

25. Cultural

Hōkai Nuku prepared a Cultural Effects Assessment for the Project, which identifies and assesses the potential effects of the Project on the cultural values and associated overall wellbeing of Hōkai Nuku and its constituent Hapū and Iwi groups. Hōkai Nuku prepared the Cultural Effects Assessment with the input of Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Mauku/Ngāti Kauwae, Ngāti Rango and Ngāti Whātua Iwi.

The Cultural Effects Assessment identifies and describes the relationships that Hōkai Nuku has with the Project area and determines the level of cultural, environmental, economic and social effects that the Project may have in a wider cultural context. The Cultural Effects Assessment also provides information regarding culturally significant areas and taonga within the proposed designation.

The following is a summary of the issues and potential effects identified in the Cultural Effects Assessment. This summary and the Report subsequently inform the recommended mitigation contained in Section 28 and will inform the Project conditions.

25.1 Hōkai Nuku

Hōkai Nuku is the alliance formed by the mana whenua of the RoNS area (from Johnstone's Hill Tunnels to Te Hana), namely Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Mauku/Ngāti Kauwae, Ngāti Rango and Ngāti Whātua iwi with the support of Ngāti Paoa. Representatives of Hōkai Nuku offer expert advice to the Project team as required.

25.2 Assessment model

Hōkai Nuku has identified its key cultural values and developed a "Cultural Footprint Framework", which highlights the relationship of mana whenua with the Project area. These values and the framework have been used by Hōkai Nuku to assess the cultural effects of the Project.

25.2.1 Cultural Effects Assessment process

The Hōkai Nuku Cultural Effects Assessment states that it is an environmental management tool used to identify the potential effects a proposed activity may have in a cultural context. The Cultural Effects Assessment identifies the past, present, and future relationships, values and aspirations held by Hōkai Nuku. The Cultural Effects Assessment recommends that these values and aspirations be recognised, protected and managed in decision-making relating to the Project. Hōkai Nuku considers that all effects in the Cultural Effects Assessment Report, be they bio-physical, social or economic, are 'cultural' insofar as they affect the well-being of Hōkai Nuku, to some degree.

25.2.2 Cultural values

The Cultural Effects Assessment identifies key principles which Hōkai Nuku uses to assess the impact or effects of the Project on Hōkai Nuku cultural values. These include:

- **Mauri** – All elements of the natural environment, including people, possess mauri (life force) and all forms of life are related.
- **Kaitiakitanga** – Māori have an obligation to protect and enhance the mauri of all natural resources, for the benefit of ourselves, other people living in our homeland and for future generations **Ki uta, ki tai** (from inland to the sea) – The mauri of the waterways is also viewed holistically and includes from the source of the waterway (mountains, springs and wetlands) to the sea.
- **Hauhake, Kohikohi** (harvest and gather) – The use of flora and fauna to sustain the people.

These concepts are explained in further detail in Section 2.2 of the Cultural Effects Assessment.

25.2.3 Cultural Footprint Framework

The Cultural Footprint Framework expresses Hōkai Nuku’s connections to ancestors, highlights iconic identity markers which provide reference points to the environment and notes specific associations through historical events and activities. This framework shows Hōkai Nuku’s “cultural footprint” on the landscape. When used in conjunction with the cultural values described above, the footprint offers a position statement for assessing the effects of the Project on cultural values.

Figure 25-1 provides an overview of the Cultural Footprint Framework for Hōkai Nuku. Refer to the Cultural Effects Assessment for further explanation of the concepts included in the framework.

Hōkai Nuku Cultural Footprint Framework				
Mana Tangata	<i>Acknowledging and upholding the mana (authority) of the people that whakapapa (have genealogical connections) and whanaungatanga (relationships) to the area</i>	Iwi Hapū	Ngāti Wai ↓ Ngāti Manuhiri	Ngāti Whātua ↓ Ngāti Mauku/ Ngāti Kauwae Ngāti Rango
Mana Whenua	<i>Identifying the features of the physical landscape that are of particular cultural importance to the Mana Tangata, and explaining the relationship</i>	Moana Awa Maunga Pā Kāinga Urupa	(ocean) (river) (mountain) (fortified village) (residential areas) (burial sites)	
Pūtake	<i>Addressing the particular historical and contemporary issues relating to these areas, and any future aspirations</i>	Tuku Raupatu Rāhui Tapu	(ceded/sold) (confiscation) (prohibition of use) (sacred/restricted)	

