

Tāmaki Drive – a place for people

A masterplan for the future

Orākei Local Board
February 2013





Foreword

This masterplan for Tāmaki Drive represents a significant collective effort that shows the depth of feeling and pride that many people, both residents and visitors, have for this jewel of Auckland.

While the Orākei Local Board has led the development of the plan, the board has only been able to get to this point with the help and support of local residents, business people and interest groups, Ngāti Whātua Orākei, and Auckland Councillors. We are grateful to everyone who has been involved so far.

Together, we have looked to the past and used it to paint a picture of the future. Tāmaki Drive is one of Auckland's special places – it is home to seaside communities and villages, an area rich in cultural history and significance, a major attraction for Aucklanders and tourists as well as a local commuter route. The focus of this plan is firmly on preserving this unique environment and keeping its local flavour. We want to keep all that is right about this amazing environment, while recognising it as a world-class place for all to enjoy.

With this plan, we are leading the way. By being forward thinking and undertaking the necessary strategic planning now, we should be well positioned for the future. Such planning becomes more important as Auckland grows and changes, with more people wanting to use and experience this spectacular and highly valued place.

We are excited by the vision and strategic direction set out in the masterplan. Key proposals include a widened seaward promenade, which will link St Heliers to the Auckland city centre waterfront; support for more frequent shuttle-bus services along Tāmaki Drive and neighbouring streets, which will feed to local railway stations, and public amenity improvements in the seaside centres of Mission Bay, St Heliers and Kohimarama which reflect their unique identities and special sense of place.

Orākei Local Board has a vital role to play in taking this masterplan forward. We know that its success is dependent on the board and Ngāti Whātua Orākei working together, on behalf of our communities, with the different groups within Auckland Council and other agencies such as Auckland Transport, Waterfront Auckland and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED), so that the vision helps to guide changes on the ground.

Please read this document. We are excited by the vision of the future and hope it inspires you, too. Keep an eye out for further consultation and get involved in continuing to shape the future of this important place for Auckland.



Desley Simpson, Chairperson, Orākei Local Board



Len Brown, Mayor of Auckland

Tērā tō waka te hoea ake e koe i te moana o te Waitematā kia ū mai rā ki te ākau i Ōkahu.

Ki reira, ka mihi ake ai ki ngā maunga here korero, ki ngā pari whakarongo tai, ki ngā awa tuku kiri o ōna manawhenua, ōna mana ā-iwi taketake mai, tauivi atu.

Let your canoe carry you across the water of the Waitematā until you make landfall at Ōkahu.

There, to greet the mountains, repository of all that has been said of this place, there to greet the cliffs that have heard the ebb and flow of the tides of time, and the rivers that cleansed the forebears of all who came, those born of this land and the newcomers among us all.



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Introduction



Developing a masterplan for Tāmaki Drive

Purpose of the masterplan

This masterplan for Tāmaki Drive establishes a long-term vision for the future of this spectacular and highly valued part of the Orākei coastal suburbs and Auckland. Its development is a priority within the Orākei Local Board Plan 2011-2014.

The purpose of the masterplan is to consider all the issues facing Tāmaki Drive in an integrated manner. It provides a framework to ensure that the future use and development of the area is planned as a whole.

A particular focus is to address the impact of too many ad-hoc decisions made along and around Tāmaki Drive. Historically, in the absence of a clear planning framework, decisions have compromised the quality of the place and led to uncoordinated planning and design outcomes.

The preservation of the unique coastal and seaside character is at the heart of this plan. It sets out what's valued and loved most about Tāmaki Drive and the surrounding areas, what could work better, and how the place will be looked after and improved in the future.

Masterplan development

The masterplan has been informed by:

- ▶ a review of previous planning, project and policy work relevant to Tāmaki Drive and surrounding areas

- ▶ visioning workshops, with representatives from Ngāti Whātua Orākei, resident associations, business associations, local sporting and leisure organisations and special interest groups
- ▶ a 'Placemaking Approach' to establish an understanding of Tāmaki Drive as a place where people live, visit and work.

