

12 October 2023



Hutt City Council
30 Laings Road
Lower Hutt

**Application for Resource Consent
Proposed Digital Billboard for MediaWorks Outdoor Limited
47 The Esplanade, Petone**

**Submission of Hikoikoi Management on behalf of the Wellington Tenth Trust
and the Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust**

Our History – Mana Whakahaere

In the early part of the 19th century because of pressure and the threat of attack from northern iwi, Taranaki hapū from Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Ruanui, Nga Maru and Nga Rauru moved south down the island in a series of heke to the Kāpiti Coast and then on to Te Whanganui a Tara.

When William Wakefield of the NZ Company arrived in Wellington Harbour in 1839 the hapū of Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Tama and Ngāti Ruanui were settled around the Wellington south coast, the inner harbour, around the harbour shoreline to Pito-one and along the eastern side of the harbour through the harbour entrance and around the coast towards Wairarapa. Our influence extended up the valley of Te Awakairangi (Hutt River) to its headwaters in the Tararua Ranges.

In 1835 Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama left their sites to Te Ātiawa and established themselves in Rēkohu-Chatham Islands.

The 1839 Deed of Purchase between the NZ Company and the Rangatira of Te Whanganui a Tara promised that in addition to retaining their pā sites, kāinga, cultivations and mahinga kai, a portion of the land ceded by them, equal to one-tenth part of the whole, would be reserved and held in trust for the future benefit of the chiefs, their families, and their heirs forever.

RM220088-SUB50

Wellington Tenths Trust

The Wellington Tenths Trust (WTT) is an Ahu Whenua Trust established following the agreement between the New Zealand Company and the Rangatira of Te Whanganui a Tara. The trust was formalised in the Māori Land Court in an 1888 decision by Judge Mackay.

Administered by The Public Trustee and later the Māori Trustee, in 1987 advisory Trustees were established and in 2007 it finally came into the full control of the beneficial owners.

The Trust comprises nearly 7,000 registered owners and their whānau, representing a total of approximately 20,000 people. The owners are descendants of those Taranaki hapū who moved south in the early part of the 19th century, with the largest representation being hapū of Te Ātiawa.

Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust

The Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust (PNMRT) is an Ahu Whenua Trust constituted under Section 244 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. The Trust originated through an act of the Crown in 1866 when Governor Grey exchanged Te Ātiawa land interests in Waiwhetū and Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt, with a block of land which is now part of central Palmerston North.

Like the Wellington Tenths Trust, the PNMRT was administered by a Custodian Trustee until 2007 when it came into the control of the beneficial owners. There are currently 1,165 beneficial owners with many other whānau through those beneficial owners.

Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust and Wellington Tenths Trust are known as sister trusts. This is because they emanate from the same parents, that being the land and waters at Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Many owners hold shares in both trusts.

We are Mana Whenua and hold Mana Whakahaere in the takiwā of Wellington, Lower Hutt, and Upper Hutt cities.

Site of Cultural and Historical Significance

The proposed sign is located on a site of cultural and historical significance to Mana Whenua.

Sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8 of the Resource Management Act require the relationship of Māori and their ancestral lands to be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance, and for those exercising the functions and powers under the Act to have regard to kaitiakitanga and to take into account the principles of the Tiriti o Waitangi.

47 The Esplanade Petone is within an area formerly occupied by Pito-one Pā. The pā was the home of the Rangatira Honiana Te Puni Kōkopu and the Te Ātiawa hapu of Ngāti Te Whiti, Ngāti Tawhirikura, Te Matehōu/Ngāti Hamua and some others. The wider environs of the pā extended along the shore from the Korokoro Stream in the west in an area bounded by present-day Victoria Street in the east and Jackson Street in the north.

