

13 November 2024 - CE Report to the Board

Ngā ara hīkoi ki Aotea project

20. The project team is still awaiting Ngāti Rēhua Ngāti Wai Iwi Trust Board comments and input into the project design, following recent elections of a new Trust Board and staff turnover. Recently Destination Great Barrier Island has provided an additional \$5K of funding to support iwi to engage fully in the project. Meanwhile, the RFA is pursuing biosecurity guidance for inclusion in the project design. We are working towards ground-truthing phase over the coming summer – but this timing is reliant on iwi interest and engagement, along with contractor availability.

20 August 2024 – CE Report to the Board

Ngā ara hīkoi ki Aotea project

17. The project team is awaiting Ngāti Rēhua Ngāti Wai Iwi Trust Board feedback and potential input into design and implementation.
18. Iwi engagement is integral to the project's success, and the project team needs guidance from the Trust Board regarding how and when that engagement happens. The Trust Board elections in June have brought about a change of chair and new members, and the RFA has been promised that the project will be considered by the Trust Board as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the RFA was interviewed about the project on Radio Aotea.
19. Meanwhile, during Q4, the RFA presented on the project's aims to Aotearoa Conservation Park Advisory Committee, to help ensure that the project considers conservation values promoted in the park - parts of which adjoin ULRs that are priority routes for the project. Feedback highlighted the importance of getting advice on Kauri Dieback and other biosecurity issues before considering opening up tracks along ULRs.

22 May 2024 - CE Report to the Board

Ngā ara hīkoi ki Aotea project

29. The RFA has connected with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee, which includes Ngāti Rēhua Ngātiwai kuia and kaumātua. They will visit Aotea in mid-May to discuss the project with that group. While not a decision-making body, they are influential and will be able to advise on ULR connectivity into the conservation park. While on the island, the RFA will meet with community trails advocates and others to plan next steps.

27 February 2024 - CE Report to the Board

Ngā ara hīkoi ki Aotea project

24. Progress has stalled, with no further feedback from Ngāti Rēhua Ngāti Wai Trust. The RFA has connected with the manager of the iwi lead ecological restoration programme, Tū Mai Taonga. While there has been initial positive interest in working together on shared outcomes, tikanga prevents further discussion until the iwi Trust has given feedback on the trails project.
25. Destination Great Barrier Island Trust has donated \$50,000 toward the project. The funding was received in February 2024.

29 November 2023 - CE Report to the Board

Ngā ara hīkoj ki Aotea project

29. This new project is funded by Destination Great Barrier Island (DGBI), a community tourism development trust on Aotea Great Barrier. DGBI is winding up, and the chair, Derek Bell, approached our Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Field Advisor to propose that Herenga ā Nuku delivers a legacy project on the trust's behalf.
30. The project aims to investigate and describe potential community connecting trails along ULRs in the southern part of the Island. Our Tāmaki Makaurau RFA prepared the MOU and project brief with the trust and sought advice from mana whenua group Ngāti Rehua Ngāti Wai Ki Aotea. Our RFA also had an initial discussion with an experienced tracks and trails contractor who is familiar with the landscape.
31. As part of scoping the work, our Auckland RFA coordinated a presentation to the Aotea Great Barrier Island Local Board in August, fielding questions about the project and clarifying proposed roles.
32. The visit to Aotea included a short walk along one of the ULRs and a chance for the RFA to meet with DGBI trustees to finesse the MOU and project timeline. Our RFA reiterated the importance of mana whenua engagement in developing the project.
33. Having received no response to their initial approach to iwi, our RFA enlisted DOC staff to introduce them to the relevant local contact. Subsequently, the RFA spoke with the chair of Ngāti Rehua Ngāti Wai Trust, Opo Ngawaka, who signalled the need to protect wāhi tapu and wāhi tupuna. Opo will take the project description to the Kaumātua hui for their consideration. Opo suggested engaging an experienced track builder working for the iwi and with DOC in the north of Aotea – they would have the ideal skillset for identifying cultural heritage areas and advising the project.

Released under the Official Information Act

2024-2025 Q2 (1 Oct to 31 December) Report

Ngā ara hiko ki Aotea

The project team is still awaiting Ngāti Rēhua Ngāti Wai Iwi Trust Board comments and input into the project design following the recent elections of a new Trust Board and staff turnover. Destination Great Barrier Island has set aside a further \$5k to ensure iwi can engage fully in the project – with Herenga ā Nuku holding these funds for that purpose.

Our RFA is currently seeking biosecurity guidance for the project design, including the preparation of a hygiene plan for unformed legal roads in kauri catchments.

The next phase is planned for Feb-March 2025 and involves an experienced person or team walking and describing each section of the track to use as public safety information. However, this is reliant on iwi interest and engagement, approval of the project team's Kauri Dieback hygiene plan, weather, and contractor availability.

2023-2024 Q4 (1 April to 30 June) Report

Ngā ara hiko ki Aotea

The project team is awaiting Ngāti Rēhua Ngāti Wai Iwi Trust Board feedback and potential input into design and implementation.

Iwi engagement is integral to the project's success, and the project team needs guidance from the Trust Board on how and when that engagement happens. The June Trust Board elections brought about a change of chair and new members, and our Auckland RFA has sent information for their next meeting.

Meanwhile, the RFA presented the project's aims to the Aotearoa Conservation Park Advisory Committee to help ensure that the project considers conservation values promoted in the park. Parts of the park adjoin unformed legal roads that are priority routes for the project. Feedback highlighted the importance of getting advice on Kauri dieback and other biosecurity issues before considering opening up tracks along unformed legal roads.

2023-2024 Q2 (1 Oct to 31 Dec) Report

Ngā ara hiko ki Aotea

Progress has stalled since last quarter, with no further feedback from Ngāti Rēhua Ngāti Wai Trust. Our Tāmaki Makaurau Regional Field Advisor (RFA) has connected with the manager of the iwi lead ecological restoration programme, Tū Mai Taonga. While there has been initial positive interest in working together on shared outcomes, tikanga prevents further discussion until the iwi trust has given feedback on the trails project.

Operational highlights:

- Our Tāmaki Makaurau RFA has sought to engage with Ngāti Rēhua Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust about the proposed ULR project on Aotea Great Barrier Island. This is still a work in progress, but the local iwi-led ecological restoration initiative, Tū Mai Taonga, has expressed interest in achieving pest eradication aims alongside trail marking.

2022-2023 Q4 (1 April to 30 June) Report

Operational highlights this quarter:

- Herenga ā Nuku joined a local community trust on Aotea/Great Barrier in investigating a network of ULRs. These ULRs could provide active transport, recreation and connectivity for the coastal settlements around the southern part of the island. It is likely that there is funding for a feasibility investigation and mapping to enable greater public awareness and use of the unformed parts of the roading network.