

19 August 2025

Rhys Hurley
Investigations Coordinator
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
rhys@taxpayers.org.nz

REF: OIA-18899

Dear Rhys

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 8 July 2025 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding the commissioning and installation of artwork on the Te Ahu a Turanga – Manawatū Tararua Highway project. I will address each part below.

The total cost of all artworks associated with the project, including design, fabrication, transport, installation, and any related cultural or consultation processes

The total cost of the mahi toi cultural artworks was \$5.045 million. For context, the total cost of mahi toi represents 0.6 per cent of the total budget.

A breakdown of costs by artist or artwork where available or budgeted for

Location	Cost
Western/Ashhurst Roundabout	\$1,018,000
Parahaki Bridge	\$1,347,000
Western/Ashhurst Lookout	\$189,000
Eastern/Woodville Lookout	\$100,000
Bridge over Mangamanaia Stream	\$240,000
Eastern/Woodville Roundabout	\$436,000

Location	Cost
Shared Use Path/Gateway Park	\$1,425,000
Mahi toi design	\$290,000
Total	\$5,045,000

The process by which artists were selected, including any open calls, tenders, or direct appointments

The selection process for determining the mahi toi artists was led by the project's iwi partners:

- Rangitāne o Manawatū
- Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua
- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua
- Te Runanga o Raukawa (Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga and Nga Kaitiaki ō Ngāti Kauwhata).

The project's iwi partners nominated artists based on their knowledge of the area and their proven track record of delivering cultural artworks. The selected artists were then endorsed by the Project's Iwi Working Group, which includes representatives from each partner iwi and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

Any documentation or advice received by Waka Kotahi or the project alliance in support of including these artworks (e.g. cultural, landscape or community impact assessments)

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you are seeking is already publicly available.

The Cultural and Environmental Design Framework (CEDF) outlines the mahi toi process (see page 84) and is available at: www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/te-ahu-a-turanga/te-ahu-a-turanga-cultural-and-environmental-design-framework.pdf.

A designation condition requires that the highway's detailed design meets the corridor design principles and outcomes in the CEDF (Appendix E): www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/sh3-manawatu/rma-consenting/CEMP.pdf.

Iwi were supportive of the integration of mahi toi in the project through collaboration with NZTA. Their involvement covered the design and consenting phases, cultural monitoring throughout construction, and the inclusion of cultural design elements.

Whether any of the costs were funded from outside Waka Kotahi's budget (e.g. by iwi, local councils, or other central government funds)

The mahi toi programme was funded as part of Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway budget, which was funded through the National Land Transport Programme.

Any evaluation or reporting carried out on the value or public reception of the artworks

NZTA did not produce a report on the value of including mahi toi as part of the project. Therefore, I am refusing this part of the request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Russell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sam Russell
Manager Ministerial Services