Taking a 'Placemaking Approach'

Placemaking is a powerful tool. It is how we plan, design and look after places so they are attractive, useful and of long-term benefit for their communities.

In the context of developing this masterplan for Tāmaki Drive, a placemaking approach has involved listening to and working with the people who live and work in and around Tāmaki Drive, along with those who visit the area, to develop a vision for the future and identify actions to get us there.

It has helped us understand what matters most to people and how that can be preserved and enhanced for the future.

It has also helped us to start thinking about Tāmaki Drive not only as a road but also as a place – a place to live and work, a special place where the land and sea meet and as a place that people visit and enjoy.

A vision for the future of Tāmaki Drive

A key outcome of the masterplan is a vision for the future of Tāmaki Drive.

Tāmaki Drive Masterplan sets out:

- ▶ a vision for the future of Tāmaki Drive
- ▶ six key moves to get us there
- ▶ examples of how the key moves could be implemented over time
- ▶ a series of priority projects.

Its purpose is to enable Tāmaki Drive to work as a place for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

It means that we consider Tāmaki Drive and its surrounding areas as a whole and do not just make decisions in response to one issue or function, as has often been done in the past.

Six key moves

A series of workshops identified six key moves which are the principles supporting the vision.

Some are relatively easy to implement. Others require a new way of thinking about Tāmaki Drive and the role it plays in our everyday life.

All are dependent on us working together towards a common goal – preserving this world-class place for people to enjoy and treasure.

Understanding Tāmaki Drive



Thinking beyond the road corridor

When people think about Tāmaki Drive, they picture the road running along the edge of the Waitematā Harbour, linking Auckland’s city centre to St Heliers.

While the road is an important function of Tāmaki Drive, we propose a wider area of focus as this masterplan takes a placemaking approach. When

we use the term Tāmaki Drive, we also mean the adjacent beaches and open spaces, including Whenua Rangatira, the local seaside villages and centres, as well as hinterland suburbs.

The area the masterplan considers is shown in the map below.



Tāmaki Drive in Auckland



House of parliament, Chief Paul's House, 1882.



Ōkahu (Matamomoe) showing the sewer pipe which separated the village from the beach, 1921.



Looking east from the western end of St Heliers Bay, 1915.



Looking south west from Achilles Point towards St Heliers Bay, 1920.



Looking east from Pipimea Head along The Esplanade, now Tāmaki Drive, 1920.



Looking south from the end of the Kohimarama Wharf showing Tāmaki Drive, 1920.



Looking west towards Bastion Point (centre left), showing Tāmaki Drive, 1931.

Tāmaki Drive and its surrounds are spectacular and highly valued within the Orākei coastal suburbs and for Auckland as a whole.

It is, simultaneously, a home to coastal communities and villages, a major recreational and leisure attraction for Aucklanders and tourists, as well as a route for people to get to and from the city centre. It is also one of the most beautiful places in Auckland, with special historical, cultural and ecological significance.

Its distinctive coastal cliffs give way at Ōkahu Bay, Mission Bay, Kohimarama and St Heliers Bay to open spaces, people's homes and popular café precincts.

It is a very special place to Ngāti Whātua, with Tumutumu Whenua – their sacred meeting house – standing on the Orākei ridge.

A fascinating history¹

The Eastern Bays area has a fascinating history commencing in 1000-1350 AD with the Māori settlement and establishment by Ngāti Whātua of a major pa at Orākei.

In 1841, land from Mission Bay to Panmure was purchased by the Crown from Ngāti Poa and European settlement began.

The Melanesian Mission established a mission house and a school which was used from 1858-1867 for boys from the Pacific Islands, and changed to a Naval Training School in 1874 and to an industrial school in 1882.

The first assembly of chiefs with the Governor after the signing of the Treaty was held in 1860 and is called the Kohimarama Conference. In 1881, the Native Parliament was held at Ōkahu Bay.

