



# **ATTACHMENTS MINUTES**

**Council Meeting**

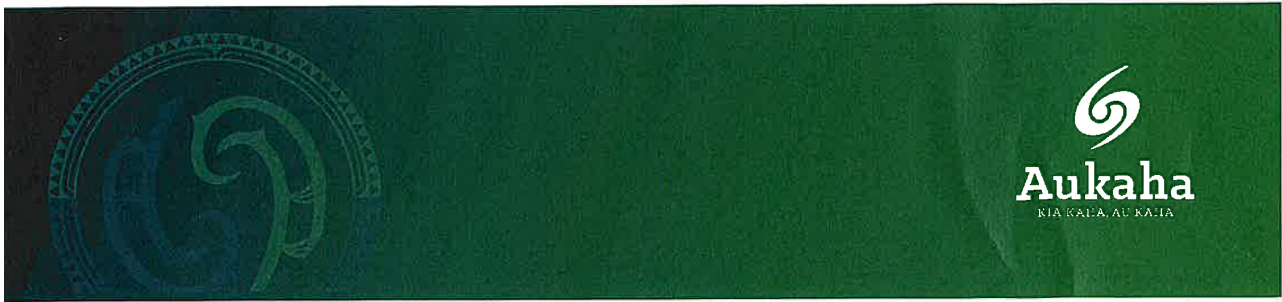
**Wednesday, 29 April 2026**



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Friday 20 March 2026

David Scoones  
1 Dunorling Street, Alexandra 9320  
Cc: [Genevieve.Chrystall@codc.govt.nz](mailto:Genevieve.Chrystall@codc.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe David,

**EMBARGOED: NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST UNTIL 29 APRIL 2026 AT 12PM NZST**

**Re: Mana whenua–approved te reo Māori names for the Cromwell Memorial Hall and Events Centre, and the Cromwell Museum.**

Aukaha's Mana Ahurea mana whenua panel recommended and approved the following names for the Cromwell Memorial Hall and Events Centre and the Cromwell Museum. These were formally endorsed by the panel on 20 February 2026:

**Te Puna Mahara** –Cromwell Memorial Hall and Events Centre  
**Te Huika Wai** – Museum and Exhibition Space

Narratives and meanings for both the names are provided below. For the purposes of project timing, governance processes and coordination, we are sharing these names with you early. However, an embargo has been placed on all external communication to ensure a coordinated and respectful approach to any public announcement.

**Embargoed building names – internals use protocol**

These names are currently under embargo. Although they have been approved through the appropriate process, they must remain confidential until **29 April 2026**, when Council will undertake final ratification of all names.

The embargo period supports the internal processes for decision making on an English name including:

- Community Board meeting on 7 April 2026
- Private Community Board workshop on 24 April 2026 with mana whenua representative Paulette Tamati-Eilliffe
- Development of an English-language name to sit with the reo Māori names
- Final ratification and adoption at the Council meeting on **29 April 2026**

**Permitted use during the embargo period**

Use of the names is strictly limited to:

- Internal design and graphic development purposes
- Council staff and project team members who require the information to perform their roles

The names must remain confidential and must not be disclosed publicly or shared with media under any circumstances prior to the official announcement.

**Confidentiality controls**

To maintain the integrity of the embargo, the following measures must be applied:

- Store all documents containing the names in restricted-access locations with appropriate permissions.
- Clearly mark all files, emails, and other communications containing the names as Confidential – Embargoed Information.
- Limit distribution of essential project personnel and specifically approved contractors.
- External suppliers (e.g., designers, signage manufacturers) may only receive the names where necessary and must be explicitly informed of the embargo and associated non-disclosure requirements.
- Do not include the names in any publicly accessible materials, including reports, presentations, websites, or social media.

These measures ensure confidentiality is upheld while enabling essential planning to continue ahead of the coordinated public announcement.

Kā mihi,

Aroha Novak  
Senior Design Lead  
Mana Ahurea – Aukaha

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### **Background and meaning of the names:**

#### **Te Puna Mahara**

This name draws on the central cultural design integration of the Events Centre – Rāikaihātū, the Waitaha ancestor (first people of Te Waipounamu) who captained the Uruao waka and dug out the inland lakes.

Using his *kō* or spade *Tūwhakaroria*, (which is represented at the main entrance of the building, encompassing *whakapapa* and *mana*) Rāikaihātū foresaw three pools, or *puna*:

Te Puna Hauaitu, Te Puna Waimarie, Te Puna Karikari  
*The pools of frozen water, the pools of bountiful resources, the pools dug by the hand of man.*

Te Puna Mahara therefore reflects both the nature of the building and its purpose. The Events Centre has been adorned with *pūrākau* of Rāikaihātū, and weaves in the well-known *whakataukī* (above) describing his *rakatirataka* and *mana*.

*Mahara* means to remember, to recollect and to bear in mind. It can also mean to reflect on or consider. This meaning weaves together the museum and the memorial garden acknowledging those who have gone before us and the memories that remain.

**Te Puna Mahara** aligns with these spaces, referencing the *puna* of Rāikaihātū, and adding another type of *puna*, one that future generations can enjoy, learn from and grow with.

#### **Te Huika Wai**

The location of the new Events Centre and Museum is a place where fresh waters meet – Mata au, Kawarau and Te Wairere.

Te Huika means ‘the gathering’, and *wai* generally means ‘water’, but also refers to knowledge, people, memories, resources and stories – all fitting for a museum and cultural space.

This name reflects the meeting of waterways, while also taking into account the man-made dams that have altered the natural flow of the local rivers.

It also references Te Huikaau, a river branch in Central Otago, as well as the channel between Harington Point and Kā Pukepuke-o-Te-Waiparapara (The Spit) at the entrance of the Otago Harbour.

The English name for the exhibition space, The Junction, similarly speaks to the confluence where the Kawarau Arm and the Mata au rivers meet.