

Te Ara Tipuna

Consultation and Engagement





Contents

The Proposal	3
Introduction	3
What's happened so far	3
Iwi (Maunga 1)	5
Rangatiratanga	5
Hapu, Marae, Community & People (Maunga 2)	5
Public Community Meetings	5
Hapu	6
Marae	6
Landowners	6
Central and local government, regional working groups and agencies, and community groups (Maunga 3)	6
Central government	6
Local government	7
Regional working groups and agencies	7
Community Groups	7
Communication	7
Social Media	7
Website	8
Email	8
What next?	8

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Section 1. Overview

Over 50+ engagements; 10 landowner and community meetings, 30 stakeholder hui, and 10+ hui with iwi and hapu.

The Proposal

The full Te Ara Tipuna Proposal, developed with funding from Te Puni Kōkiri and disbursed through the project fund-holder, Trust Tairāwhiti, and produced in June 2021, set out the plan and approach to engagement and consultation. [insert footnote and link to full report]

The actual approach, in the circumstances, are described below.

Introduction

Despite significant challenges of project scale, pandemic upheaval, constant and devastating weather events, engagement, communication, and information sharing by and about the project has been a priority. So, too, has the cultural imperative of embracing the Ngāti Porou whakapapa to Te Whānau ā Apanui, the natural geographic alignment, and the sharing of the opportunities of the kaupapa. Including, beyond into Ngāi Tai and Te Whakatohea.

That is not to say that these combined factors haven't been a challenge. They have been, and are. The parlous situation of SH35, the fragility of connection, and most importantly, the weariness of the people and their communities, have meant changes and adaptations to the circumstances – delays and deferrals that have sometimes frustrated best intentions.

In that vein, while the kaupapa has intended from the outset to honour the connection to Apanui, it has been driven by Ngāti Porou. The prerogative to participate remains with Apanui, and of course Ngāi Tai and Te Whakatohea. The global consenting approach taken by the project provides for high level inclusion, but respects and recognises the authority of these iwi to make the decision for themselves as to their further involvement.

What's happened so far?

Our consultation and engagement began in 2021, with the first socialisation of Te Ara Tipuna with Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou (TRONPnui), in August 2021, to the first introductory sessions with landowners, hapu, and communities between Gisborne and Opotiki from May/June 2023.

We have met with iwi and hapu representatives, community leaders and members, marae trustees, Māori freehold and general landowners and trustees, and whānau and family that live both within, and have connections to, the three territorial authorities.

We have had discussions with local government representatives at the Gisborne District Council, the Opotiki District Council, and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. We have pre-briefed consenting teams at each territorial authority, had conversations with elected representatives and senior officials, and taken part in relevant council workshops pertaining to Walking and Cycling strategies.

We have presented Te Ara Tipuna to the (former) Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and her Ministerial colleagues, at the Ngāti Porou Crown Taumata at Parliament in September 2022. We have received endorsement from the Minister for Māori Development, Willie Jackson, support from Meka Whaitiri as former Walking Access Minister and local MP and provide briefing to Minister Kiri Allan as both local MP and Minister for Regional Development.

We work actively with Te Puni Kōkiri – Ministry for Māori Development, as funder, and sponsor through the dedication of a full-time staff member to assist the project.

We have held eight public meetings in Tolaga Bay, Tokomaru Bay, Ruatoria, Tikitiki, Te Araroa, Wharekahika, Whangaparaoa, and Te Kaha. Two further landowner meetings were held in Ruatoria and Gisborne. A meeting in Opotiki was postponed



and will occur post lodgement and when appropriate.

We acknowledge that despite best efforts, we have been unable currently to reach all impacted groups or individuals. This is in large part due to the devastation caused by Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle in January and February 2023, and the appropriateness of engaging at that time given the

multiple pressures people were, and continue, facing.

Notwithstanding the compounding impacts successive weather events have had on infrastructure, namely SH35 and local roads, access to services, and livelihoods, engagement has been interested, positive and optimistic.



Section 2. What we've done

Given the significant impacts of successive weather events, the approach to consultation and engagement was adapted.

Despite best efforts, not all relevant stakeholders have been engaged with prior to lodgement of consents on 13 July 2023. Consultation and engagement will continue post lodgement.

It is important to acknowledge that many of the individuals consulted in one capacity, are also represented in other relevant forums. Although we have been unable in some instances to reach and engage with some groups, individuals in the aggregate have been consulted. For example, the full board of Trustees of Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou have been engaged with, and unanimously support Te Ara Tipuna. Many of these trustees are also Hapu Leads, representatives of Nga Rohe Moana o Nga Hapu o Ngati Porou, trustees of marae, and landowners.