Meanwhile, the first wharves were built to serve ferries and give easier access to the bays. First, was St Heliers, followed by Orākei in 1905, and later Kohimarama at Pipimea Head. The completion of the sewer line in 1910 gave alternate access for the hardy who walked across the sewer from Remuera to the beaches.

The coastline was altered again by the removal of Bastion Rock, which was cut away to make a causeway to the land and is now the site of the Tāmaki Yacht Club, built in 1937.

In 1915, the Walsh Brothers and Dexter's Flying School was established in Mission Bay, running training courses for World War 1 pilots, and building flying boats. The Walsh Brothers memorial is located at Selwyn Reserve.

Access to and from the area was improved by the completion of the railway across Hobson Bay in 1925 and the construction of the road (Tāmaki Drive) in 1926.

¹ Sourced from the Tāmaki Drive Protection Society website.

A special place

What we value the most

Stakeholders, residents and visitors alike have told us that the special character and Tāmaki Drive's sense of place is something everyone values. That means as a place to live, with access to the beaches, and for its open spaces and café culture – in short, somewhere people enjoy spending their time.

Preserving and enhancing these values is at the heart of this masterplan, which focuses firmly on preserving the unique environment, keeping its local flavour and as a place to enjoy.

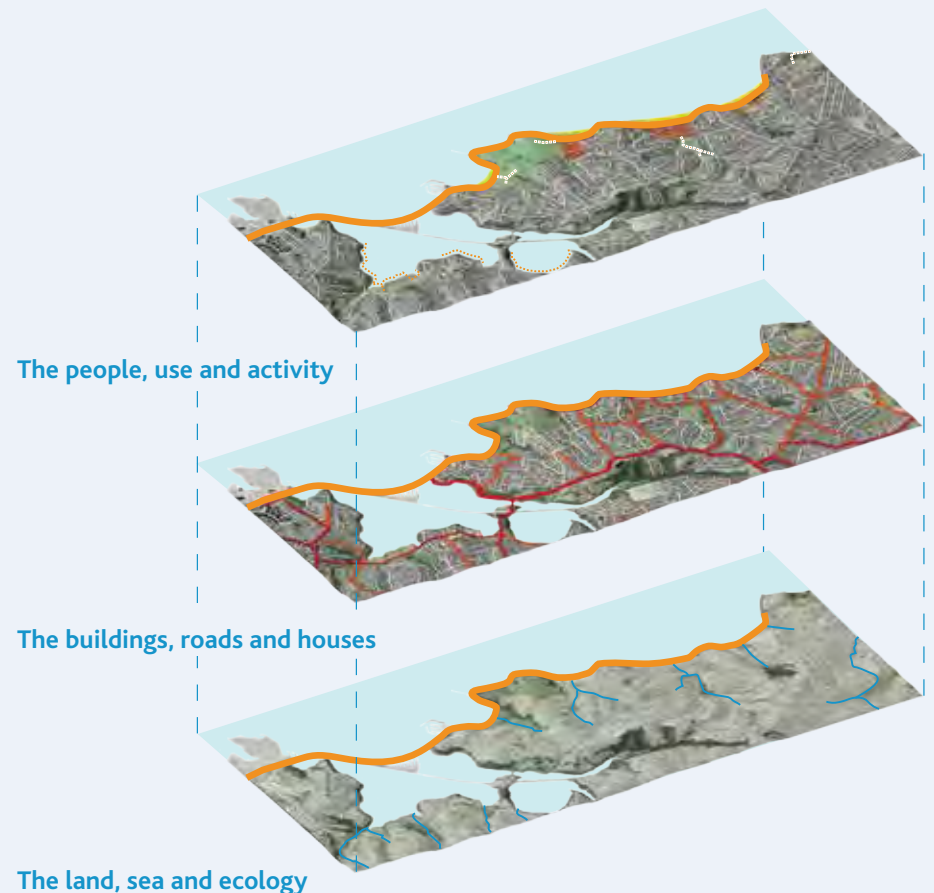
Considering Tāmaki Drive as a place made up of different layers – people, buildings and the land – enables the issues facing Tāmaki Drive to be dealt with in an integrated manner and for future decisions to be planned as a whole.

