

## Update on Expressway and whanau land in Waikanae

Kia ora koutou,

This panui is being shared to update you about two blocks of whanau land in Waikanae.

- Ngarara West A25B2B which is managed and owned by the Ahu Whenua Trust that represents 28 landowners (shaded blue on the attached map)
- Ngarara West A25B2A which is owned by the Grace whānau under the Maori Reservation Trust (shaded orange on the attached map).

The Grace whānau and Ahu Whenua Trust land blocks comprise the last vestiges of the estate of Wiremu (Wi) Parata Te Kakakura and are of great cultural and historical significance to all the owners.

Both blocks have both been affected by construction of the new expressway but in different ways.

This week the M2PP Alliance begins construction of a split-retaining wall that will allow the expressway's route to move slightly to the west between the Waikanae River and Te Moana Road.

This will avoid the land owned by Patricia Grace which is now part of the Maori Reservation Trust. That land was protected by the Environment Court and the Maori Land Court rulings that the land is "of such cultural and historic significance to Maori that it should be rendered inalienable."

This new route bisects land that is held under the guardianship of the Ahu Whenua Trust, who are direct descendants of Te Atiawa rangatira Wiremu (Wi) Parata Te Kakakura, his daughter Metapere and her son Te Oti.

Agreement for use of their land has happened in two parts.

1. The first section (marked 'first section Ahu Whenu Trust taken by Public Works Act' on the attached map) was taken through the Public Works Act in December 2013. Compulsory acquisition of the first parcel of Ahu Whenua Trust land severed the Trust's physical connection to the Takamore urupa. This area known as Tuku Rakau has such cultural and historic significance to the Trust that in the ordinary course of events it would be viewed by the Trust as inalienable.

The NZ Transport Agency has apologised for any actions and omissions that have damaged the unique relationship between the Trust's landowners, the Tuku Rakau area and all of the waahi tapu therein. And expressed regret that, while having engaged with the sole trustee in good faith as the landowners' representative, it could have engaged more meaningfully with all of the Trust's landowners in respect of the acquisition of the land.

This apology signified the beginning of a restored and enduring relationship between the Trust's land owners and the Transport Agency, based on mutual trust and cooperation, good faith and respect for the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.

2. Agreement around a second smaller piece of Ahu Whenua Trust land occurred because the Transport Agency needed to find a way to realign the expressway. This has happened through an exchange of land (marked 'second section of Ahu Whenua Trust exchanged land' on the attached map) and has allowed the route to move slightly to the west with minimal disruption to affected landowners, the waahi tapu area and the local community.

In parallel to this process, a group made up of the Grace whānau, Ahu Whenua Trust, the Takamore Trust, Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust and the Transport Agency have worked collaboratively on urban design and cultural mitigation to reflect the cultural values of the area.

The altered route reduces the impact on a large dune on the eastern side of the Expressway. And a split-retaining wall will hold up the sand dune, and provide space for the shared pathway.

The split-retaining wall will display motifs that tell of the cultural values of the area using the concept of a kaitaka (cloak), encompassing the following values:

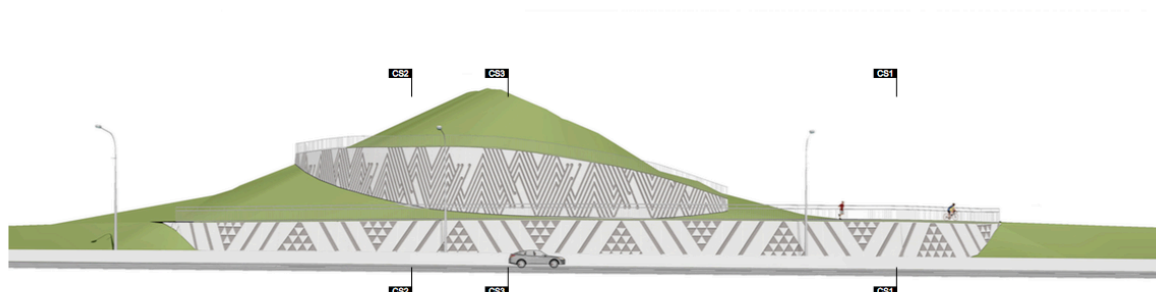
**Manaakitanga** – the cloak embodies warmth, shelter and protection;

