

# Mautohe Cathedral Cove

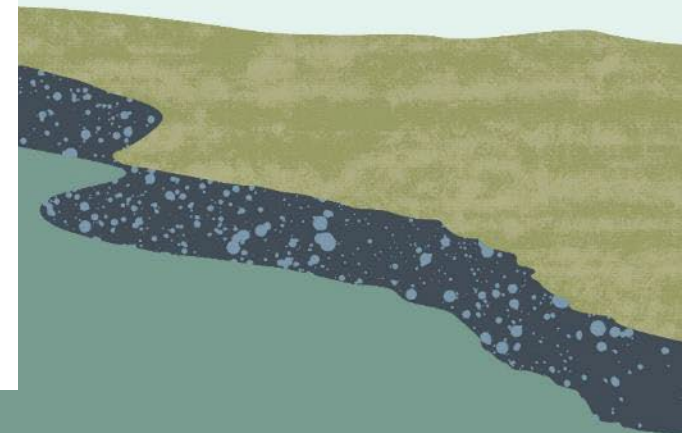
Wrap up of options phase and work  
programme update

3 October 2024



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

New Zealand Government



## Phase 1 recap



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Undertook a high-level visitor risk review – geotechnical stability and visitor risk mitigations

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Tilt meters were established for real time monitoring

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Identified potential access points to the Cove and entry points to the Recreation Reserve

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Presented potential options to the community and received feedback

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Built a work programme and received approval

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Secured funding

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Project teams set up – building of the short-term access and visitor management planning

# Option / Solution criteria

The solution needed to...



align with the values of Ngāti Hei



provide viable access to the beach that is resilient against future severe storms, landslides, rockfalls and storm surges

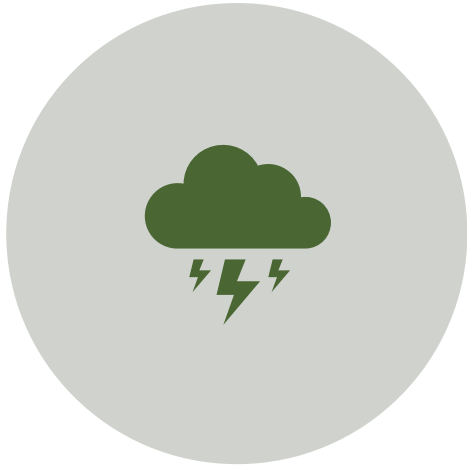


reduce visitor risk to as low as reasonably practicable for the type of visitor who uses this site



not damage Mautohe Pa and its defensive ditches the current damaged beach track access passes

## The solution needed to also...



Consider resilience against future severe storms and resulting landslides/rockfalls/storm surges



Reduce the cultural, environmental, and social impacts



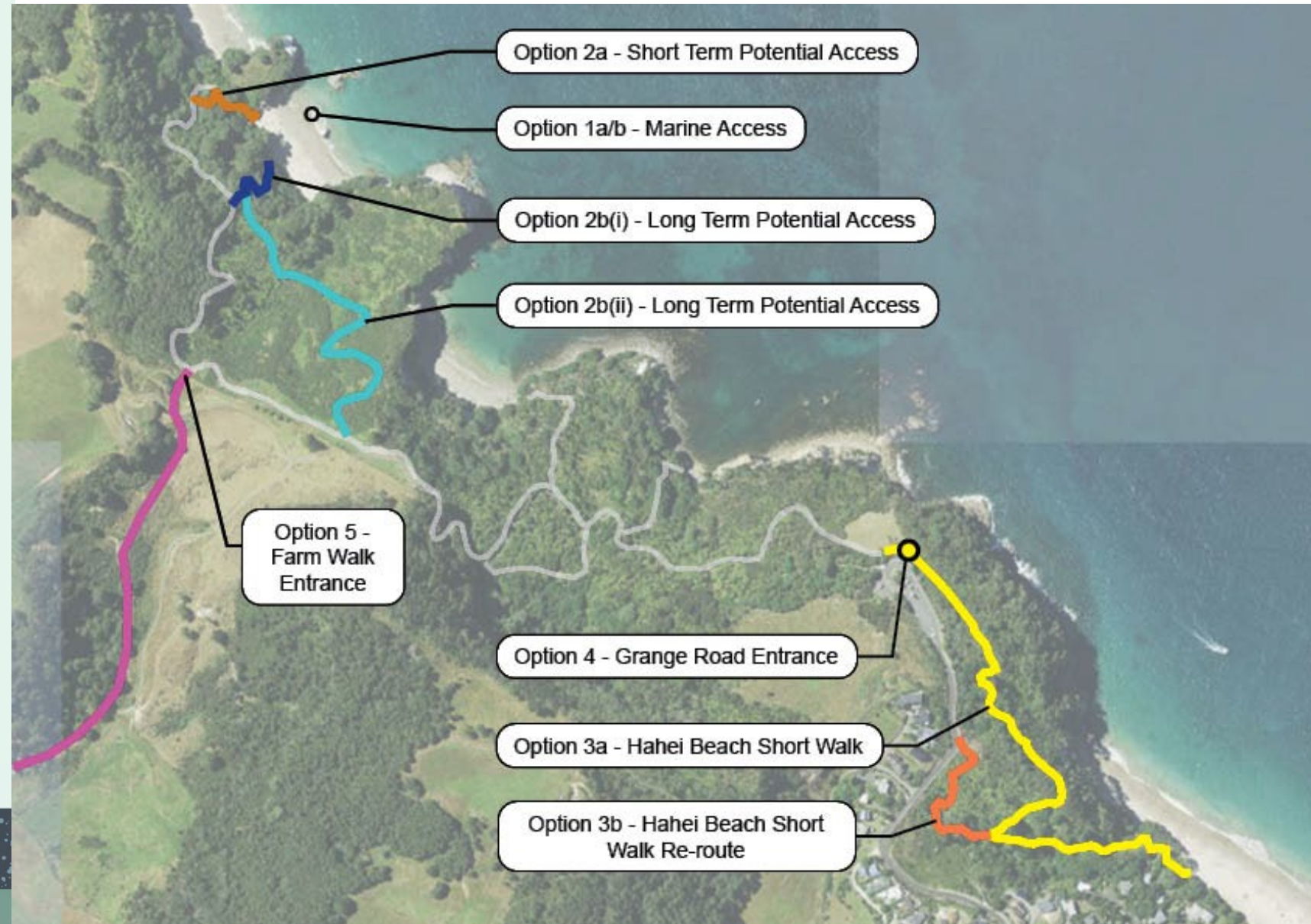
Balance benefits, costs and investment risks

