

Public Engagement Analysis

The following is an analysis of the feedback received during the public engagement period surrounding the Fale Malae in Frank Kitts Park. Here you can see key themes and responses to key concerns that were raised.

Stage 1 of Engagement: June-July 2022

In June and July 2022 as part of Stage 1, three workshops with Mana Whenua partners and key interest stakeholders¹ were held to develop the parks purpose and principles. The designers have used these to inform the development of the design, which was then tested more broadly during the public engagement process in March-April 2023.

Through the workshops the following purpose and principles were developed:

- 1. Purpose:** FKP (Frank Kitts Park) is a centerpiece for our city, it draws us to Te Whanganui a Tara, to play, reflect, celebrate, and commemorate.
- 2. Principles:**
 - Embodiment of the place for mana whenua.
 - A vibrant centrepiece of community life for all
 - Welcoming
 - Accessible
 - Reflecting the diversity of our city
 - To gather, play, celebrate and commemorate
 - Mana moana, mana whenua, mana tangata (connect to the waterfront, moana, and city)
 - Cohesive design for the whole park, integrated to the waterfront and city.

¹ Workshop attendee list:

Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, Tenths Trust, Ngāti Toa, Civic Trust, Wellington Sculpture Trust, Inner City Residents Association, Dragon Boat representatives, Homegrown, Wellington Chinese Garden Society, Fale Malae Trust, Youth Council Rep (WCC), Skateboard Rep (WCC).

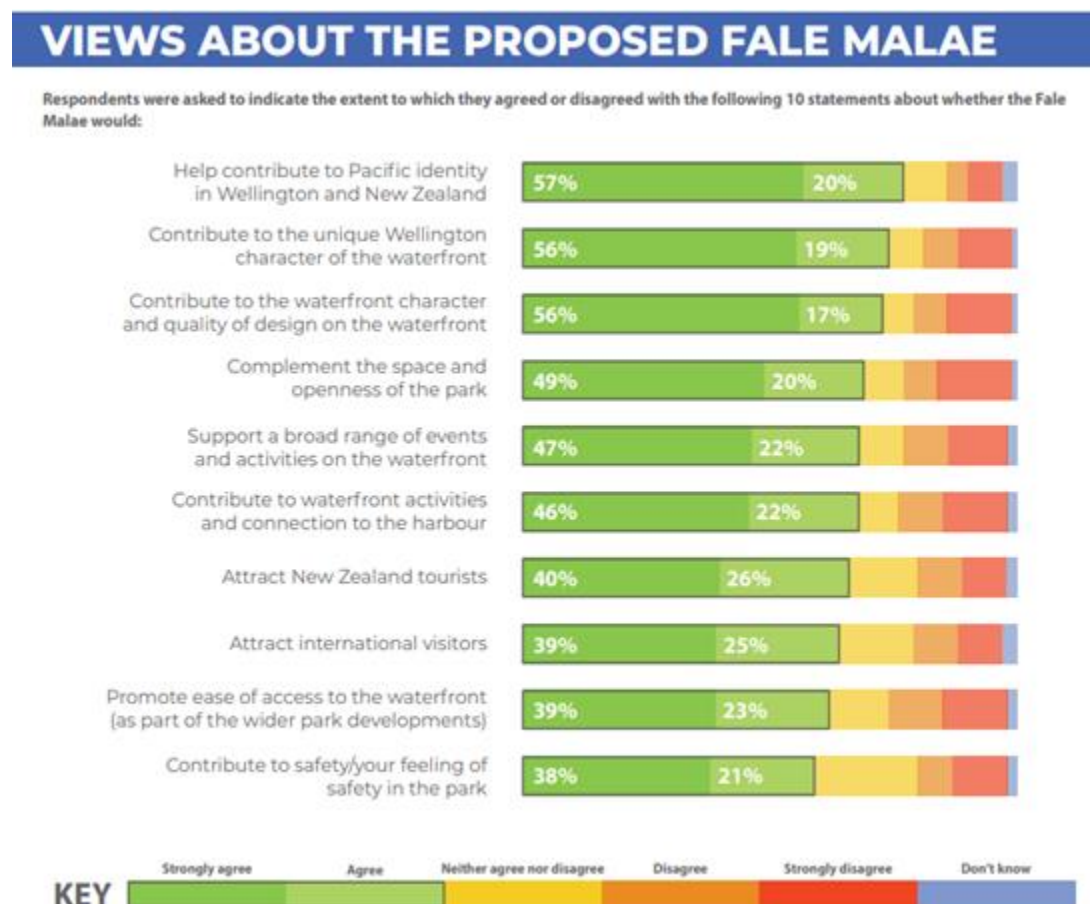
The Fale proposal and proposed development plan are considered alongside the principles developed in the original Mana Whenua partner and stakeholder workshops below:

