāti Whātua Orākei is committed to ecological restoration on tribal lands, including establishment of native flora and fauna and the establishment of wetland habitats. The benefits of these programmes will be maximised if they are integrated with similar activities in the wider area, thus enabling the establishment of wildlife corridors, sanctuaries and connectivity of public access. We wish to work closely with the Board on ecological restoration activities which optimise benefits for the whole community.

### 5. Outcome 5: A thriving economy which supports local businesses and town centres

*Objective: thriving town centres that support local businesses in meeting the needs of the growing community*

- 5.1. As outlined above (Outcome 2), we have a specific interest in the revitalisation of the Kupa Street / Kupe Street shopping area. This area has great potential to become a vibrant and attractive community service centre. We believe that the best way to address this is as part of the proposed Orākei Local Area Plan, as this would allow full appreciation and integration with the wider planning context.

**Objective:** Local and overseas visitors are attracted to our area

**Key initiative:** Work with ATEED and other partners to identify tourism opportunities that benefit the local economy

- 5.2. Cultural tourism is a highly significant untapped market in Orākei. Ngāti Whātua Orākei has major plans to develop its cultural tourism activities in the area. We believe that Orākei has the potential to become a major visitor destination in its own right.
- 5.3. Over and above direct benefits to Ngāti Whātua Orākei, this clearly offers considerable opportunities for local business.
- 5.4. Ngāti Whātua Orākei intends to develop a cultural tourism strategy, and we invite the Board to participate in this process to maximise benefits for all.

## 6. Summary

- 6.1. We have highlighted above some of the key areas in which we see direct alignment between the Local Board Plan and our own plans. In each case it is clear that outcomes will be optimised if the efforts of the Board and Ngāti Whātua Orākei are consciously coordinated.
- 6.2. This points to the major underlying theme of our submission: namely that the time is ripe to establish a stronger partnership between the Orākei Local Board, as the local governance entity, and Ngāti Whātua Orākei, as the local iwi, mana whenua and holder of ahi kā.
- 6.3. The Board has identified a range of noble aspirations in the draft 2017 Plan. The document itself, however, observes that resources are a major barrier to realising many of the desired outcomes. Ngāti Whātua Orākei has resources. We share much of the vision embodied in the Plan, and stand ready to make significant investment in our rohe.
- 6.4. It is clear to us that our investments can realise great benefits to the wider community if they are undertaken in partnership with the Local Board. This is in the spirit of mutual trust, co-operation and respect to which Ngāti Whātua Orākei has faithfully adhered from the arrival of Governor Hobson to the present day, and which the Crown has now formally acknowledged.
- 6.5. We look forward to combining our efforts for the greater good of all who choose to make Orākei their home.

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*Lodged by:*

Andrew Brown  
Kaitiaki Rangahau  
29 June 2017

On behalf of Ngāti Whātua Orākei

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