# Options presented

Marine access options (2)

Walking beach access options (3)

Entrance to recreation reserve options (4)



# Community/ Business Feedback

Key themes

- › We received feedback via:
  - Letters from individuals and collectives
  - Drop in session feedback forms
  - Online feedback forms
  - Library/council boxes
  - Community Stakeholder sessions



# What we heard from you



- › Mautohe Cathedral Cove is a significant and cherished destination.
- › A staged approach with reopening for summer 24/25 is important for the local and regional economy and then long-term planning.
- › Walking access to Mautohe Cathedral Cove is important to you for community wellbeing, recreation and identity.
- › Having an access from Hahei Beach up to Grange Road is important – support for reroute.
- › Support for further investigations into the cost and sustainability of a long-term access.
- › Equity of access – not just a playground for the rich

# What we heard from you



- › Support for managing crowds and visitor impacts in peak season.
- › The local community and businesses are keen to continue to support solutions and weed/pest control for the future of Mautohe Cathedral Cove
- › Community revenue suggestions to generate funds for ongoing maintenance/rebuilds
- › Importance of parking/transport options and a range of parking/transport ideas for visitor management planning
- › Access to the other bays (particularly Gemstone) is important to you
- › Educating about the Maori and European history
- › Changing track back to gravel instead of tarseal
- › Marine management safety concerns – boats/swimming/types of visitor



