

# 7. Engagement with mana whenua

## 7.1 General approach

The general approach to engagement with mana whenua has been to engage early with a view to understanding issues and attempting to address them prior to commissioning technical assessments and finalising the proposal.

Engagement has been ongoing over the 5-year period from initial engagement to the lodgement of the consent application. It has generally followed the approach set out in the Patuharakeke CVA (see **Figure 73** below).<sup>82</sup>

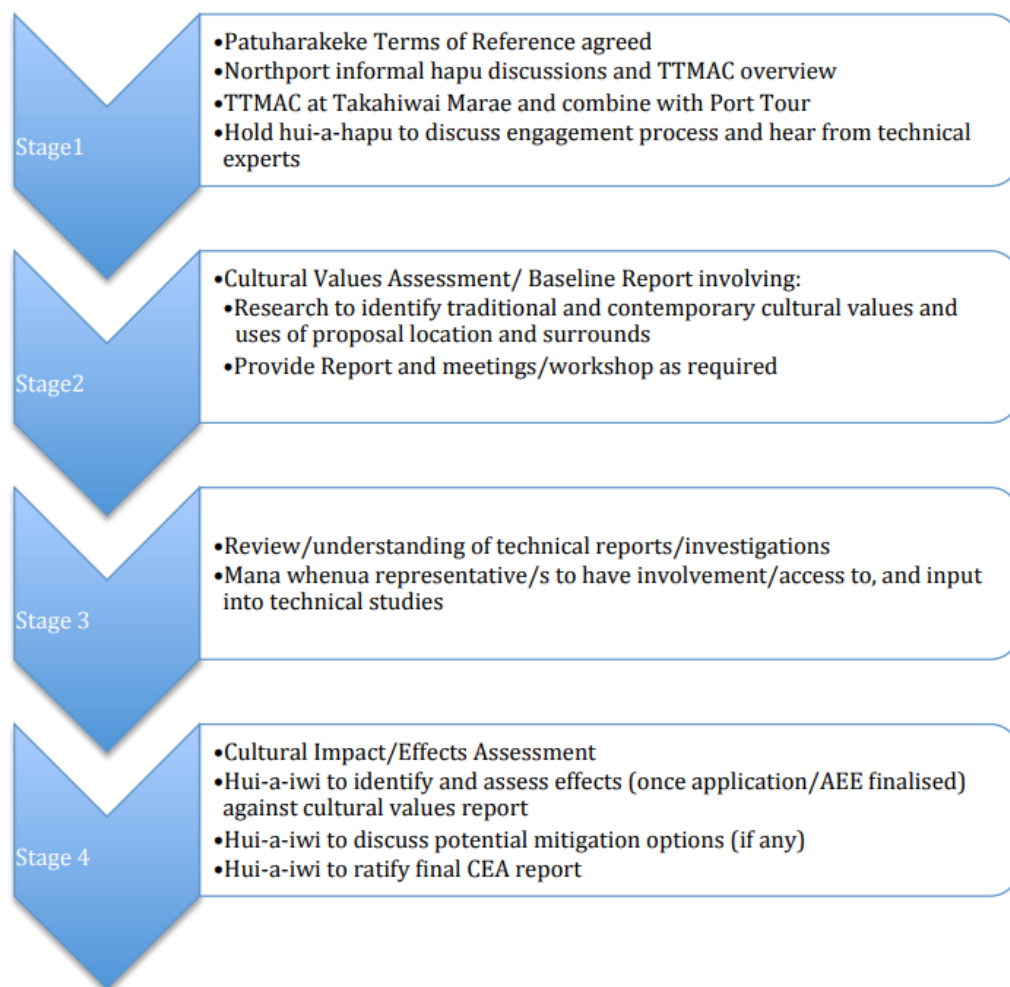


Figure 73: Mana whenua engagement process

<sup>82</sup> “TTMAC” in Figure 73 means Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party.

### 7.1.1 Mana whenua identification

Northport had a pre-existing relationship with mana whenua through the Community Liaison Group (CLG) set up in accordance with the conditions for the existing Port.

To assist with engagement with mana whenua in respect to the proposed expansion, and to ensure they were engaging with the correct groups, Northport funded a facilitator to identify and coordinate relevant groups, and to facilitate meetings/hui.

The mana whenua groups known to have an interest in the project area, and therefore identified for consultation, were:

- Patuharakeke
- Te Parawhau
- Ngātiwai

Initially Ngātiwai deferred their support to Patuharakeke with regard to engagement with Northport. It has recently come to the attention of Northport that Ngātiwai will now take an active role in engaging directly with Northport. Engagement with Ngātiwai is ongoing.

### 7.1.2 Relationship agreement

On 19 June 2021 Northport signed a relationship agreement with Patuharakeke. The agreement is a vehicle for ongoing consultation over all matters concerning Northport, and not just the proposed expansion.

### 7.1.3 Hui

Mana whenua engagement for the project began with a hui on the Takahiwai marae in October 2017.

A technical hui open to all mana whenua was held at Barge Park on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This hui was attended by all the Northport technical experts who presented summaries of their initial draft reports and answered questions from the floor. Representatives from Patuharakeke and Te Parawhau were also present.

There has been multiple hui with representatives of all three mana whenua groups since that time.

### 7.1.4 Sharing of technical reports and information

Following the technical hui in May 2021 all the draft technical reports were made available to mana whenua. They were then reviewed by the Council appointed experts and feedback shared with mana whenua.

One of the issues raised during initial consultation was in respect to viewshafts from places of importance to Patuharakeke. Northport subsequently engaged Buildmedia to prepare additional

visual representations (renders) of the expanded port from locations identified by Patuharakeke, and these were subsequently forwarded to Patuharakeke for review.

In September 2022, upon receiving the final technical reports, Northport provided a summary document to mana whenua updating them on the content and conclusions of the finalised technical assessments supporting the AEE.

### **7.1.5 Cultural values assessment – Patuharakeke**

In April 2020 a Cultural Values Assessment (CVA) was received from Patuharakeke (see **Appendix 24**). The CVA identifies the cultural relationships to the proposal site and implications for the practice of kaitiakitanga. This is a fundamental part of the engagement process outlined in **Figure 73** above.

### **7.1.6 Cultural effects assessment – Patuharakeke**

In October 2021 a Cultural Effects Assessment (CEA) was received from Patuharakeke (see **Appendix 24**). The CEA is summarised in Section 5.2.5 of the AEE. It raises a range of issues, some of which have been addressed through environmental avoidance and/or mitigation measures included with the application. Again, the provision of a CEA was identified as a key part of the engagement process. Discussions with mana whenua (including Patuharakeke) are continuing and are expected to culminate in additional cultural mitigation measures. Again, this was signalled as a part of the engagement process outlined in **Figure 73**.

### **7.1.7 Draft manawhenua cultural report – Te Parawhau**

In November 2021 a draft Manawhenua Cultural Report was received from Te Parawhau Hapu Iwi. The report author has requested that the partially completed report not be provided as part of the application. It is expected that engagement with Te Parawhau will continue post-lodgement of the consent application.

### **7.1.8 Ongoing consultation, engagement and understanding**

In October 2021 Northport engaged a specialist consultant to provide further assistance in the continuing engagement with mana whenua. Discussions with mana whenua are now focused on potential mitigation measures to address cultural concerns.