Figure 25-1: Hōkai Nuku Cultural Footprint Framework¹²⁹

¹²⁹ Excerpt from Section 2.3 of the Cultural Effects Assessment

25.2.4 Methodology

Hōkai Nuku assessed cultural effects using the following methodology:

- Collectively identifying key principles to be used to assess the impact or effects of proposed activities on the cultural values of Hōkai Nuku;
- Developing the Cultural Footprint Framework;
- Obtaining primary data from Hōkai Nuku members and specialist advisors representing the wider knowledge base and interests of constituent hapū and iwi;
- Reviewing background information provided by the NZTA, including design information and specialist environmental assessments;
- Reviewing all relevant Project documents and technical reports including draft assessment reports and providing feedback to the Project team and incorporating this information into the Cultural Effects Assessment;
- Discussing the Project with the NZTA's specialist advisors and Project management;
- Reviewing statutory provisions relevant to the recognition and protection of Māori values and interests; and
- Presenting the final Cultural Effects Assessment to Hōkai Nuku for formal endorsement.

25.3 Effects on the Cultural Footprint of Hōkai Nuku

Hōkai Nuku has identified areas of significance that may be impacted by the Project, the possible effects on those areas, and recommended management of those effects.

The following sections summarise Hōkai Nuku's assessment of cultural effects, both on identified areas of cultural significance and on cultural values and principles integral to the wellbeing of Hōkai Nuku. Descriptions of these sites, values and principles, and explanations of their significance to Hōkai Nuku in a cultural context are provided in Section 3 of the Cultural Effects Assessment.

25.3.1 Ngā Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia

The Project alignment will avoid direct impact on the Nga Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia and the pā rediscovered on the Straka property.

The Project will pass through the wider settlement area associated with Ngā Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia and will therefore have a significant impact both physically and on the mauri and the responsibility of Hōkai Nuku as kaitiaki. One midden associated with Ngā Pā will be destroyed by the Project alignment.

25.3.2 Te Koroto

Te Koroto is an island wāhi tapu known as Motutere at the head of the Waiwera River.

While there are no direct impacts on this island, any impact on the mauri of the wider settlement area of Ngā Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia will also impact on Te Koroto, therefore Hōkai Nuku considers that the extent of the effects are not yet known.

25.3.3 Te Huarahi o Kahumatamoemoe

Te Huarahi o Kahumatamoemoe is a pathway between the east and west coasts used by Kahumatamoemoe when he lived with Ngāti Manuhiri ancestors.

The Project crosses over this route and will affect the mauri of this pathway and the ability of Ngāti Manuhiri to enact their responsibility as kaitiaki.

25.3.4 Pōhuehue – Nohonga and Scenic Reserve

This reserve is avoided by the Project. The reserve is a significant indigenous landscape which Hōkai Nuku considers should be used as a guide for mitigation planting.

25.3.5 Te Awa Pūhoi (Pūhoi River and Estuary)

The Project crosses the Pūhoi River and its tributaries several times and will have an effect on the mauri of the river catchment and its ability to sustain the taonga species in it and consequently the people.

25.3.6 Waihē (Mahurangi River and Harbour)

The Project crosses the Mahurangi River and its tributaries several times and will have an effect on the mauri of the river catchment and its ability to sustain the taonga species in it and consequently the people.

25.3.7 Pūnaha Taupuhi Kaiao Taketake (Indigenous Ecosystems – Flora and Fauna)

The Project will have an effect on the indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity within the Cultural Footprint of Hōkai Nuku due to the significant area to be developed both for the motorway and the temporary areas required to support the construction process.

Hōkai Nuku views the world as an interconnected and integrated ecosystem allowing consideration of how the species interrelate and support each other.

Hōkai Nuku also considers that the removal of indigenous flora has an impact on the ability of Hōkai Nuku to harvest and gather food, medicines and resources. The removal also impacts on the ability of Hōkai Nuku as kaitiaki to maintain and restore indigenous ecosystems and habitats.