**What happened to your  
feedback?**



# Work programme

**Task 1** – assessment of walking track options (completed) (July 2024)



**Task 2** – build track repair + visitor risk mitigations (Dec 2024)



**Task 3** – summer 24 interim visitor management plan (Dec 2024)



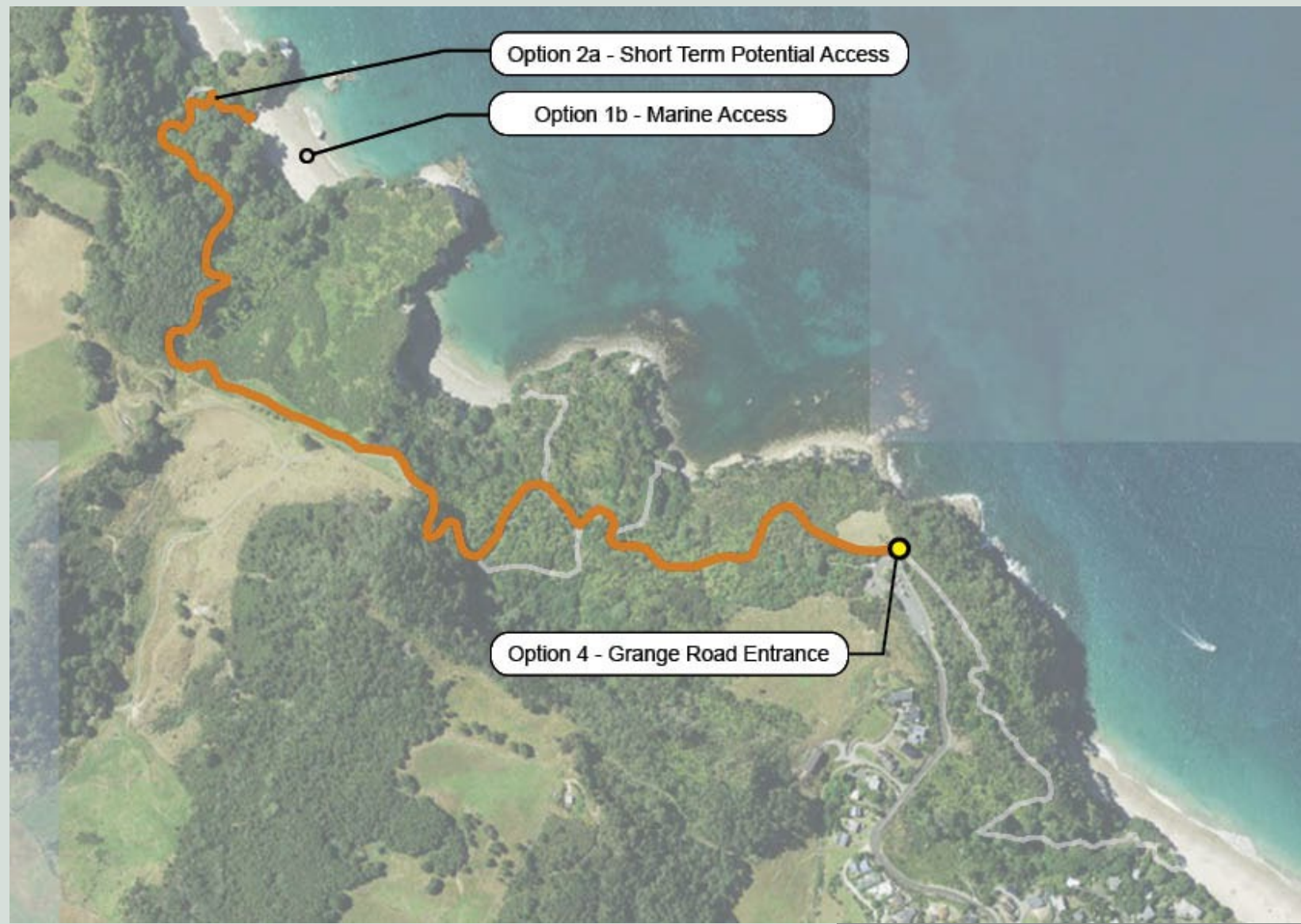
**Task 4** – long term adaptive investment plan

**Task 5** – long term visitor management plan



# Grange Road to Cove

Grange Road  
+ Short Term Access  
+ Interim visitor management



**This summer – 24/25**

## Still to consider further

### - long-term adaptive investment plan:

- Long Term Access into Cove
- Hahei Beach Walk (3b reroute)
- Gemstone Bay
- Stingray Bay



# Track re-build + visitor risk mitigations (Dec 2024)

Alignment with Ngāti Hei Treaty Settlement Overlay

Remedial work on Grange Road carpark to allow use for summer

Re-building tracks, staircase and box steps, including boardwalk over slip

Removal of hazardous trees, clearing drains, damaged structures.

Clear pest plants over and near the existing track corridor

Toilet facilities at Lees Road entrance to Recreation Reserve

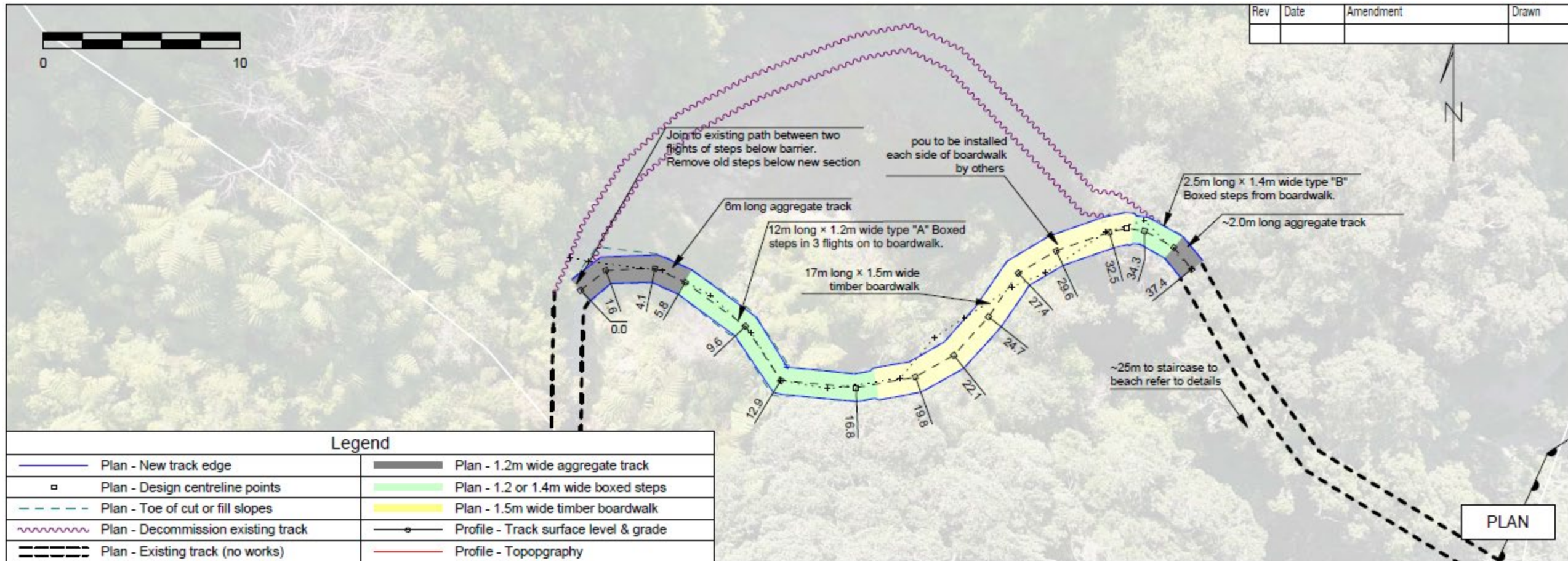
Ongoing operating costs - maintenance, rubbish, active visitor risk management (ie. severe weather closures)