Stakeholder Principles	Officer Comment
Embodiment of the place for mana whenua.	Mana Whenua have provided support to the Trust for their proposal. Mana whenua have been integral to the wider park development with cultural aspirations imbedded within the design.
A vibrant centrepiece of community life for all Welcoming Accessible Reflecting the diversity of our city To gather, play, celebrate and commemorate	The results of the public engagement show a strong support for the Fale proposal. The Fale and wider FKP proposal provides an opportunity to establish a cultural precinct, extending to the Wharewaka and Te Papa. The design of the park continues to provide a flexible open space available to be used in a variety of ways and will support a variety of existing and future events.
Mana moana, mana whenua, mana tangata (connect to the waterfront, moana, and city)	The demolition of the car park provides an opportunity for greater connection and visibility between city and sea. The work being developed in partnership with mana whenua also provides opportunities to recognise the importance of this site prior to reclamation for Māori.
Cohesive design for the whole park, integrated to the waterfront and city.	As per TAG's report, The Fale Malae is conceptually strong and fully integrated within a whole-of-park design.

Stage 2 of Engagement: March-April 2023

There was a high response rate to the engagement between 10 March and 10 April 2023 with 2,143 responses received. There were 2,133 online survey responses, nine email submissions and one independent conducted survey by the Inner-City Residents Association.

The survey questions were split into two parts, the first was a set of multiple-choice questions which align with the principles and objectives as outlined in the Waterfront Framework Strategy. The key findings are detailed below:



- Overall, there were strong levels of agreement that the Fale Malae aligned to the themes as outlined in the Waterfront Framework Strategy.
- The second half of the survey allowed members of the public to provide their feedback on what value they thought the Fale Malae would add to the park and the waterfront and raise their concerns in relation to the proposal.
- **The key themes regarding the value of the Fale Malae were:**
 - The Fale Malae would represent and recognise Pasifika culture in Wellington

- The Fale Malae would add visual appeal
- The Fale Malae would help to celebrate and connect with Pasifika culture
- The Fale Malae would enhance the waterfront
- The Fale Malae would be a better use of the space.
- **The key themes raised in relation to the concerns on the Fale Malae development were:**
 - Concerns about disruption to current uses
 - Concerns about loss of open/green space
 - Concerns about cost
 - Concerns about construction time and disruption
 - Concerns about the functionality of the building.
- Some of these concerns have been, or can be through further development, addressed by officers. The details of which follow.

Key concerns raised and responses to these

Disruption to current uses

- Concerns were raised regarding the potential disruption to existing facilities, particularly dragon boat storage and changing rooms.
- **Response:** The Fale building provides provision for future dragon boat storage, toilets and changing facilities within the basement of the building adjacent to the existing boat ramp within the Whairepo Lagoon.

Impact on festivals and other events

- Other concerns were raised in relation to the impact on festivals and other events in the park.
- **Response:** *The Trust envisages that the Fale will support a wide range of community and cultural activities (both internally and externally), as well as being available for 'passive' enjoyment.* The Trust understands the importance of open space for large events on the waterfront.
- **Response:** The redesign of FKP will better deliver the requirements of a destination park by incorporating a greater diversity of uses than currently. However, the redesign will cause some disruption as to how the park currently operates. The current park was never designed for the multiplicity of uses that are undertaken with uses and events 'fitting' into the existing environment. The new design includes two new unobstructed lawn spaces for multi-use flexibility.