We have, therefore, taken a collective approach to engagement by targeted, and open, invitations to attend introductory meetings. We believe this approach has worked well, given the timeframes, and been able to capture key people who represent many different groups, communities, and land interests.

Iwi (Maunga 1)

On 16 August 2021, Hekia Parata presented Te Ara Tipuna to the full board of trustees of Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou; they unanimously supported the kaupapa. From then on, TRONPnui has sponsored the project.

Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou is represented by 14 elected representatives accountable to the seven Rohenga Tipuna from which they are elected. These representatives are not only trustees for TRONPnui but have a range of responsibilities and roles within the iwi including some (but not all) to Nga Rohe Moana o Nga Hapu o Ngati Porou.

In March 2021, a representative of Te Whanau a Apanui, Willie Te Aho, presented Te Ara Tipuna to the Hapu Chairs of Te Whanau a Apanui. We recognise that, despite our understanding of support and recognition of the kaupapa, it was not officially noted. We intend to meet and present Te Ara Tipuna to the Hapu Chairs.

Te Whanau a Apanui, and Ngai Tai and Te Whakatohea towards Opotiki, have their own strategies and plans. Their inclusion into this kaupapa made sense culturally at this conceptual phase. We respect any discussion and decisions they may choose to have, and make, pertaining to their involvement in Te Ara Tipuna.

Rangatiratanga

This is a kaupapa that is designed to enable rangatiratanga (self-determination), at every level. With this context, the expectation is that iwi, hapu, and marae once briefed will wananga (meet and discuss) amongst themselves whether they are prepared to kawē (carry, hold) the kaupapa. This will also mean engaging with their own hapu, marae, and whanau to endorse the project.

Hapu, Marae, Community & People (Maunga 2)

Public Community Meetings

Initial planning for consultation and engagement at a community level was planned for January 2023; this was delayed due to Cyclone Hale. Planning was then done for engagement in March; this was delayed due to Cyclone Gabrielle. The impacts from these extreme weather events meant that any engagement and consultation would be inappropriate given the significant damage to people's lives, homes, and whenua/land.

We therefore planned, and promoted, a series of consultation meetings in communities between Gisborne and Opotiki in June/July 2023.



- Tolaga Bay, 7 June 2023
- Tikitiki, 12 June 2023
- Ruatoria, 12 June 2023
- Tokomaru Bay, 13 June 2023
- Whangaparaoa, 17 June 2023
- Te Kaha, 18 June 2023
- Opotiki, 18 June 2023 postponed
- Te Araroa, 5 July 2023
- Hicks Bay, 5 July 2023

The meetings were well attended, in relation to the size of the community, by a range of community members and landowners with varying interests in Te Ara Tipuna. An estimated 200+ people attended the eight public meetings. A register was kept of those that attended, with around 50 people indicating their interest in staying informed of Te Ara Tipuna's progress via email.

The meeting planned for Opotiki was postponed following a request from Te Whakatohea leadership due to safety concerns. The meeting planned for Te Araroa was postponed three times due to weather and road conditions. An online meeting was also planned and postponed due to the state of emergency declared on 22 June 2023.

Hapu

We have plans in place to present Te Ara Tipuna to Nga Rohe Moana o Nga Hapu o Ngati Porou, and to Nga Hapu o Te Whānau a Apanui. We have briefed and engaged with individual representatives from both entities, but not to the aggregate whole.

Marae

We have had several marae members and trustees attend public introductory meetings. The meeting in Te Kaha was held at Te Kaha marae, and in Ruatoria at Uepohatu marae. Marae are an integral part of Te Ara Tipuna, as the proposed route passes by at least 60 marae.

Landowners

We held invitation only meetings for landowners in Ruatoria on 29 April 2023, and in Gisborne on 1 May 2023. These meetings were targeted to landowners as we acknowledge that is a specific set of interests that need to be addressed independently.

The invitation to the meetings was sent to a list of chairs, trustees, and landowners of whenua/land that Te Ara Tipuna proposed to traverse. The purpose of these introductory meetings was to present Te Ara Tipuna and outline the process of engagement, expected timeline, and opportunity for discussion.

The meetings were positive and optimistic. In Ruatoria, around 20 landowners attended, representing a significant portion of land interests between Potaka and Tokomaru Bay. In Gisborne, a further 20 landowners attended, representing a significant portion of land interests between Potaka and Gisborne.

Following lodgement, with the support of Te Herenga a Nuku (Walking Access Commission), we intend to have further in-depth negotiations with landowners to reach agreement using Herenga a Nuku's legal instruments, advice, and support.