Visitor management and heritage and visitor interpretation

Transport system

Implement appropriate visitor risk management – signage and response plans

# Track Re-Build



# Preparing for the track re-build: Photos of Recent Work



# Visitor Management Planning: Addressing the impacts





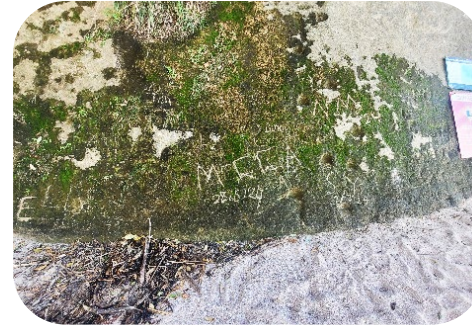
# Visitor related problems are growing internationally



Safety Issues



Environmental Impacts



Cultural Impacts



Lack of visitor preparedness



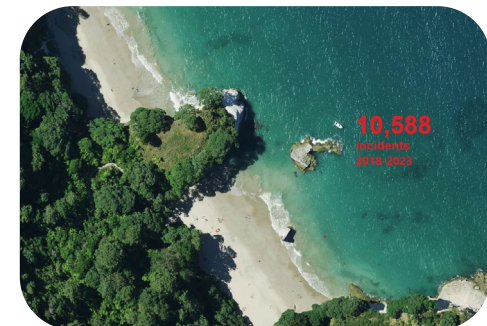
Littering



No awareness of the Marine Reserve or NZ water safety



Road congestion



Marine safety

Ngāti Hei kōrero

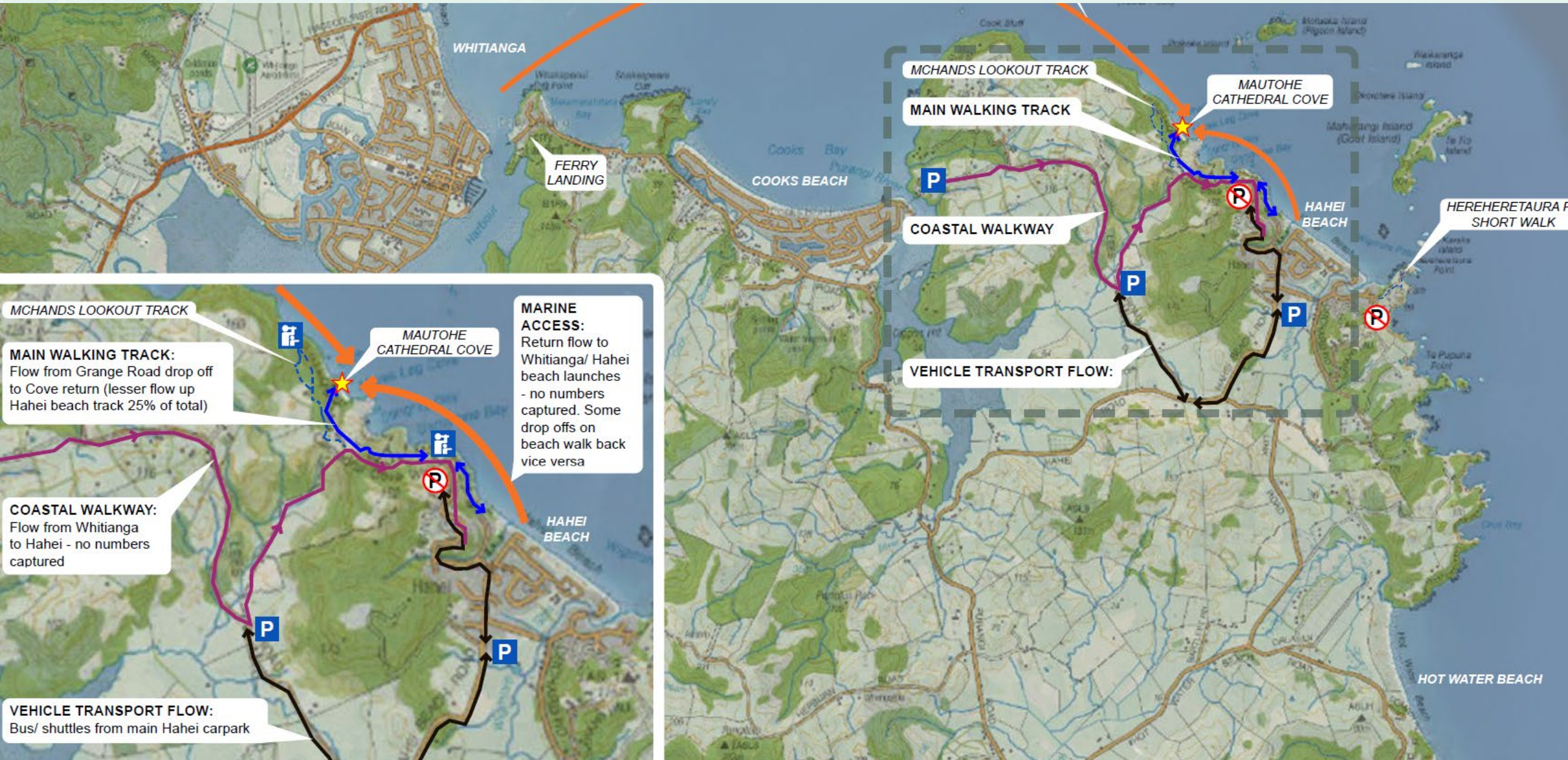


# Visitor management planning

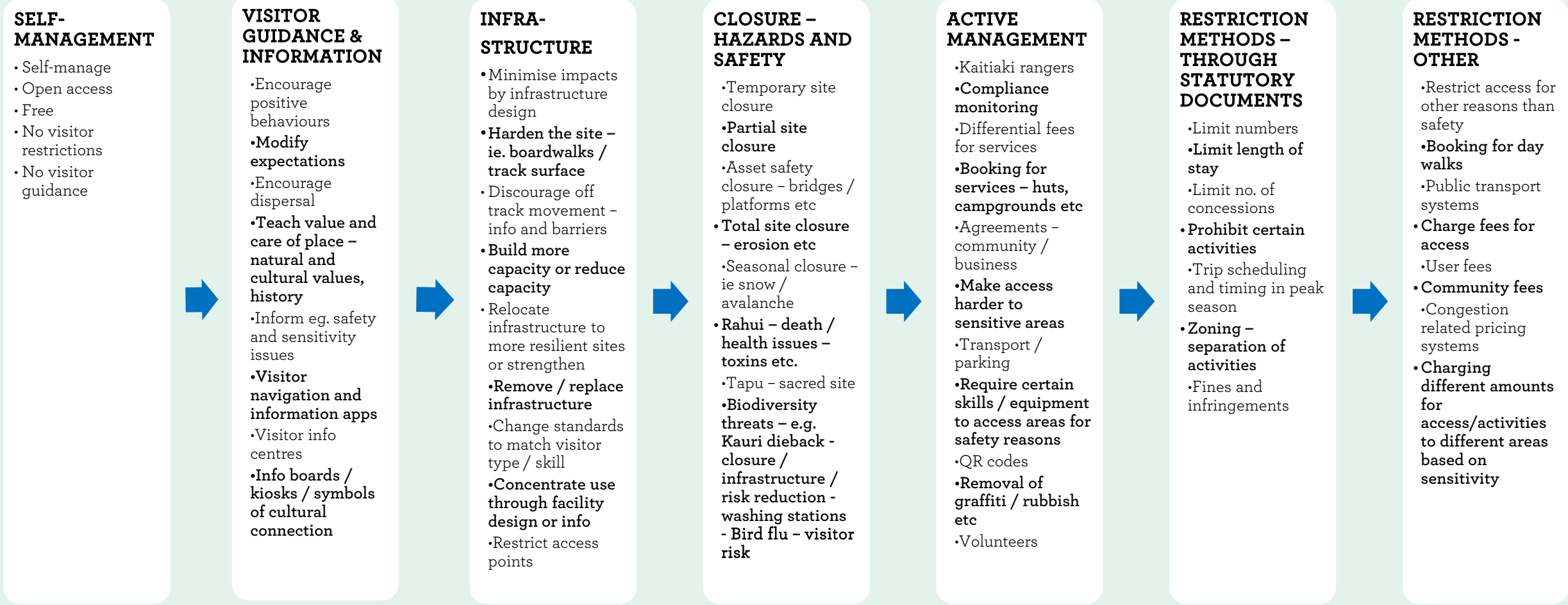
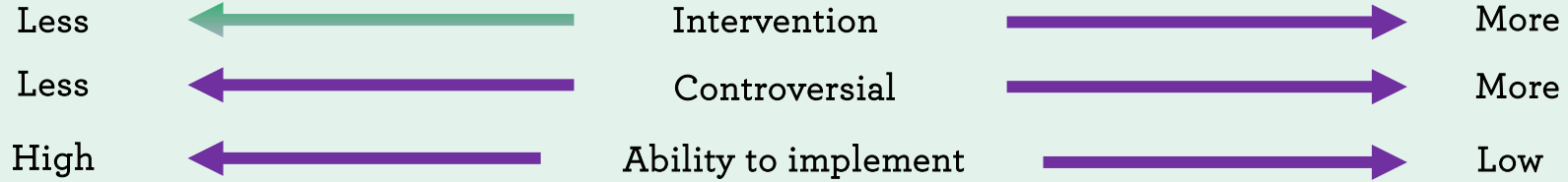
## What the plan will contain:

- A strategy to guide ongoing management
- Management options that respect the natural and cultural values of Ngāti Hei
- Visitor management interventions including behaviour change messaging
- Physical infrastructure including to support cultural, natural and safety interpretation, visitor experience etc
- Ecological restoration strategies
- Future adaptation investment plan
- A revenue/funding strategy acknowledging future needs

# Scope



# SPECTRUM OF VISITOR MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR USE IN THE DOC CONTEXT



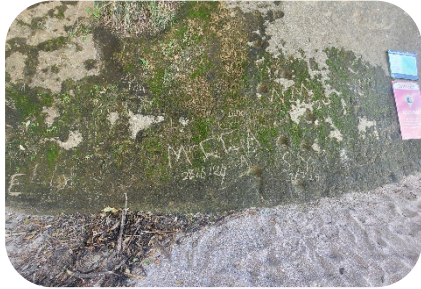
No measures

Indirect measures

Directive measures

Regulation

# Sharing key messages with our visitors



**Cultural Impacts.**  
This place is special to us, please respect it.



**Use the last toilet**  
provided before  
descending to the  
beach and Cove



**It is prudent to limit**  
your time inside the  
Cave, limit time under  
the cliffs



**Make sure you have**  
sunscreen and a hat



**Bring water in a**  
reusable bottle, and  
take all your rubbish  
with you



**The Marine Reserve is**  
a protected area –  
please consider the  
impacts of your actions

# Tiaki Promise

Caring for Nature and Culture while you're here



What is the Tiaki Promise?



Investment in protecting cultural values is also part of the Tiaki Promise

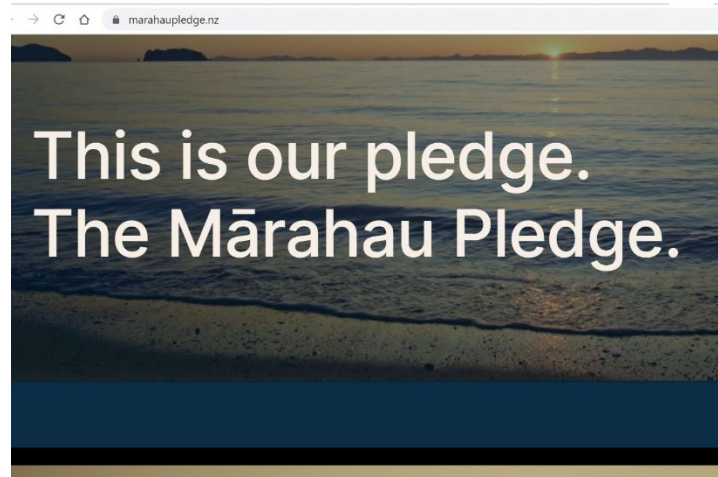


You can personalise it to your company



International Audiences have been the focus

# How Mārahau businesses on the Abel Tasman have aligned towards a Sustainable Location



www.marahaupledge.nz



## Where is Mārahau?

### As a visitor to Mārahau and the Abel Tasman National Park, what can I do to take care of the environment?

- Anything you bring in with you, take out – this includes plastic, glass, and food waste
- Respect the plants and wildlife – the only thing from the Park you should be taking is photographs
- Our native birds are not adapted to human food, so please don't feed them, no matter how cute they are!
- You can also take the Tiaki promise
- Care for land, sea and nature, treading lightly and leaving no trace
- Travel safely, showing care and consideration for all
- Respect culture, travelling with an open heart and mind

FAQ's from their website

## What is the Environmental Access Fee (EAF)?

The Environmental Access Fee (EAF) is a portion of the ticket price that goes directly towards preserving the unique environment in Mārahau and the Abel Tasman National Park. You'll see it as a separate line on your ticket. Students on school trips and conservation volunteers are not charged the EAF.