Further work will be undertaken in the detailed design phase to confirm the maximisation of uses in the new park and well as the capacity for events, acknowledging that FKP supports the larger Waitangi Park, which houses large events.

- **Response:** The Malae (open green space area) would remain under control and management of Council. The Trust will not be able to stipulate what events happen in this space and there are no cultural sensitivities with the consumption of alcohol near the Fale.

Loss of Open Space

- A key concern raised as part of the public engagement and stakeholder workshops has been the loss of open space.
- **Response:** The redevelopment of FKP is a key deliverable of the central city Green Network Plan (GNP) which was signed off by Council at the Pūroro Āmua, Planning and Environment Committee on 12 May 2022. The GNP was a key action out of the Planning for Growth Spatial Plan to support growth in the central city, as well as helping address the climate and ecological emergency.
- **Response:** The GNP classifies different types and sizes of spaces. The largest and most important space are identified as destination parks, of which FKP is one:

A large urban destination or an anchor place. As a green space it will have high cultural, social, and recreational importance to the central city. They will accommodate a mix of uses, respite, recreation, planned events, tourism, and large gatherings of people.

- The GNP also sets four key targets:
 - No net loss
 - Double the number of trees in the city (to 4000)
 - Improve the greening of 20 existing urban spaces
 - Deliver 2 new parks
- As per the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), "TAG sees a significant benefit in substituting an accessible at-grade open space for the present underground carpark, elevated lawn, and above-ground concrete walls. This change will deliver significant improvements to the public's promenade experience."
- The total square metres of open space under the proposed redevelopment of FKP will be confirmed following further design development and prior to Resource Consent. As per the Sept 2021: Pūroro Āmua compensatory open green space will be provided where required as part of the GNP objectives.

Loss of mature trees on site

- A comparison of tree numbers between what is in the park currently, what was proposed through the original consented design and the 2023 development plan is detailed below.
- **Response:** The number of trees in relation to the 2023 design is subject to change as detailed design develops however, as in line with the Green Network Plan, the aim is to significantly increase the number of proposed trees.

Design	No. of Trees
Existing Park	109 Trees
2016 Consented Design	98 Trees proposed
2023 Development plan	147 Trees proposed

Financial cost

- Concerns surrounding the cost were raised in relation to priorities for rate payers, funding should be focused on upgrading degrading infrastructure as well as better communication on how the council allocates budgets.
- **Response:** There is currently \$6.5m in the Council's Long-Term plan (LTP) for 2024/2025 allocated to the Chinese Garden of Beneficence which is unable to proceed prior to the demolition of the car park.
- **Response:** The Outline Business Case section at paragraphs 47-52 explains the justification and costings for the preferred development plan option.
- **Response:** The Fale project is not a Council-led project. The Council and the Trust, through commercial negotiations will agree upon any required contributions to the Fale for the replacement public facilities which will be incorporated into final design costings and brought back to Council.

Construction time and disruption

- Concerns were raised by members of the public in terms of demolition/ construction delays and the impact on access and regular events/ activities in the park.
- **Response:** Whilst it is acknowledged that construction disruption will need to be managed carefully, the car park is earthquake prone and requires strengthening or demolition by 2034. A detailed demolition and construction plan will be developed which will aim to limit disruption as much as possible.

Functionality of the building

- Concerns were raised by members of the public in relation to design of the building and useability in terms of indoor/outdoor seating and shelter.

- **Response:** As the Fale is only in a preliminary design phase, the detailed functional planning is yet to commence. These concerns however will be considered as part of the next stages of the design process and assessed by officers to ensure the functions compliment the wider park.
- **Response:** As part of Council's key commercial terms with the Trust, Council will be required to sign-off on final detailed design and operational management plans.