

Whakaoratia Ōtautahi: Ngāi Tahu Aspirations for Christchurch Recovery & Rebuild

Actively celebrate, protect & enhance values significant to Ngāi Tahu, both historic & contemporary, for 21st Century Ōtautahi Christchurch.

The area now known as Christchurch is of special cultural and historical significance to Ngāi Tahu. Prior to European settlement, Ngāi Tahu, and before them Ngāti Mamoe and Waitaha, maintained numerous permanent and temporary kāinga and pā (habitation sites) within the Greater Christchurch area. From these settlements, Ngāi Tahu gathered and utilised natural resources from the network of springs, waterways, wetlands, grasslands and lowland podocarp forests that abounded along the Ōpāwaho (Heathcote) and Ōtakaro (Avon) rivers and around Te Ihutai (Avon-Heathcote Estuary). These resources were vital to the Ngāi Tahu settlements beyond the Waimakariri river, around Te Waihora and on Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (Banks Peninsula) at Kaiapoi, Rāpaki, Koukourārata, Wairewa, Ōnuku and Taumutu.

The cultural associations with the city and its surrounding landscape remain important to Ngāi Tahu, especially for those who continue to live and work here. The relationship to the land, waterways and significant cultural sites and places endures even though the development of the city has impacted and modified the landscape. The ability to uphold the mana and mauri of these areas and resources is vital to the ongoing wellbeing and responsibilities of Ngāi Tahu.

Recognising and incorporating Ngāi Tahu values in the rebuild of the City and its future development therefore strengthens Christchurch's cultural identity and wellbeing, and provides opportunities for the city to celebrate its unique indigenous heritage for the future.

Opportunities exist across the City to reinforce and re-establish historic and contemporary connections with the land, waterways and taonga through the active protection, restoration and interpretation of cultural values and sites, as well as through an ongoing and healthy relationship between both ngā Papatipu Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the City Council, as well as developers and the local community to achieve tangible outcomes.

Guiding Principles

Manawhenua: Acknowledgement, recognition and provision for tangata whenua kawa, tikanga, history and ongoing mana through active involvement and partnership with local and central government

Rangatiratanga: Expression and interpretation of Ngāi Tahu Reo (language), kawa (protocol), tikanga (customs), matauranga (knowledge), history, identity, cultural symbols, arts and heritage.

Wāhi Tapu/Taonga: Acknowledgement, protection, enhancement and appropriate development and interpretation of culturally significant sites and areas.

Ngā Wai Tūpuna: Protection and enhancement of waterways and the appropriate use/reuse, treatment & disposal of water.

Ngā Otaota Māori: Protection and enhancement of indigenous flora, fauna, habitats, ecosystems, & biodiversity, particularly those associated with waterways and wetlands.

Kaitiakitanga: Reduction and prevention of waste and pollution (to air, land and water) and the minimisation of reliance on, and/or the improvement of, existing infrastructure, including investment and investigation into alternative water, wastewater, storm-water and energy systems.

Tohungatanga: Investment in, and investigation of, technology, knowledge, products, infrastructure, buildings and management systems that are energy, water and resource efficient, and involve the ongoing monitoring and reporting of performance and results across economic, social, environmental and cultural well-beings.

Whakapapa/Mātauranga: Use of indigenous, local, recycled and/or renewable resources and products that provide a connection to, and/or protect, enhance and reflect the cultural landscape and Ngāi Tahu identity and integrity.

Whanaungatanga/Manaakitanga: Built and natural environments that reflect Ngāi Tahu values, provide for manaaki manuhiri, and offer healthy and inspiring environments for all people.

Objectives

- Actively involve Ngāi Tahu in the protection and recognition of their cultural values, particularly in relation to the interpretation, protection, restoration and enhancement of wāhi tapu, taonga and mahinga kai.
- Protect and enhance traditional and valued sites and areas, both known and those yet to be discovered.
- Use and encourage appropriate Māori names and associations for street, building, park, reserve and place names.
- Develop and restore indigenous riparian, forest, grassland and wetland habitats and flora and fauna,, in particular those associated with traditional mahinga kai sites and species.
- Represent both historic and contemporary Māori culture in building and landscape design, artwork, furniture and interpretation materials in public open space and the built environment.
- Protect and restore the Ōtakaro (Avon), Ōpāwaho (Heathcote), Huritini (Halswell), Puharakekenui (Styx) and Kaiapoi Rivers from contamination and sedimentation, particularly through the improved treatment of stormwater and restoration of native wetland, riparian and lowland forest zones and habitat.
- Protect and restore both pre-existing and current springs and river channels.
- Provide for cultural practices and culturally aligned recreational opportunities such as mahinga kai, hikoī, waka ama and kapa haka within public spaces and facilities.
- Incorporate tangata whenua cultural practices and values into community activities and facilities.

Kohika Kōrero / Bibliography

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