

**EASTERN BAYS SHARED PATH PROJECT  
SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF IHAKARA (KARA) JAMES PUKETAPU-DENTICE ON  
BEHALF OF HUTT CITY COUNCIL**

1. The Eastern Bays Shared Path Project (the "**Project**") is strongly supported by the Eastern Bays community. It fits with the vision and strategies Hutt City Council ("**HCC**") has for Lower Hutt and is a priority and compelling project for HCC.
2. Delivering the Project will create a safe and integrated walking and cycling facility along Marine Drive, thereby improving connectivity, and providing significant associated health and well-being, social, cultural, economic and recreational benefits.
3. The Project also responds to the challenges posed by sea level rise and climate change. It will enhance the resilience of Marine Drive to storm events and provide a foundation for the consideration of further measures in the future.
4. HCC has worked with iwi, the community and its consultant experts to develop the Project in a way that balances the importance of, and need for, these benefits, with minimising effects on the coastal environment. Since joining HCC, I have been involved in discussions with iwi and the community about the Project. That engagement will continue through the detailed design and construction of the Project.
5. The Project is a once in a lifetime opportunity to build something that is more than just a path. The Project, once constructed, will be a celebration of culture and local identity that seeks to foster a more intimate and positive connection between people, our environment and our shared histories, which will act to enrich our future as people and as a community.

Ihakara James Puketapu-Dentice

**DATED:** 15 December 2020