
REPORT 1

NAMING THE LAGOON AND FOOTBRIDGE

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council supports the proposal from Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust to name the lagoon and footbridge.

2. Executive summary

Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust has requested that Wellington City Council name the lagoon and footbridge to Whai Repo Lagoon and Aukati Footbridge respectively.

The lagoon is a geographic feature and so an application to the New Zealand Geographic Board is required to name the lagoon. The footbridge is a Council asset so the authority for naming lies with Council.

The Council have numerous strategies and policies that align with a project such as this, including the Waterfront Framework and Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital. Those strategies and the Council's ongoing partnership with local iwi also support a joint proposal from the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and the Council.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to support a joint application with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust to the New Zealand Geographic Board to name the lagoon to 'Whai Repo Lagoon'*
3. *Agree to name the footbridge to 'Aukati Footbridge' within current Wellington City Council asset naming processes.*
4. *Agree that Council will carry out appropriate consultation with the public and key stakeholders.*
5. *Note that appropriate signage will be developed in consultation with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust.*
6. *Note that the application to the New Zealand Geographic Board may take up to 12 months to be processed and there is no guarantee that the Board will accept the proposal.*

4. Background

Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust sent a letter (see appendix 1) to the Mayor's Office on 6 December 2013 requesting that Wellington City Council formally name the lagoon and footbridge.

The names the Trust would like to give to the lagoon is 'Whai Repo Lagoon' and to the footbridge, 'Aukati Footbridge'.

5. Discussion

5.1 Behind the names Whai Repo and Lagoon and Aukati Footbridge

The name that the Trust would like to gift to the lagoon is Whai Repo Lagoon.

The Trust explains that the Whai Repo portion of the name is the Māori name given to the Eagle Ray. The word Whai Repo is said to derive from two words: Whai – stingray and Repo – mudflat. Common habitats of the eagle ray are estuaries and shallow harbours. Te Whanganui-a-Tara (the Wellington Harbour) and the lagoon are no different.

It is not uncommon for there to be up to a dozen whai repo in the lagoon at one time over the summer months. It is also a common sight to see people pointing and photographing the whai repo that are easily seen when the sun is shining.

It is believed that the shallow water and the abundant food attract the whai repo. It is also felt that the lagoon might act as a haven of sorts for when a pod of orca were pursuing the whai repo last summer the orca were stopped by the footbridge and the shallower depth of water.

The whai repo are considered kaitiaki or guardians of the lagoon, Te Raukura and the waka associated with the Wharewaka. As kaitiaki they ensure that the waka return after every journey and that people are safe in their activities in and around the lagoon.

The name that the Trust would like to give the footbridge is Aukati Footbridge.

Aukati mean to block, prevent or act as a guard. The Aukati Footbridge works in tandem with the Whai Repo Lagoon to act as the block or guard to the lagoon and whai repo. Just as the footbridge guarded the whai repo from the orca this summer, the Trust sees the footbridge guarding both the whai repo and the lagoon in the future.

5.2 Relevant Wellington City Council Policy

The Wellington Waterfront Framework of April 2001 notes the importance of Māori and European history which forms part of the identity of the waterfront. Both contribute to the spiritual, social, maritime, and economic evolution of Wellington.

The framework further states that Māori have had a long connection with the harbour and the waterfront and that continues today. In particular the lagoon has been identified as the best place for a landing site and shelter for the waka of the local mana whenua. This is because of its proximity to the former Te Aro

pā site, the ceremonial link with the Civic Centre, and ease of access to the water.

Our Capital Spaces Framework is also a helpful guide for this project. One of the main focuses in the Our Capital Spaces framework is “Strong relationships with Māori”.

The framework states that we will encourage Treaty partners and the wider Māori community to help determine how this plan can be implemented. This project is an important aspect of the waterfront and the connection with local iwi there is strong. It is a project that would help implement the focus of ‘Our Capital Spaces’ Framework.

The Council could also use the principles within the Open Space Naming Policy 2001 – Kaupapa Whakaingoa Whenua Māhorahora. This policy takes into account Council’s obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi and the importance of the Memoranda of Understanding with our (now) iwi partners Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated.

We can also look to Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital for guidance. The strategy highlights the role of mana whenua and celebrates the visibility of Māori culture and history in the city. It suggests that Council:

- Use public spaces, buildings, artworks and events as opportunities to celebrate and reflect the city’s relationship with Māori.
- Acknowledge and identify sites of historical importance to Māori.
- Acknowledge mana whenua and Wellington whānau, hapū and iwi as important partners in the future cultural, social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the city.