Such an integrated approach will help us ensure all future improvements benefit the people – all those who use and value the area. This will become increasingly important as Auckland continues to grow and visitor numbers inevitably continue to increase.

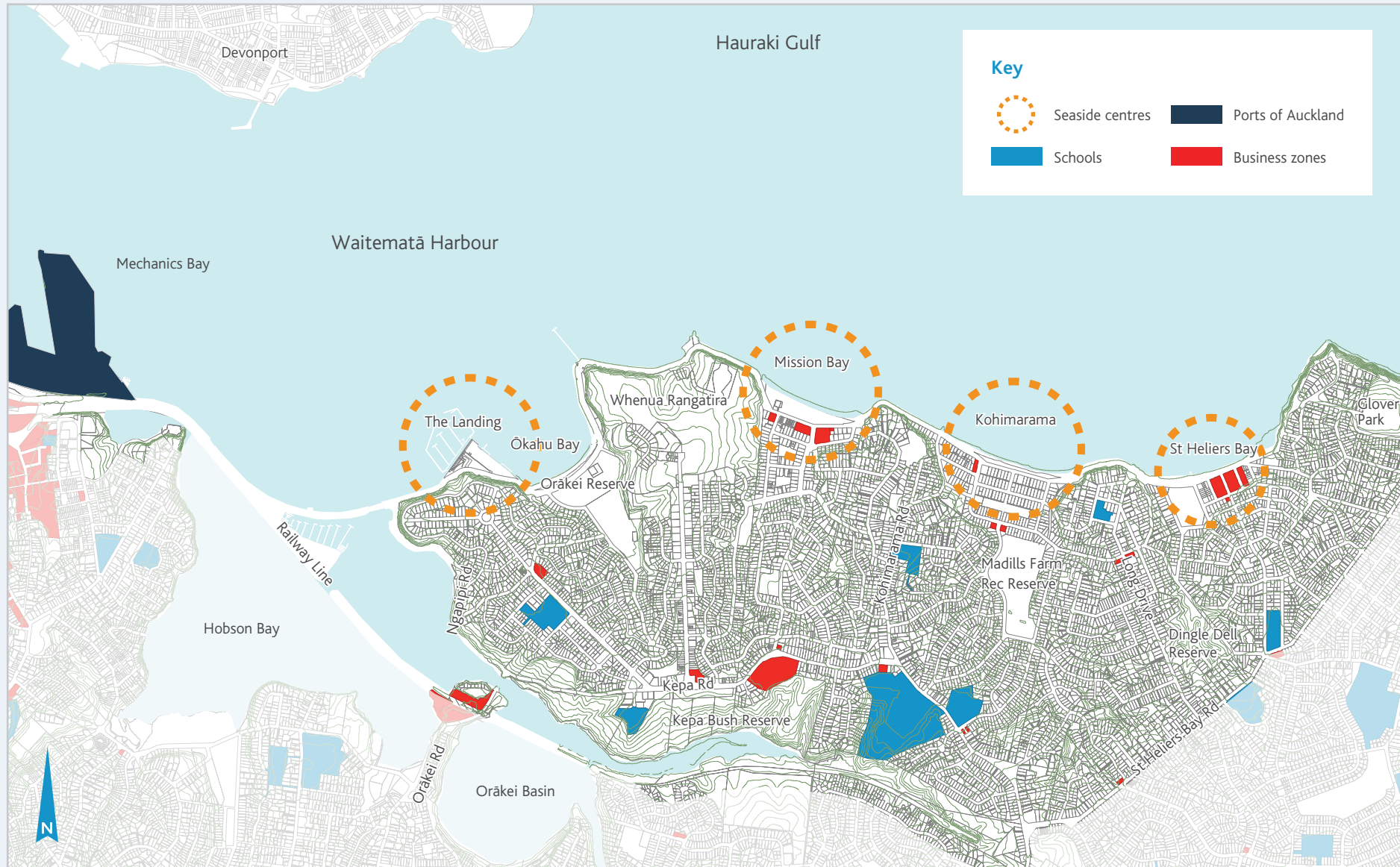
Of particular importance to local resident associations² is the need for the masterplan to focus on:

- ▶ the preservation of the character of Tāmaki Drive and its nearby facilities
- ▶ the role of Tāmaki Drive as an important road for the local community (a community corridor)
- ▶ preserving the right of Eastern Bays' residents to be able to enjoy their environment.