Central and local government, regional working groups and agencies, and community groups (Maunga 3)

Central government

In April 2021, Hekia Parata met with Te Puni Kōkiri to apply for funding to produce the Te Ara Tipuna business case. She also met with Trust Tairawhiti, who agreed to be the fundholder as the project aligned with their strategy. The business proposal was produced in June 2021.

This first engagement began an ongoing and reciprocal relationship with Te Puni Kōkiri. Hekia



Parata met with, and briefed, several Ministers including Ministers Robertson, Jackson, Allen and (formerly) Whaitiri. In September 2022, at the Ngati Porou Crown Taumata, Hekia Parata presented Te Ara Tipuna as one of two kaupapa to the Government as a project to partner in. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and her ministerial colleagues present, were actively engaged in the presentation and encouraging of its progression. In particular, the Prime Minister focussed on 'securing the route' and directed a senior group of officials to develop a support package for the project.

In November 2022, TRONPnui successfully applied for investment support through Te Puni Kōkiri's Te Ringa Hapai fund, focussed on infrastructure on whenua Māori. This investment contract included three deliverables:

1. Review the route
2. Lodge for consents
3. Build a model of the trails

Te Puni Kōkiri also agreed to a full-time employee to be singularly focused on Te Ara Tipuna and supporting the project team and TRONPnui to complete the contract.

We met with the Tairāwhiti Commissioner to discuss the input of Te Ara Tipuna into the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Plan. We pitched for the first stage from Tokomaru Bay to Ruatoria, at to be included in the recovery plan. This stage would be constructed to serve as a civil emergency route between communities, built to take emergency vehicles when required.

We have met and briefed NZTA on the project, both at a high level and at the detailed safety and traffic assessment level.

We have met and briefed Heritage NZ.

An important partnership to acknowledge is with Te Herenga a Nuku. They have been an integral part of the project through their experience and extensive knowledge of public accessways. They have agreed to continue supporting the project, particularly around engagement with landowners.

Local government

We have met and pre-briefed each of the three territorial authorities Te Ara Tipuna is proposed to traverse: Gisborne District Council, Opotiki District Council, and Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

We met with the Chief Executive of the GDC, and the Director Community Lifelines, on 4 November 2022, to brief and update on progress. It was a productive hui with great discussion on alignment.

Regional working groups and agencies

We presented to Rau Tipu Rau Ora, a regional governance group represented by iwi chairs from Ngati Porou and Turanga iwi, and at the operational level by government agencies.

Trust Tairāwhiti were the fundholders for the development of the business proposal, where we were also introduced to Tairāwhiti Trails.

Community Groups

We met with the Hauiti Centre of Excellence, who are involved with the proposed Uawa Trails.

We met with Motu Trails Trust to brief them on the project, as we connect to the trails in Opotiki.

Communication

Social Media

We created a Facebook and Instagram page for the purposes of info-sharing and engagement. The platforms are an opportunity for people to engage with the project, and contact the project team through Facebook and Instagram Messenger, as well as a monitored email address.

Engagement on social media started strong, with a Te Ara Tipuna post shared on Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou's Facebook page receiving 163 likes and shared 54 times. We use social media to share panui (notices) of community engagement hui, the posts are then shared to various community and private groups.

Both Instagram and Facebook pages are growing in followers and engagement.



Website

A website is being developed and will provide access to the full Te Ara Tipuna Proposal, images of the proposed tracks, the list of land blocks impacted, and consent documents.

There will be a Frequently Asked Questions section, using questions that have been asked throughout our engagement process.

There will also be a contact section to allow for people to get in touch directly.

Email

We have begun two email databases; one from those who attended the public hui, and one for landowners directly impacted.

The email database for those who attended the community engagement will be sent periodic updates as the project progresses.

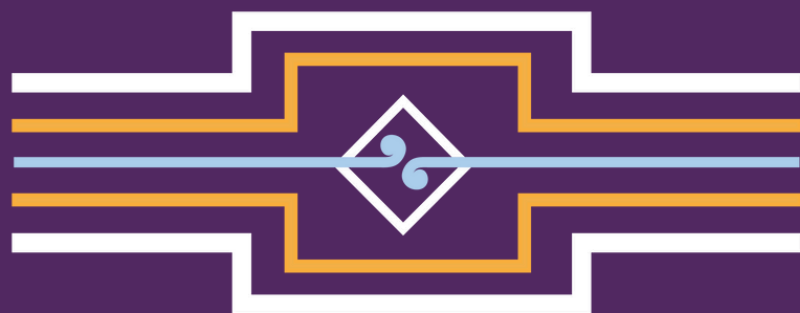
The landowner database is steadily growing. Public access to landowner and trust details have been minimal for various reasons; outdated information, shares not succeeded to, postal addresses only. The database we have created has been obtained through mutual connections, or actively reaching out to people in person.

