An aerial photograph of a coastal region. A road, identified as SH2 / SH28, runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. To the left of the road is a large body of water, possibly a lagoon or marsh. To the right of the road is a residential area with many houses and some commercial buildings. In the background, there are rolling hills and a larger body of water under a cloudy sky.

SH2 / SH28
(A Safer and Integrated
Northern Gateway to
Napier)

When a Patch Won't Do...

Nick Aiken, Sector Leader Environment WSP Opus
Rob Partridge, NZ Transport Agency
Michele Frey, (formerly WSP Opus, now XYST)

Knitting



Weaving



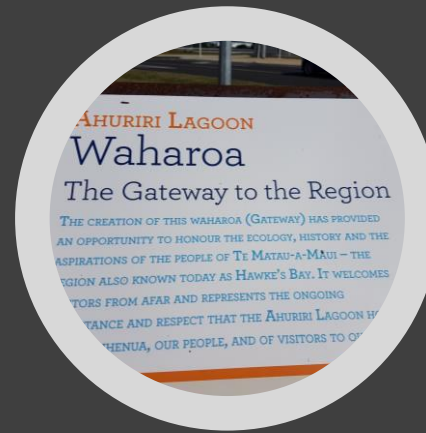
Multi-Agency Project

- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Napier City Council
- Hawkes Bay Airport



The Challenge...

....Transport and Safety?
....Heritage?
....Amenity?
....Gateway?



The Challenge – Transport and Safety



FAIRFAX NZ

Warwick Holmes, a former Hawke's Bay coroner, pictured in 2005 at the SH2/SH2B intersection. He labelled it one of four "death traps" intersections on the Napier-Hastings expressway.



SIMON HENDERY/ FAIRFAX NZ

The Transport Agency has plans to install a roundabout at the notoriously dangerous intersection in the 2016-2017 financial year but regional leaders want the work fast-tracked.



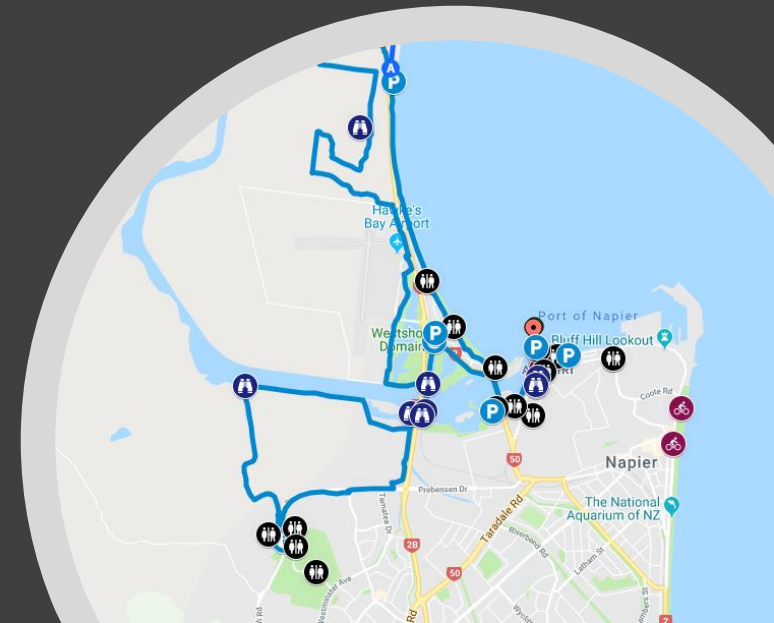
WSP | OPUS

The Challenge –Heritage (Built and Cultural)



The Challenge – Natural Heritage

- Over 70 species of birds including threatened species like the godwit (Kuaka), royal spoonbill, Australasian bittern, New Zealand dabchick, banded dotterel and black-billed gull.



Diverse Stakeholders and Values (impacts)

Mana
Ahuriri

Hawkes
Bay Airport

Watchman
Road
residents

DOC

NZTA

Westshore
Residents
Association

Friends of
the Estuary

Westshore
Holiday
Park

KiwiRail

Napier City
Council

WSP OPUS

A 'Front-Loaded' Strategic Approach - for Rapid Consenting



Weaving a Solution





Stories and Details





Aihueke Lagoon Wetlands

The Aihueke Lagoon Wetlands are a significant natural area located on the eastern shore of the Aihueke Lagoon. The wetlands are home to a variety of native plants and animals, including the Aihueke Lagoon Wetlands. The wetlands are a significant natural area located on the eastern shore of the Aihueke Lagoon. The wetlands are home to a variety of native plants and animals, including the Aihueke Lagoon Wetlands.