² St Heliers/Glendowie Residents Association.



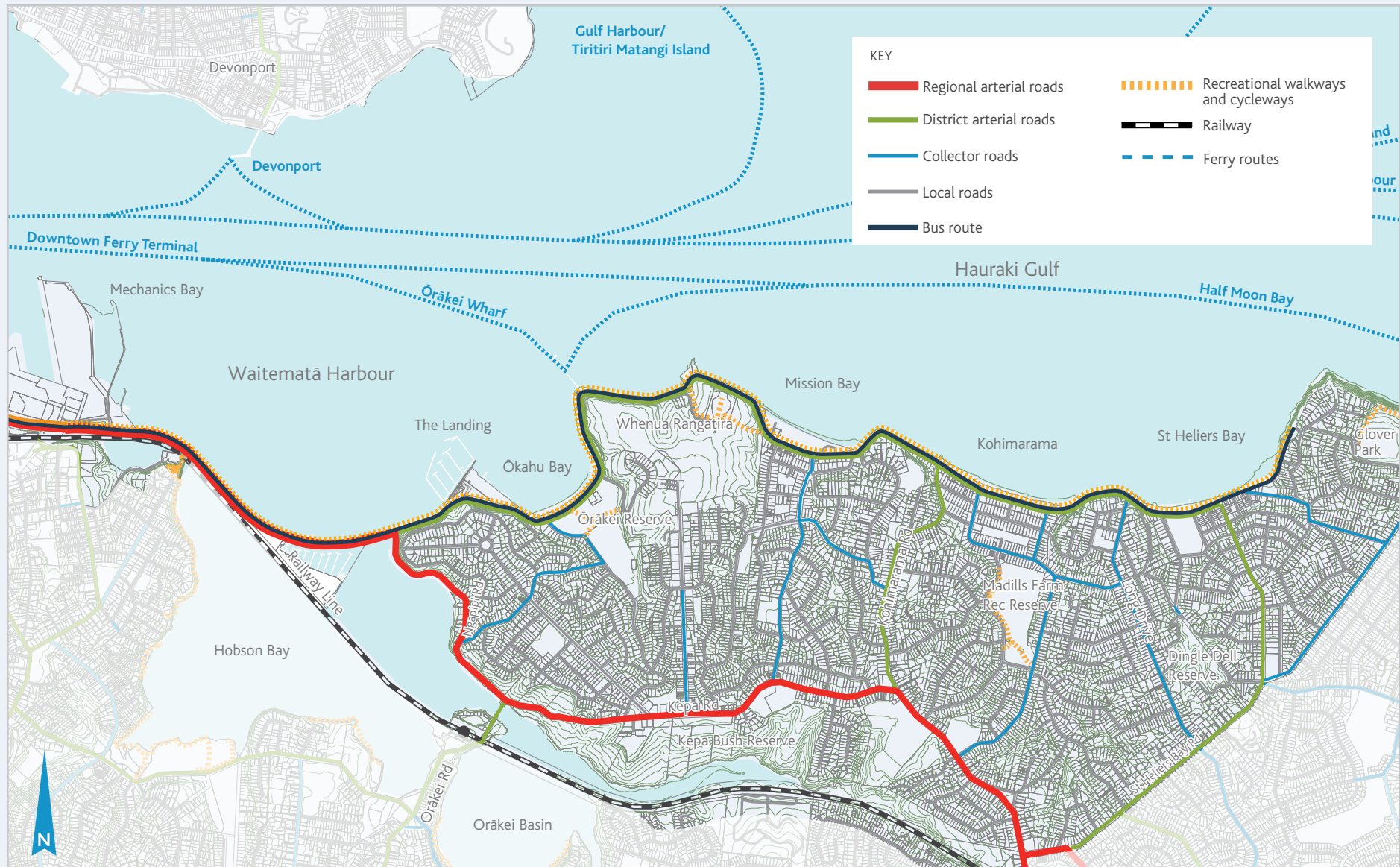
A place to live, work and do business



A place where land and sea meet



A place to travel to and around



A place to enjoy and visit



The Landing from Tāmaki Drive.