**Rangatiratanga** - the cloak represents high status and autonomy, as the holder of stories, histories and knowledge

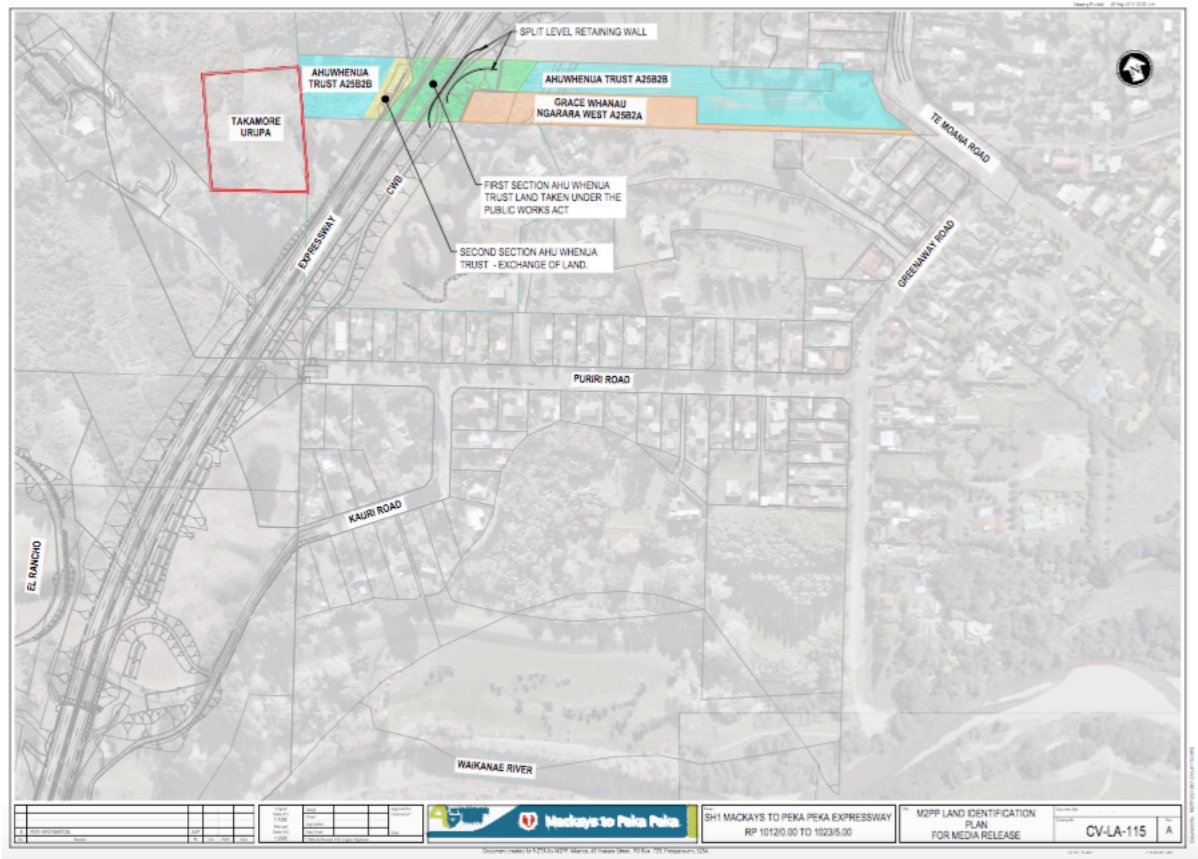
**Whanaungatanga** – the cloak, as a taonga, enhances relationships and working together

**Kaitiakitanga** - the cloak protects and guards ,the holders of stories, histories and knowledge of the area.

The designs were developed in partnership between M2PP Alliance designers and Rakairoa Hori, a Waikanae-based artist of Te Atiawa, Ngati Toa Rangatira and Ngati Raukawa descent.



Today's announcement signifies where this has landed and the start of a positive journey forward for all parties. Construction of the split-retaining wall will begin on Monday 7 September and take around nine to ten months to complete.



If whanau, hapu or iwi have any further questions they can call:

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