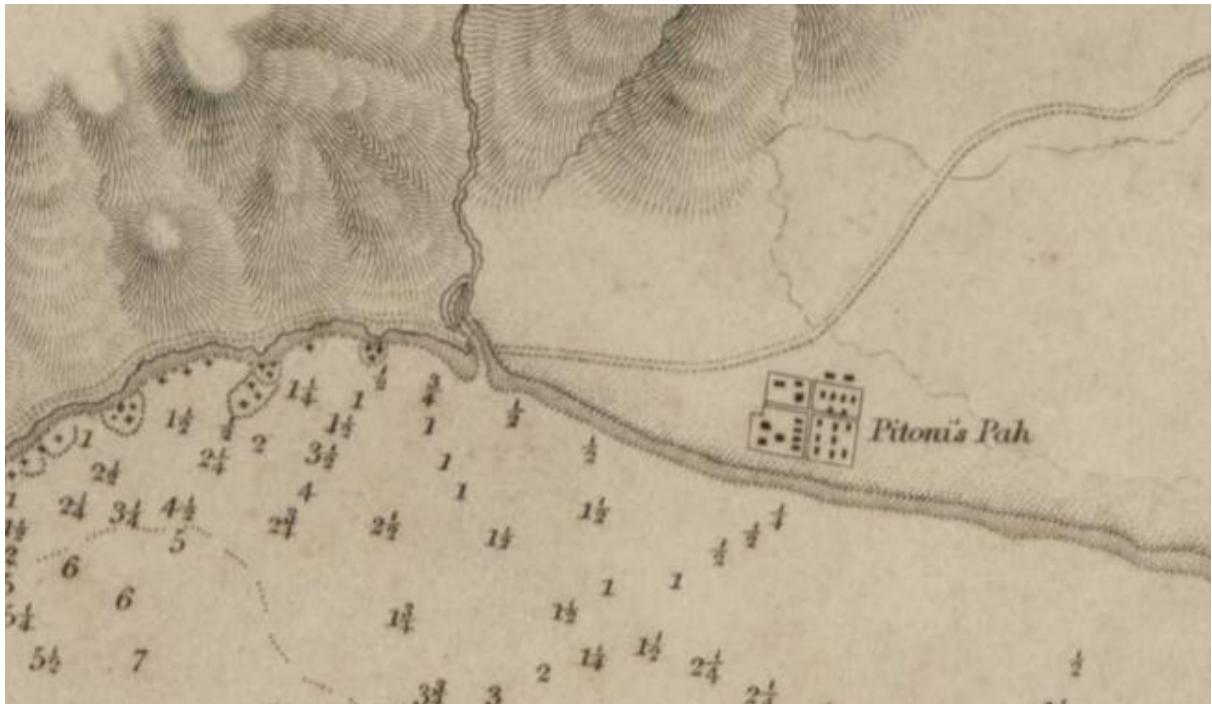
Te Puni was the senior rangatira around Te Whanganui a Tara following the death of Te Wharepouri in 1842. It was Te Puni and Te Wharepouri who met William Wakefield and the New Zealand Company settlers when they arrived in the harbour in 1839. They were key figures in the negotiations with Wakefield and the NZ Company in the Port Nicholson Block Purchase and the relationship between Te Puni and Wakefield was instrumental in the establishment of Wellington.

In 1849 the layout of Pito-one Pā was described in detail in the British Admiralty Chart drafted by Captain John Lort Stokes. Stokes' chart shows a large pā divided into four compartments and containing 24 buildings, with a further two outside the palisade on the north side.

Using geo-referencing and Stokes' chart archaeologist Andy Dodds estimated the size enclosed by the palisaded area to be about 2.5 hectares.



Detail from Stokes chart of Port Nicholson in 1849 showing Petone foreshore and the river estuary



Detail from Stokes chart of Port Nicholson in 1849 showing 'Pitoni's Pah'

Following the 1839 Port Nicholson Block purchase the allocation of land to Māori went through several processes. The final result for the people of Pito-one Pā was the Crown grants in the McCleverty awards of 1847. As part of these awards Hutt Sections 1,2 and 3 (approximately 300 acres) were allocated as Native Reserve. The sections extended from the shoreline on both sides of the Korokoro Stream, east along to the northern end of present-day Petone Avenue and south back to the shoreline.

While these sections covered most of the wider area of the pā, Hutt Section 4 that took up some of the eastern side of the pā was not allocated to Te Ātiawa.

