



GREAT HARBOUR WAY
TE ARANUI O PŌNEKE

Great Harbour Way Submission on the Proposed Waterfront Development Plan 2015-18

This submission is made by the Great Harbour Way -Te Aranui o Poneke Trust, promoting the establishment of the Great Harbour Way, a cycling and walking route around the shores of Wellington Harbour (1) .

SUMMARY

1. Priority should be given to maintaining walking and cycling access along the Promenade on the seaward side of the Waterfront.
2. We support reorienting Frank Kitts Park towards the sea.
3. We support the development of protected cycle paths on the Quays to provide an alternative for fast commuter cyclists.
4. Bike (including eBike) rental should be available on the Waterfront

DISCUSSION

- 1. Priority should be given to maintaining walking and cycling access along the Promenade on the seaward side of the Waterfront.**

The Waterfront promenade has become an important cycling and walking route between the north and south sections of the CBD. As long as adequate space and sight lines are available, cyclists and walkers can coexist on the Promenade, and there have been few if any serious collisions.

We agree with the importance of improving walking and cycling connectivity between the Waterfront Parade and the Centreport area, which includes offices for organisations such as GWRC, and the Stadium. Connectivity with the Railway Station, an important transport hub, and the Overseas ship berthing area, a starting point for tourists, is also important. In particular the current connection for cyclists to the Railway Station is poor - cyclists generally use the pedestrian crossing at Bunny/ Waterloo Quay and the footpath to the railway station entrance, with potential for cyclist/pedestrian conflict.

We hope that within the 2015-2018 timeframe a good quality cycling route between Ngauranga and the CBD will be achieved, and connectivity between this route and the CBD will be important.

2. We support reorienting Frank Kitts Park towards the sea.

With the demise of the Streetcar races, this appears to be a “no brainer”. However resources may be better used in making improving the connections between the waterfront and the city, as recommended by the 2004 Gehl report - see below.

3. We support the development of protected cycle lanes on the Quays to provide a more attractive alternative for fast commuter cyclists.

An important issue for the waterfront is its connection with the CBD.

The 2004 Gehl report (2) recommended developing Jervois Quay as a City Boulevard, reducing the Quay from 6 lanes to 4, which would allow for protected cycle lanes to be provided. These would attract faster cyclists away from the Promenade, making the Promenade a more relaxed environment. As the Gehl report points out, the reduction in lanes would encourage people using cars to use alternative routes, such as SH1, or switch to other transport modes, which would be environmentally beneficial.

As an example, a similar stretch of waterfront in Portland Oregon has a shared path along the waterfront, and cycle lanes on the parallel Naito Parkway. (3)

4. Bike (including eBike) rental should be available on the Waterfront

Since cycling is an important transport mode on the waterfront promenade. To cater for tourists and people without convenient access to bikes, bike rental should be available on the waterfront. Ideally this would be through a city-wide public bike scheme, as has been popular in cities such as Lyon, Paris, Milan, London, and Montreal. However commercial rental should also be encouraged by providing premises at key points. eBikes (electrically assisted bicycles) which allow people of limited fitness to bike, should also be available.

Alastair Smith

Great Harbour Way/ Te Aranui o Pōneke

Ph +64 21 036 4443 (M)

<http://www.greatharbourway.org.nz/>

24 April 2015

REFERENCES

1. www.greatharbourway.org.nz
2. wellington.govt.nz/services/environment-and-waste/urban-development/city-to-waterfront-study/gehl-report
3. www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/index.cfm?action=ViewPark&PropertyID=156&subareas=6