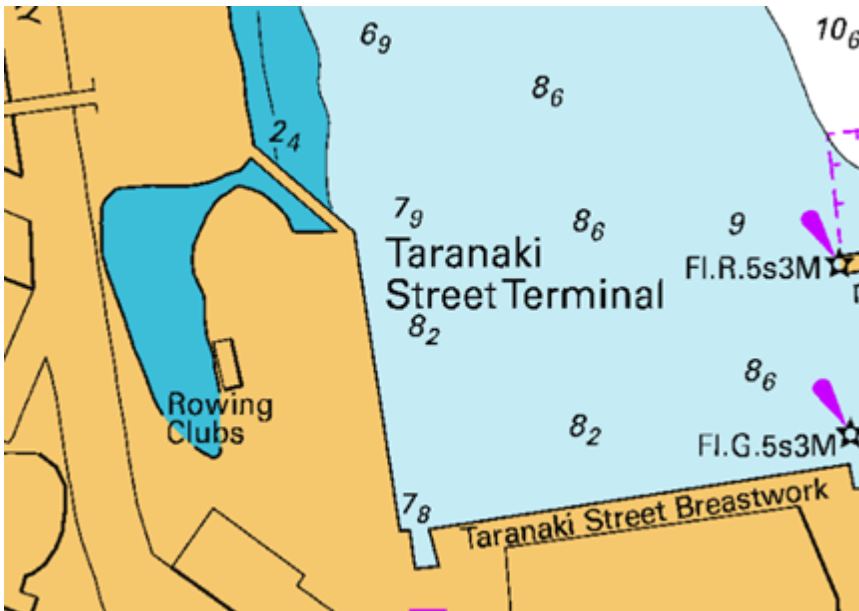
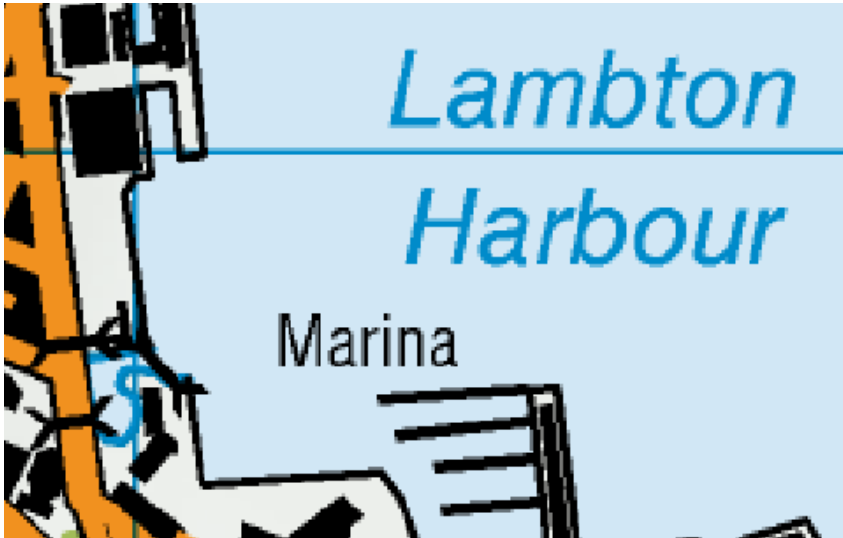
Established Council strategies and frameworks are consistent with Council supporting a joint application to the New Zealand Geographic Board with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust.

5.3 The process for naming

5.3.1 Whai Repo Lagoon

The name ‘Frank Kitts Lagoon;’ and the name ‘Harbour Bridge’ are of no historical significance to the City and have been used by default due to being situated next to Frank Kitts Park and Wellington Harbour.

As seen in the topography map and charts below, it is a very small feature and while the lagoon shape is shown, the cartographers have not depicted the name of the feature.



Naming the lagoon feature falls under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.

The New Zealand Geographic Board, Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (the Board) may assign, alter, discontinue, or approve names for geographic features.

A formal proposal will need to be submitted to the Board for their consideration. Support of the proposal from members of the community would be helpful to the Board in making their determination, and Council support would give particular weight to the proposal.