Dog walking at Ōkahu Bay.



Orākei Boatsheds.



Orākei Reserve and Whenua Rangatira.



Orākei Marae.



Hauraki Gulf from Bastion Point.



Selywn Reserve, Mission Bay.



Café culture.



Kitesurfing at Kohimarama.



Cricket at Madills Farm.



St Heliers Bay promenade.



St Heliers Bay Road.

A place enjoyed by many different people



The residents

- ▶ Home
- ▶ Daily swimmers beachgoers
- ▶ Local journeys
- ▶ Local shops and services
- ▶ Neighbourhood walks



The visitors

- ▶ Daytrippers
- ▶ Harbour photographers
- ▶ Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium visitors
- ▶ Scenery seekers



The commuters

- ▶ Bus riders
- ▶ Local commuter cyclists
- ▶ Motorists



The boaties

- ▶ Boat ramp users
- ▶ Royal Akarana Yacht Club and other users of The Landing
- ▶ Marina bertholders
- ▶ Orākei Wharf
- ▶ Tāmaki Yacht Club



The fitness enthusiasts

- ▶ Marathon runners
- ▶ Runners and joggers
- ▶ School teams
- ▶ Cyclists
- ▶ Triathletes



The leisure seekers

- ▶ Beachgoers
- ▶ Recreational cyclists
- ▶ Rollerbladers
- ▶ Strollers and rambles
- ▶ Sunseekers
- ▶ Tai Chi
- ▶ Walkers
- ▶ Watersports

Vision for the future



Vision for the future of Tāmaki Drive

The workshops and review of previous work has confirmed the importance of Tāmaki Drive and the surrounding areas as one of Auckland's special places. To many people it is their home and their community, while to others it represents a place to visit.

The coastal setting of the road and the magnificent views to and from the Hauraki Gulf, coupled with the seaside villages and beaches, all combine to make Tāmaki Drive a great place to live and visit.

“We want to keep Tāmaki Drive as a place for enjoyment in an environment we love”

Residents' Association

Tāmaki Drive and the surrounding area is an attractive seaside place for residents and visitors to enjoy, which:

- ▶ is a people-friendly environment connecting land and sea
- ▶ keeps its local seaside village feel and special coastal character
- ▶ retains its role as a local commuter route, with a community emphasis
- ▶ provides a safe route for leisure and recreation between the seaside villages and Auckland city centre
- ▶ enhances its cultural heritage, the unique ecology of land and sea and its world-class coastal setting.

Therefore, any vision for the future must ensure that Tāmaki Drive and its surrounding areas continue to be an attractive, safe place which is preserved and enhanced so that people – residents and visitors alike – can continue to enjoy all it has to offer both now and in the future.

We are confident that this vision for Tāmaki Drive and the surrounding area will make the most of the colour, history and life of this special part of Auckland and will preserve what makes it special for the future.

It is proposed that all projects planned for Tāmaki Drive and the surrounding area will need to deliver on this vision and the six key moves that support it.



Keeps its local seaside village feel and its special coastal character.



Is a people-friendly environment, connecting land and sea.



Retains its role as a local commuter route, with a community emphasis.



Enhances its cultural heritage, the unique ecology of its land and sea and its world-class coastal setting.



Provides a safe route for leisure and recreation between seaside villages and Auckland city centre.

Ideas from other places around the world



Promontories such as these 'musical' steps can be used to improve physical connections to the water (Zadar, Croatia).



Use of materials appropriate to the special location can help to reflect and improve the sense of place (San Sebastian, Spain).



Seaside promenade (Split, Croatia).



Nice, France.