In 1850 the Native Secretary H. Tacy Kemp undertook a census of the Māori population. Kemp reported there were 137 occupants at Pito-one, and noted that:

'Pito-one pa, situated about 7 miles from Wellington, is the largest and best fortified within the district of Wellington, is a reserve with sections on the Hutt attached. Their cultivations of kumara and maize look well, and in point of comfort and wealth are better off than any of the Port Nicholson Natives.'

Kemp also noted that the people of the pā had 25 acres of cultivations in wheat, maize, potatoes, kumara and other produce.

Pito-one Pā declined rapidly due to people returning to Taranaki in the 1850s and 1860s and the pressures of colonisation. With the establishment of the Native Land Court soon after 1865, Māori were able to subdivide the land and sell it to parties other than the Crown.

The demand for land for housing and industrial development in Petone lead to the subdivision and sale of the allocated sections. Significant portions of Hutt Sections 1,2 and 3 were taken under the Public Works Act for railway and roading purposes.

The final piece of the allocated lands passed out of Māori ownership in 1920.

The last remnant of the pā is our urupā in the southern end of Te Puni Street approximately 180m from the location of the proposed sign. Our tūpuna including Te Puni are buried in this urupā. Our whanau were still conducting burials there up until the 1990s.

Other tūpuna were buried in an earlier second urupā further west along The Esplanade that was long since built over.

The development in the area has removed virtually any trace of our presence.

Despite this, the area of Pito-one Pā is still hugely significant to us.

Opposition to the Application

Of particular concern to us is the lack of consultation with Mana Whenua by the applicant given the location of the proposed sign.

Cultural Impact Reports have been prepared for several previous developments on the Pito-one site, yet we have received no contact from the applicant regarding this proposal.

The first knowledge we had of this application was when a Petone resident brought it to our attention.

We received no notification of the application from the Hutt City Council. This is disappointing considering the importance of the site to us and the work we have recently completed with council officers on Sites of Significance to Mana Whenua for inclusion in the District Plan which is currently under review by the council.

We acknowledge that the area of Pito-one Pā has been heavily modified since our tūpuna welcomed the NZ Company in 1839. The area is now covered with industrial and commercial buildings and developments. Several of the businesses along this stretch of The Esplanade including Bunnings and Waitomo already have large signs in a similar position to the proposed sign.

However, it is our view that the adverse visual effects of a large double sided digital LED billboard are considerably more than minor. An animated, electronic screen operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week as proposed by the applicant is completely different to any other signage currently in place and is out of context and inappropriate for the area. It does not relate to any of the activities on the site.

The proposed sign is in Area 2 of the Petone Commercial Area in council's PC 29. In the Design Guide associated with PC 29 council states:

'...It intended that this area is to be transformed into an attractive and vibrant mixed use area, with higher amenity levels than present. This area is intended to accommodate a wide mix of activities including residential, commercial, large format retail, community and some light industrial and service activities.

The future character of the area is of attractive entrance gateway routes into the City and buildings, structures and associated areas which are functional, attractive and contribute to the quality of the environment.'

It is our view that the proposed sign does not contribute to the quality of the environment or the amenity values of the area and is entirely inappropriate for an area intended to be *'... an attractive entrance gateway route into the City'* and would not enhance the future character of the area.

The resource consent would allow MediaWorks to sell any advertising from the sign. There is no guarantee that the advertising would be sensitive to the cultural significance of the site or display any awareness of Mana Whenua values. This needs to be priority for council as once permission is given, council would have no say in what is promoted in this area.

Conclusion

Our tūpuna lived in this area because it provided us with the resources needed for our survival and its strategic position provided us with the protection required from potential threats. Today virtually all our cultural landscape elements have been removed from the whenua. Allowing the construction of the proposed sign would further contribute to the loss of Mana Whenua of our sense of place in Pito-one.

We oppose the application for Resource Consent and welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission at any hearing on the matter.

Nāku noa, nā



Richard Te One
Relationship Liaison Officer