25.3.8 Ahuahu (Earthworks)

Hōkai Nuku considers that the Project will have a significant effect on the land and soil due to the level of earthworks required. Hōkai Nuku is still uncovering the historical connections to some areas of the land that will be affected by the Project. Therefore, the extent of the effects is still to be determined.

In the case of accidental discovery, knowing where the soil was sourced is important to Hōkai Nuku to identify the whakapapa of the discovery.

25.4 Cultural assessment of environmental effects

The Cultural Effects Assessment identifies interfaces where other identified environmental effects may impact on cultural values. The following sections summarise Hōkai Nuku's assessment of the effects on cultural values generated by other environmental effects of the Project. These effects relate to terrestrial and aquatic ecology, water and land modification, landscape and visual effects (including urban design), historic heritage and social and economic effects.

25.4.1 Terrestrial and aquatic ecology

It is important to Hōkai Nuku that the environment be viewed as an interconnected and integrated environment, rather than as isolated parts.

Hōkai Nuku considers that the removal of indigenous flora and fauna will impact on the indigenous ecosystems and wider biodiversity of the area. Therefore, it considers that such removal affects the responsibility of Hōkai Nuku in the role of kaitiaki to manage and protect the environment.

25.4.2 Water and land

Hōkai Nuku considers that the Project will directly impact on the catchments of the Pūhoi River and the Mahurangi River and Harbour, which are both identified as part of the Cultural Footprint of Hōkai Nuku.

Hōkai Nuku also considers that construction of the Project will have a significant effect on the land due to the size of the Project and the large amount of earthworks required. This will impact on the mauri of the land and the ability of Hōkai Nuku to enact the role of kaitiaki. Hōkai Nuku has a particular concern as to the original source for the importation of fill, which it considers affects the mauri and whakapapa of the site and may impact on any accidental discovery of taonga.

25.4.3 Landscape and visual

Hōkai Nuku considers that the size and scale of the Project and the large amount of earthworks required will have a significant effect on the land and natural and cultural landscape. This will impact on the mauri of the land and the ability of Hōkai Nuku to enact the role of kaitiaki.

25.4.4 Historic heritage

There is little information about the full extent of Ngā Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia and the associated historical settlement and activities, due to difficulties obtaining access to the site.

Hōkai Nuku views the settlement areas as a whole rather than as individual archaeological sites. Ngā Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia is a significant cultural site, and Hōkai Nuku considers that the Project alignment will have an impact on the wider settlement area of Ngā Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia.

25.4.5 Social and economic

Hōkai Nuku considers that the Project will have a significant effect on the communities living within and around the Project. Generally, Hōkai Nuku views these effects as providing positive opportunities to support the people through safer passage, but also through opportunities to

engage in economic development throughout the construction phase and in the protection and management of cultural taonga such as Ngā Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia.

25.5 Recommendations

Hōkai Nuku concludes that the most appropriate approach to addressing potential cultural effects is through strategic management planning built on strong formalised relationships. Many of Hōkai Nuku's recommendations suggest that further management plans be developed to ensure that Hōkai Nuku concerns are adequately addressed and recommendations incorporated at the 'front end' and throughout the process.

We understand that NZTA will continue to engage with Hōkai Nuku throughout the Project.

The NZTA is recommending a series of conditions to address Hōkai Nuku concerns including (but not limited to):

- Establishment of an iwi advisor for the duration of the Project construction to allow on-going cultural input.
- A management plan to record Hōkai Nuku's on-going role and involvement, including cultural indicators especially for monitoring during and post construction and specific procedures regarding accidental discovery protocols.
- That the Pā sites be surveyed and managed, particularly Ngā Pā o Te Hēmara Tauhia.
- Monitoring of earthworks and water quality in conjunction with Hōkai Nuku.
- An integrated management approach to the terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecology, urban and landscape design framework and landscaping plans.
- Ecosourcing of plants for restoration planting and landscaping, and for habitat enhancement (eg food source for kereru).
- Hōkai Nuku inputs into the Urban and Landscape Design Framework and sector plans to reflect and recognise Hōkai Nuku associations.

NZTA's relationship with Hōkai Nuku has been valuable in the preparation of the AEE and Assessment Reports. The recommendations above will in part address potential adverse environmental effects, and ensure we have regard to Part 2 of the RMA. I support the recommendations above on that basis.