If the Board accepts the proposed name for the lagoon then it would be publicly consulted for a period of three months. If no objecting submissions are received the Board can make a final determination to assign an official name. However, if there are objections and the Board does not uphold them, then the Minister for Land Information makes the final determination.

Once official, the name gets included in the Board's Gazetteer and LINZ maps, charts, and digital information may be updated to show the name.

It should be noted that there is no guarantee that the name would become official, it needs to meet the Board's naming criteria and be fully consulted with the public.

Broadly the criteria consists of:

- a name that has a strong historical, geographical or local significance
- a name that commemorates a notable event, person or group of people. Such as Opotiki, and Endeavour Inlet.
- a descriptive name, such as Whanganui River or Westport.

5.3.2 Aukati Footbridge

The Council has authority to name the footbridge as any other Council asset. Therefore, the Council can approve the name of the footbridge within normal Council processes such as appropriate signage and recording that name within asset management plans.

5.4 Consultation and Engagement

This project would not fall under the special consultative procedure set out in the Local Government Act 2002. But as this is a highly visible project it may be advisable to establish a consultation plan, focused on key stakeholders.

Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated has been asked for feedback on the proposed changes. Officers have not received a response at the time of writing this paper.

Ian Pike from Wellington Waterfront Limited has also been contacted and supportive of the proposal.

Waterfront Watch has been contacted but have not responded at the time of writing this paper.

5.5 Financial considerations

There are no financial implications.

5.6 Climate change impacts and considerations

There are no climate change impacts.

5.7 Long-term plan considerations

There are no LTP considerations.

6. Conclusion

Officers recommend that Council support a joint application to the lagoon to Whai Repo Lagoon to the New Zealand Geographic Board. Officers also recommend that Council formally name the footbridge Aukati Footbridge through the standard Council processes.

Contact Officer: *Michael Oates, Open Space and Recreation Planning Manager*

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

NA

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

NA

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

The proposal is to be located on a site that mana whenua regard as important. The site is the former shoreline and waka used to moor there prior to reclamation. The Wellington Tenth's Trust (owner of two waka housed in the wharewaka) has been approached and considers the proposal an appropriate use of the land.

4) Decision-making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

If this meets the Geographic Board requirements, there will be public consultation on the naming of the lagoon.

b) Consultation with Maori

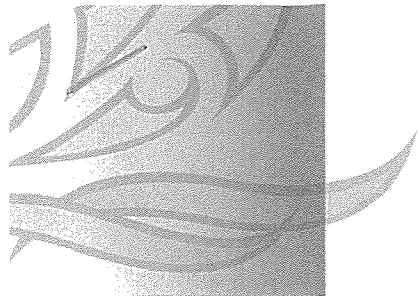
Mana whenua have approached the Council with the proposal to name the Lagoon and Footbridge. The Council is also discussing this with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated.

6) Legal implications

The naming of the lagoon requires Geographic Board approval to proceed.

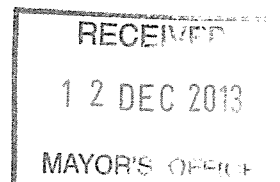
7) Consistency with existing policy

This is consistent with the principles within the Open Space Naming Policy 2001 – Kaupapa Whakaingoa Whenua Māhorahora.



PORT NICHOLSON BLOCK
SETTLEMENT TRUST

6 December 2013



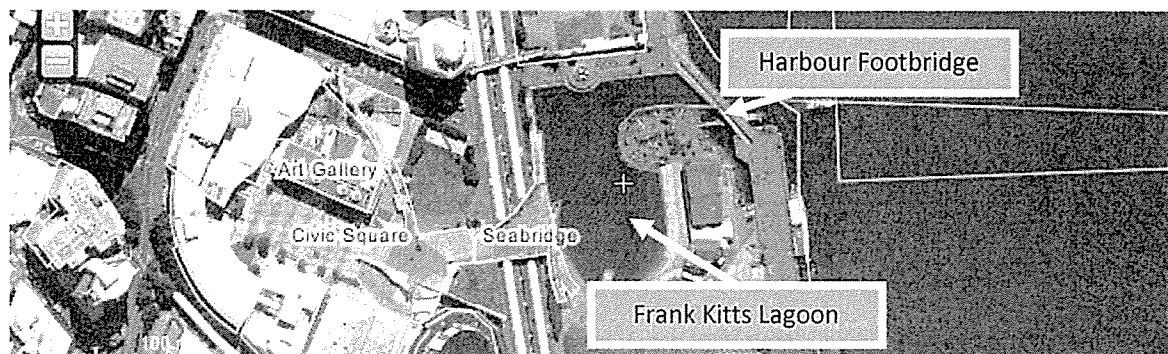
Celia Wade-Brown
Her Worship The Mayor
Wellington City Council
P O Box 2199
WELLINGTON 6140