What next?

As part of the consent process we have opted for full notification to ensure that all who wish to be heard on this kaupapa can be.







TE **ARA** TIPUNA



Consultation and Engagement

Overview



Our Project Team’s consultation and engagement began in 2021, with the first socialisation of Te Ara Tipuna with Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou. This has continued over the years since through several cycles of hui and engagements with landowners, iwi, hapu, communities, central and local government, schools, and interest groups between Gisborne and Opotiki.

We have established connections and relationships within Ngati Porou, Te Whanau a Apanui, Ngai Tai ki Torere and Whakatohea, at iwi, hapu and community levels.

We have continued to work with the three territorial authorities, Gisborne District Council, Opotiki District Council, and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Building and maintaining strategic partnerships with central government, regional working groups and agencies has also remained a priority. We are still working alongside Te Puni Kōkiri – Ministry for Māori Development, the Māori Land Court and the Māori Trustee to support progress relating to Whenua Maori.

We have presented Te Ara Tipuna to various other groups such as the Raukumara Pae Maunga Board, Trust Tairawhiti, the Ngati Porou East Coast Principals Association, and Kanoa the Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit for MBIE, to name a few.

Finally, the development of a robust, responsive and engaging online communication plan has been central to supporting these in-person engagements. Our website, tearatipuna.nz launched June 10 and has proven to be a powerful tool in sharing our kaupapa.

Consultation & Engagement



Community consultations, hui with landowners and governance entities, iwi and hapu representatives, schools and kura



Community and whanau with our Te Ara Tipuna support signs



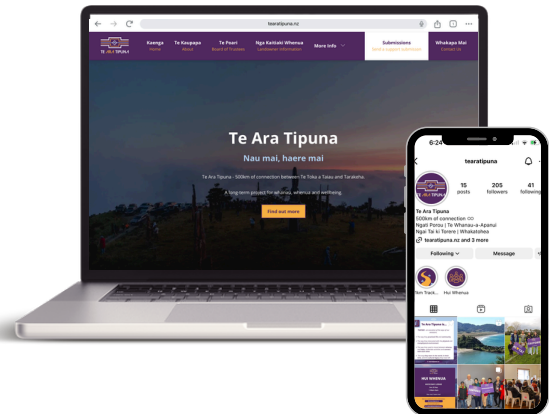
Communications



Our communications has become an integral part of engaging with all key groups, people and the general public.

Website

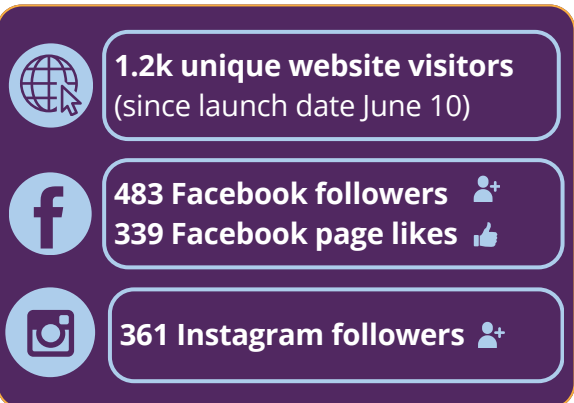
Our website is our one-true information source. It is the touch point that is referenced in all our communications and engagements. Our intention is to drive people to the website to seek any information they might want to know.



Our website - tearatipuna.nz and Instagram page

Social Media

Our social media pages, Facebook and Instagram, have steadily grown over time, with the expectation to grow even more rapidly as we roll out our 10-week Notification period plan.



Support submissions

We have a set up a Weekly Support Dashboard of statistics that reflect support submissions and Agreement in Principles received, as well as website views and social media followers. This is circulated internally to our Project Team and Board of Trustees.

Our support submission form is on our website for those who wish to complete one.

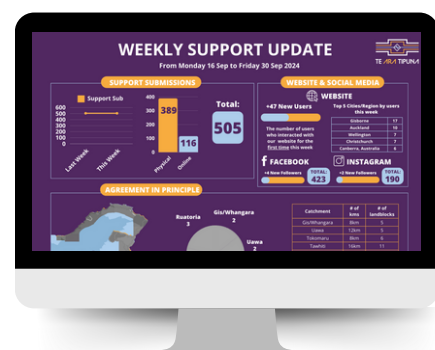


Hon Hekia Parata, Project Lead & Trustee at Turanga FM Radio Station

Media

We've successfully conducted a round of interviews of each of our Trustees on Radio Ngati Porou, which can be accessed on our website.

These include Project Lead and Trustee, Hekia Parata, who carried out a live talk back session, and an livestreamed interview on Turanga FM.



Weekly Support Dashboard (internal)