

3: STATEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION

Te Kuta Recreation Reserve (as shown on deed plan OTS-201-26)

Te Kuta Recreation Reserve (the Reserve) and environs are integral to the distinct identity and mana of Ngāi Tahu. The importance of the Reserve derives from its location on the Waikari River and proximity to Waikare, which has been one of the principal coastal kāinga (villages) of the Hapū, the coast and Tangitū (the sea). Accordingly, the following statements of association apply to the Reserve.

- Rocks and Reefs and Hapū Coastal Marine Area;
- Coast;
- Earthquake Slip Marginal Strip; and
- Waikari River and its tributaries.

The Reserve and its environs was an area of significant occupation by Ngāi Tahu and contains nohoanga (camping sites), kāinga and pā (fortified villages), urupā (burial grounds) and other wāhi tapu (sacred places). Along the Reserve and nearby were also significant mahinga kai (food gathering places) and places associated with such activities, including the mouth of the Waikari River, Te Puta-o-Hinetonga and Tangitū. Tuna (eels) are a taonga species that have been central to the lives of the Hapū for many, many generations. Several pā tuna (eel weirs) are named on the Waikari River including Tutaekaraka.

The Reserve is located on an ancient walking track which later became the Waikare Road. However, it was also the awa (river) which provided the Hapū with a highway to and from the hinterlands to gather resources. Waka (canoes) were used to negotiate the waterways.

The Hapū have cultural, spiritual, traditional and historic associations with the Reserve and its environs, its waters, associated land and flora and fauna and have a responsibility as kaitiaki (guardians) in accordance with their kawa (rules) and tikanga (customs) to restore, protect and manage all those natural and historic resources. This relationship is as important to present day whānau (families) as it was to their tīpuna (ancestors). The continued recognition of the Hapū, their identity, traditions and status as kaitiaki is entwined with the Reserve, and associated resources.