Tēnā koe

RE: PROPOSED NAME FOR HARBOUR LAGOON AND HARBOUR FOOTBRIDGE

The Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust would like to formally request the name change for Frank Kitts Lagoon and the Harbour Footbridge.

The name 'Frank Kitts Lagoon' and the name 'Harbour Footbridge' are names that have been used by default because of being situated next to Frank Kitts Park and Wellington Harbour.



As far as I am aware the name for these two spaces hasn't been addressed formally and given the close vicinity that these areas have to Te Raukura and Te Aro Pā which historically included the waterfront, and their very frequent use by Wellingtonians, we would like to see them named appropriately and with due protocol and process.

The name that the Trust would like to gift to the Lagoon is:

Whai Repo Lagoon

The Whai Repo portion of the name is the Māori name given to the Eagle Ray (Myliobatidae). The word Whai Repo is said to derive from two words: 1) Whai – stringray and 2) Repo – mudflat. Common habitats of the eagle ray are estuaries and shallow harbours. Te Whanganui-a-Tara (The Wellington Harbour) and the lagoon are no different. In fact, it is not uncommon for there to be up to a dozen whai

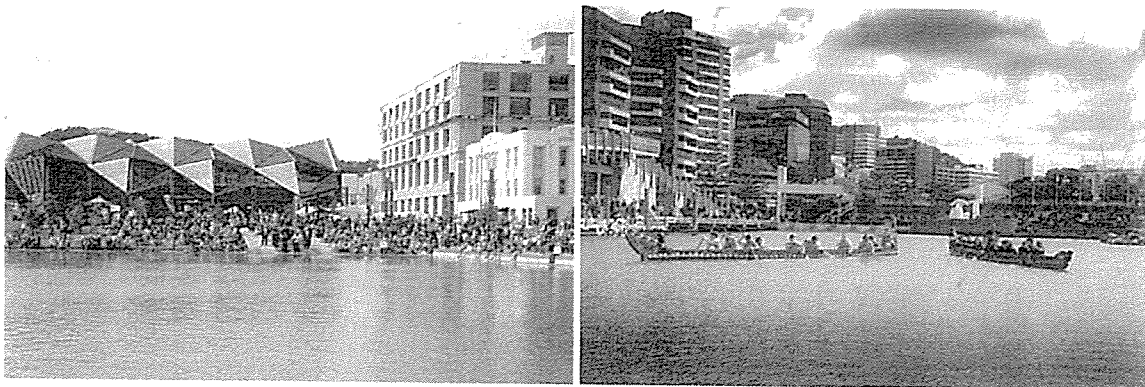
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repo in the lagoon at one time over the summer months. It is also a common sight to see people pointing and photographing the whai repo that are easily seen when the sun is shining.

It is believed that the shallow water and abundant food attracts the whai repo. It is also felt that the lagoon might act as a haven of sorts for when a pod of orca were pursuing the whai repo last Summer they were stopped by the footbridge and depth of water.

The whai repo are considered kaitiaki or guardians of the lagoon, Te Raukura and the waka associated with the Wharewaka. As kaitiaki they ensure that the waka return after every journey and that people are safe in their activities in and around the lagoon.



The name that the Trust would like to change the Harbour Footbridge to is:

Aukati Footbridge

Aukati means to block, prevent or act as a guard. The Aukati Footbridge works in tandem with the Whai Repo Lagoon to act as the block or guard to the lagoon and the whai repo. Just as the footbridge guarded the whai repo from the orca this Summer, we see the footbridge guarding both the whai repo and the lagoon in the future.

Should one or both of these names be agreed upon we request the opportunity to formally name them both with a formal ceremony abiding by Taranaki Whānui tikanga and kawa. Waitangi Day celebrations 2014 could be a time to do this.

I would appreciate your consideration of this and look forward to hearing back from you regarding renaming these two spaces.

Nāku noa, nā

Aroha Thorpe
Trust Manager