

# Waitangi: Restoring Mana

Estuary Enhancement Stage One: to be completed for Waitangi Day 2017



Waitangi Estuary is part of Waitangi Regional Park - the focus of wider ecological enhancement since 2000. The estuary is in a stunning public location. Unfortunately the site has also suffered from long-term inappropriate vehicle activity, rubbish dumping and camping.

This new project will transform Waitangi Estuary to a worthy gateway between the cities of Napier and Hastings. Vehicle access will be limited while the entrance road is formed, the car park and celestial compass constructed, garden beds and platforms laid for the first four carved pou.

Once complete, many elements of the estuary enhancement project will be highly visible. Native planting will create some quieter zones among wetland areas and walkways.

The celestial star compass will be constructed to promote Māori mana and skills as well as provide cultural education opportunities.

The compass itself is likely to attract many people who will find a rehabilitating estuary environment and benefit from the cultural and historic connections there. It is hoped to incorporate the whakapapa and knowledge of celestial navigation and astronomy into the pou designs surrounding the compass.

Waitangi Estuary will in many ways become an outdoor classroom passing on to visitors the stories of an ecology under restoration, renewing cultural ties, and its dynamic settler past.

Numerous information signs will help to tell these stories.



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Hastings District Council ● Napier City Council

## Project Partners



Concept drawing for the celestial star compass called Tū Hawaiki. Maori ancestors used celestial compasses, to chart position of the sun, moon and stars, and navigate throughout the Pacific on sailing waka centuries ago.

