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Freepost 2199  
draft Te Taihū | Te Reo Māori Policy  
Wellington City Council  
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### **Re: Te Taihū | Te Reo Māori Policy**

This submission is from the Architectural Centre. We are an incorporated society dating from 1946, which represents both professionals and non-professionals interested in the promotion of good design.

The Architectural Centre supports Te Taihū but has the following comments to make:

#### **Urban Design**

1. we strongly support the council's stated intention to "include and reflect a Māori perspective in urban design, city development, public artworks, events and heritage" (p. 11). The Centre strongly supports this **incorporation of Māori perspectives in urban design** (including public art work, typography in public places), new developments and heritage interpretation.



Wairoa District Council signage | Rotorua Reorua

2. As an example, many of **Wellington's street names** acknowledge and honour directors of, or others associated with (including ships), **the New Zealand Company**, including: Abel Smith, Adelaide, Bolton, Buckle, Clifton, Coromandel, Cuba, Ellice, Glenbervie, Hutt, Ingestre, Lambton, Majoribanks, Molesworth, Nairne, Oriental, Pirie, Rintoul, Thompson, Tory, Wakefield, Wellington, Willis, and Wright. While we do not think the obliteration of history is appropriate this does point to the predominance of language in our city marking a specific kaupapa which is both likely to be at odds with many of our citizens, and honours a group of people who were found, in the Spain Commission 1842-43, to have acted illegally in relation to the alienation of Māori land. The Centre considers that it is time that this predominance is rethought - perhaps with bilingual street names and/or interpretation making

public the origins of place names and offering a number of perspectives to **acknowledge greater diversity of contributors to Wellington as a place.**



Gisborne ambulance | School bus

3. We also note that a city is not simply its built environment but also the activities that the built environment facilities and supports. Wellington's proactive support for events might include the first city-wide te reo Māori immersion hui, possibly as an annual event to coincide with Te Marama o te reo Māori, where all electronic signage and recorded messages in the city are in te reo Māori, and additional support is given to encourage citizens to speak te reo. We also note that Wairoa District Council has a Maori-first signage policy and a commitment to become a bilingual town by 2040<sup>1</sup> - we should take up their wero.



Tsunami warning lines | Kate Sheppard pedestrian signal

4. We consider that Te Tauihu is an opportunity to increase the identification and protection for sites of significance for hapū and iwi. This could occur through place naming, signage and interpretation in conventional ways, but also through google maps, Wellington city tourism apps, written and recorded information on public infrastructure (including public transport and bus stops). Wellington has a history and reputation for innovative urban design initiatives (e.g. water sensitive urban design guide,<sup>2</sup> south coast tsunami warning lines,<sup>3</sup> the old shoreline plaques and heritage trail,<sup>4</sup> the Kate Sheppard,<sup>5</sup> Carmen,<sup>6</sup> and Pukeahu/National War Memorial Park soldier pedestrian signal on traffic

<sup>1</sup> Hendery, Simon "Maori first, English second under Wairoa's new signage policy" (9 May 2017) <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/92379435/maori-first-english-second-under-wairoas-new-signage-policy>; Wairoa District Council "Te Kaupapa Here mō te reo Māori ki te Kaunihera o te Wairoa" (18 July 2017) <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Policies/Final-Te-Reo-Maori-Policy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> WCC "Water Sensitive Urban Design Guide" <https://wellington.govt.nz/~media/services/environment-and-waste/environment/files/wsud-guide.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> WCC "Tsunami Warning Lines Planned for South Coast" (5 November 2013) <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/news/2013/11/blue-tsunami-lines-for-south-coast>

<sup>4</sup> WCC "Old Shoreline Heritage Trail" (1996; 2005) <https://wellington.govt.nz/~media/recreation/walks-and-walkways/files/heritage-trails/oldshorinelinetrail.pdf?la=en>

<sup>5</sup> WCC "Kate Sheppard Pedestrian "Cross Now" Lights" <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/pedestrian-crossing-lights/green-woman-pedestrian-traffic-lanterns>

<sup>6</sup> WCC "Carmen to provide light relief on Cuba Street" (4 August 2016) <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/news/2016/08/carmen-to-provide-light-relief-on-cuba-street>

lights, and experimenting with Bond St<sup>7</sup>) and we look forward to ideas which give a Te Whanganui a Tara twist to pirate printers,<sup>8</sup> playable cities<sup>9</sup> and talking traffic lights.



Raubdruckerin Pirate Printers | Candy Chang Before I Die Wall



PAN Studios "Hello Lamp Post" | Gigantic Mechanic Dance Step City



Creative Alliance Baltimore bus stop | Aspect Studios Hart's Mill Surrounds, Port Adelaide | Snarkitecture Marlins Ballpark, Miami<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> WCC "Bond Street refresh and community garden" <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/laneways-projects/bond-street>

<sup>8</sup> "Pirate Printers" Turn City Surfaces into Stamps to Create Unique bags and Streetwear" *ArchDaily* (17 September 2017) <https://www.archdaily.com/879570/pirate-printers-turn-city-surfaces-into-stamps-to-create-unique-bags-and-streetwear>

<sup>9</sup> "Design Museum Mornings: Playable Cities with Maggie Cooper" *ArchDaily* (1 April 2016) <https://www.archdaily.com/784824/design-museum-mornings-playable-cities-with-maggie-cooper>; British Council "Creative Economy" <https://creativeeconomy.britishcouncil.org/blog/16/10/27/new-international-creative-producers-programme-wat/>

<sup>10</sup> Green, Jared "Words with Landscape" *The Dirt* (20 August 2015) <https://dirt.asla.org/2015/08/20/words-with-landscape/>

5. We also strongly support the council asking local iwi if they would provide a te reo Māori name for Wellington's light rail system and other significant infrastructure changes to our tāone nui.

### **Resource Management**

6. We acknowledge the stated intention to build council capacity, including through greater "awareness of Māori cultural needs and expectations by providing training and educational activities that build officer capacity to work with Māori" (p. 11). In this vein, we support the WCC ensuring that council planning staff have training in iwi/Māori resource management, including promoting awareness and knowledge of Māori cultural resource management practices such as rāhui and taniwha.

### **Te Tauihu matrix**

7. While we strongly support the kaupapa behind the Te Tauihu matrix (pp. 12-13) we note the frequent use of phrases such as "are increasingly able," and "will increasingly have," with no measureable targets or timeframes to quantify any increase. How are targets quantified and what are the timeframes to achieve these? There is no indication regarding how each of these ambitions are to be monitored and measured.
8. We consider that there are at least three levels which need to be explicitly identified in the council kaupapa, namely the uptake and use of te reo Māori by:
  - (i) city councillors
  - (ii) council staff and contractors
  - (iii) citizens.
9. For example, the current numbers of fluent councillors, council staff and citizens could be reported on annually and specific targets set in relation to increasing the number of te reo Māori speakers in Te Whanganui a Tara.
10. Other possible ways to understand the uptake and use of te reo Māori might include monitoring:
  - (i) the number of kindergartens, play centres and schools teaching te reo Māori,
  - (ii) the number of organisations which are bilingual
  - (iii) the number of council-sponsored events which are bilingualand reporting on these numbers in the annual plan.
11. Finally we strongly recommend that the WCC get advice from a linguist with expertise in language acquisition to inform the policy regarding possible ways the council might aid citizen uptake of te reo Māori.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Te Tauihu | Te Reo Māori Policy.

Yours faithfully

  
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