AHURIRI LAGOON

Kuaka Connection

KUAKA (GODWIT) IS A SACRED BIRD THAT NAVIGATES 29,000 KM ACROSS OCEANS, FROM ALASKA TO AOTEAROA, THE ROUTE THEY TRAVEL EACH YEAR TO REPLENISH AND REVITALIZE BEFORE RETURNING TO NEST. IN ANCIENT TIMES THIS ANNUAL ARRIVAL OF THE KUAKA WAS LOOKED AS A GREAT EVENT, AS A TIME TO CELEBRATE THE IMPLICIT STRENGTH AND CAPACITY OF WHĀNAU MAORI.



Historically Māori were assisted by the Kuaka to navigate their own journeys and guide their search for abundance. The call of the Kuaka is loud as they fly along. During daylight the

course of the flight in their canoes by the cries of the Kuaka above the fleet of guided by them on their travels south. of selfless community and community Kuaka flaps its wings it creates an 'uplift' for flying in a 'v' formation the whole flock ng range. called the mation

Like the Kuaka we harmony across of even greater thing Each of us has a r the whānau to the responsibility for Of all the places migrate to, they For this reason, t long been conne its estuary, Haw

AHURIRI LAGOON Wetlands

SINCE HUMAN SETTLEMENT HAWKE'S BAY HAS LOST 95% OF ALL ITS WETLANDS. THE TWO BODIES OF WATER ADJOINING THE AHURIRI LAGOON ARE REMNANTS OF THE ORIGINAL AHURIRI ESTUARY WHICH WERE DESTROYED TO THE SURROUNDING FOOTHILLS DURING THE 1931 EARTHQUAKE.

The South Pond and the North Pond areas are classified as coastal lagoons as they are essentially open water directly connected to the Ahuriri Estuary. They are extremely valuable wetland habitats as their water levels rise and fall between summer and winter, offering ideal feeding, roosting, and breeding areas for a wide diversity of bird species.

To date 40 different bird species have been recorded here including rare species such as Royal Spoonbills, and several migratory species including Kuaka (Godwits), which annually fly to Aotearoa to spend the spring and summer months here. In addition, rare plant species such as Maori Musk are also found in these wetlands.



As part of the construction project to create this gateway to Hawke's Bay from the airport, a large portion of the southern end of the Westshore Wildlife Reserve was redeveloped, to offset habitat loss and disturbance. This redevelopment work involved the creation of a unique new wetland environment known as a scrape lake.

A scrape lake is ideally suited to this location and is a shallow body of water during the winter months when the lagoon water level is high, but is exposed during the dry summer months to provide a habitat for the many migratory and wading bird species. Both areas are designated as a Wildlife Refuge and as such are protected in perpetuity.



TE WHANGANUI-A-ĀROTU



AHURIRI LAGOON Waharoa

The Gateway to the Region

THE CREATION OF THIS WAHAROA (GATEWAY) HAS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO HONOUR THE ECOLOGY, HISTORY AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF TE MATAPU-A-MAUI - THE REGION ALSO KNOWN TODAY AS HAWKE'S BAY. IT WELCOMES VISITORS FROM AFAR AND REPRESENTS THE ONGOING IMPORTANCE AND RESPECT THAT THE AHURIRI LAGOON HOLDS TO OUR WHĀNAU, OUR PEOPLE, AND OF VISITORS TO OUR PLACE.

The design approach has set a new precedent for consideration of environment, culture, engineering and technology to achieve harmoniously all its purposes. When viewing this Gateway from the air by those flying into the region there is a unique opportunity to see the symbolic Kuaka. The roadworks when viewed from the sky take the shape of the eye and beak of this remarkable bird, with the tributaries of the restored wetlands further articulating its form.

Around the gateway and causeway the positioning of five tall pou whenua artwork represent the people of this place and make reference to the five historic pa sites once located on the headlands of Roro-o-Kari Island in the old Lagoon.

Linear bands of planting and stylized gabion stone features reflect the post-earthquake pattern of drainage ditches throughout the estuary.



The causeway is designed to respect the Lagoon and buffers for birdlife while treating stormwater runoff more naturally through its innovative engineering design feature of a 'wavy' profile. Stormwater is collected at dispersed points before entering the planted swale.



TE WHANGANUI-A-ĀROTU















And a Gateway to Napier/Ahuriri

The Value, looking back...

Early, meaningful and demonstrably responsive engagement led to:

- Enhanced identification and mitigation of Impacts
- Support from multiple stakeholders
- Increased certainty of outcomes for all stakeholders
- Non-notification and Rapid consenting
- Opportunities such as 'gateway' aesthetics
- Overwhelmingly positive community reaction