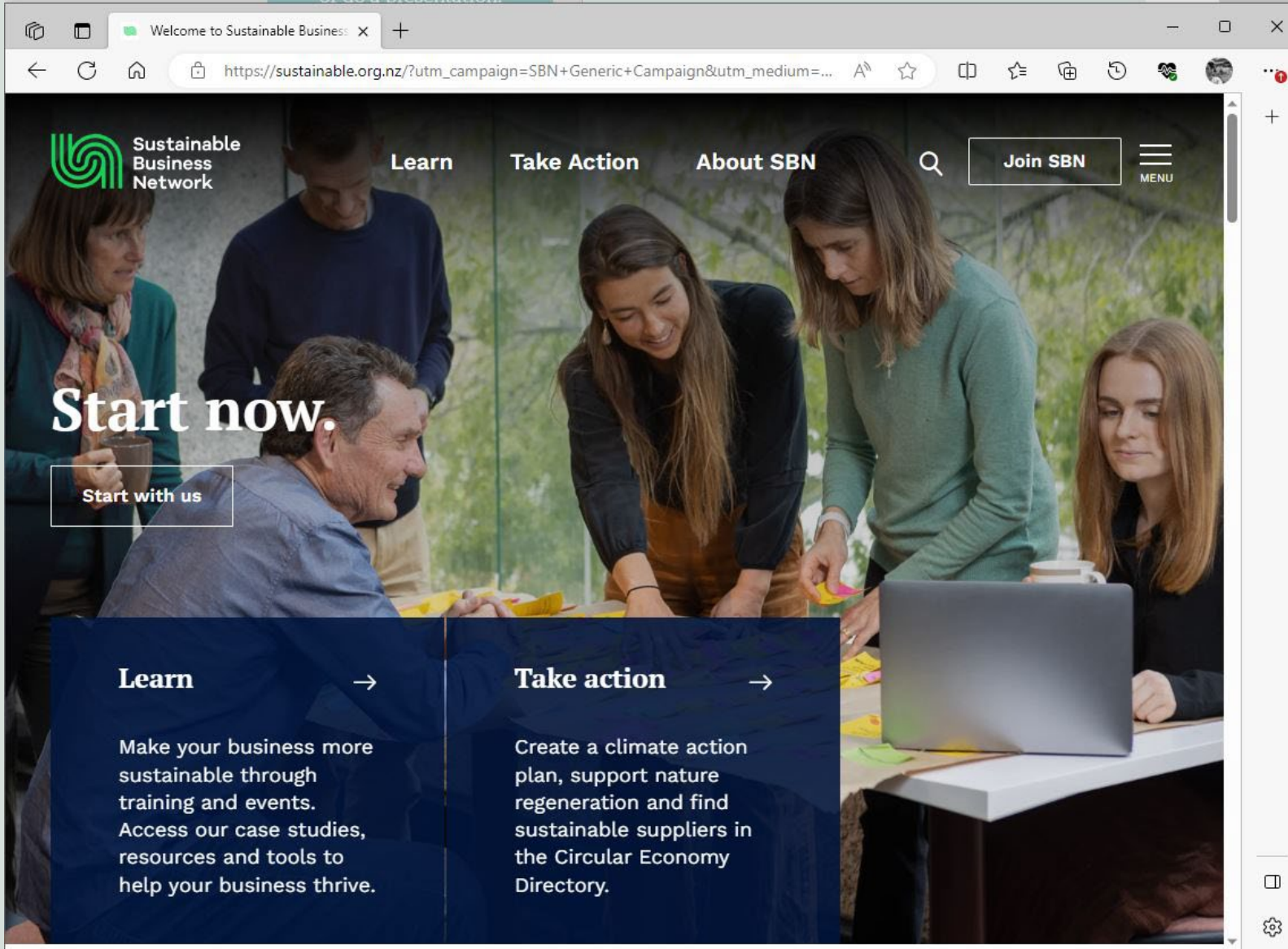
The EAF includes the compulsory concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation, as well as voluntary contributions to local organisations and projects to improve the environment, ecology and access to the national park.

The EAF is made up of three parts:

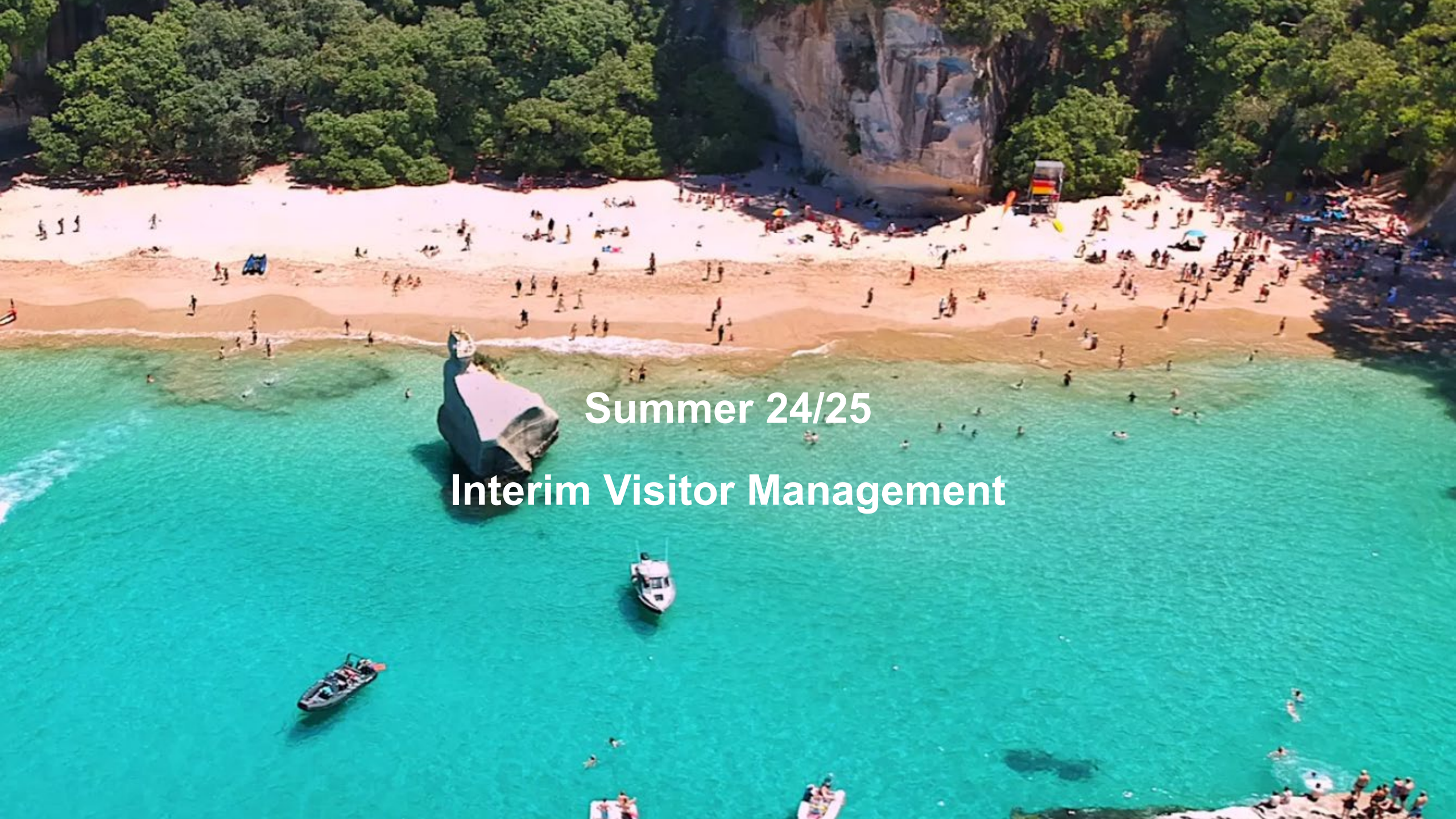
- The concession fee tourism operators pay the Department of Conservation to access the Abel Tasman National Park. DOC invest this money directly back into the Park.
- The 'Birdsong Levy' that tourism operators voluntarily contribute to the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust
- The Mārahau Pledge fee which will go directly to projects that will benefit the environment and community of Mārahau

They provide information for visitors about how their fees are used to give back at place





# Sustainable Business Network



**Summer 24/25**  
**Interim Visitor Management**

# Recreation Reserve Access



Shuttle and car  
dropoff at Grange Road



No buses up Grange Road

# Marine Reserve Access



Beach Time Limits



Safety & Monitoring

# Behaviour Change

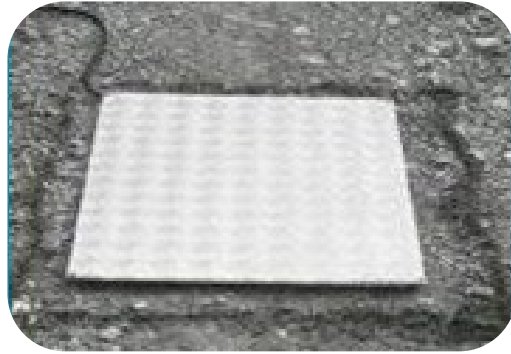
## Key Messages

- **The land at Mautohe Cathedral Cove is constantly shifting and moving – landslide and rockfall risks are present:**
  - Rockfall risk increases following rainfall.
  - It is prudent to limit your time inside the Cove.
  - Sit away from the cliff edges.
- **New Zealand’s nature is a treasure, your individual actions affect Mautohe Cathedral Cove:**
  - Bring your own water in a reusable bottle.
  - Take all your rubbish home with you.
  - Use the last toilet provided before descending to the beach and Cove.
  - Consider the harm to marine life if you toilet on a marine reserve beach.
  - Make sure you have sunscreen, a hat, and good walking shoes.
  - Leave no trace.

# Monitoring



Marine  
Monitoring



Track Counters



Visitor Survey



Toilet Waste  
Monitoring



Visitor Behaviour  
Feedback

What ideas do you have for  
managing impacts?



# Q&A

