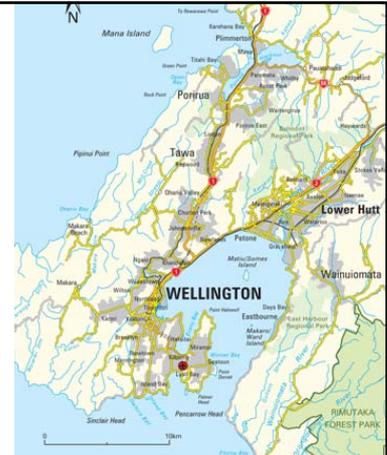


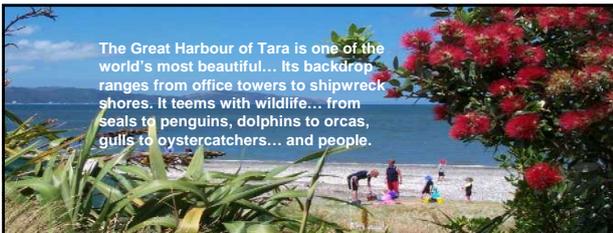
The Great Harbour Way



A 72-kilometre walkway & cycleway, touching the water, around Te Whanganui a Tara – Wellington Harbour – from Baring Head in the east to Sinclair Head in the west.



The Great Harbour of Tara is one of the world's most beautiful... Its backdrop ranges from office towers to shipwreck shores. It teems with wildlife... from seals to penguins, dolphins to orcas, gulls to oystercatchers... and people.



- The Great Harbour Way will provide a continuous, safe, signposted route for walkers and cyclists around the entire harbour perimeter.
- It will offer the unique opportunity to safely walk or cycle the entire coastline of a major city harbour, continually touching the water's edge. You will pass wild stretches of coast, rocky headlands and sandy beaches, parks, marinas, museums, cafes, theatres, seaside suburbs, and the capital's vibrant business and shopping centre.

Why is this possible?

Wellington region has the opportunity to create such unique walkway/cycleway because:

- The rim of the harbour is entirely in public ownership.
- Most of the route is already able to be walked and cycled, even if not always in ideal conditions.
- Upgrading plans already exist for some sections.
- Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council and Hutt City Council have, among them, considerable experience in developing walkways and cycleways.
- There is a well-established recreational community, with many organisations and individuals ready and willing to lend active help and support to the project.

Luring travellers

- The Great Harbour Way will attract visitors – domestic and international, encouraging longer stays and complementing other attractions such as Te Papa.
- A world-class Great Walk and cycle route, it will put Wellington on the international tourist circuit, in the same way as the Milford and Abel Tasman Tracks and New Zealand's other classic trails.



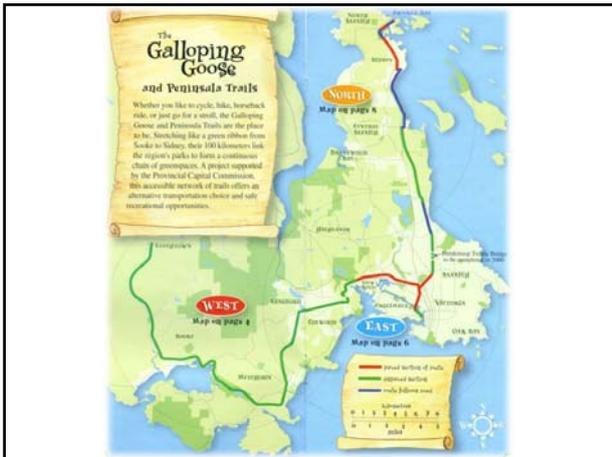
Boosting the economy



Along with this, new businesses will develop and existing ones expand to meet demand for accommodation, food and transport, for example B&Bs; cafes and restaurants; shuttle services, ferries and water taxis; tour guides and companies.

The Great Harbour Way will allow for major round-the-harbour sports events - fun rides and walks, marathons, ultra marathons, and cycling events like the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge.





Cleaner air

The Great Harbour Way will enhance the appeal of cycling and walking as commuter options.

Greater Safety

Many parts of the current route do not meet basic safety standards for walking or cycling.

Better Health

The Great Harbour Way will encourage walking and cycling – in line with SPARC policy, to 'get New Zealanders moving'.

Help beat the obesity epidemic!

Appreciating our special environment

- The Great Harbour Way will increase public awareness and use of Wellington region's other natural and complementary attractions – for example, East Harbour Park, the Hutt River Trail, Wellington city walkways such as the Eastern Walkway and South Coast Marine Reserve.
- It will be a great way for people of all ages to learn about the history of the harbour, from pre-history and Maori history, to today. The Great Harbour Way website already provides detailed information on the history and attractions of each part of the route. And this is just the beginning.
- Walks by school groups, community groups and others will lead to greater understanding of and therefore respect for the region's natural environment.

Steps taken to date

- In 2003/4 the Great Harbour Way was 'scoped' by a group of walkers', and later by cyclists.
- A paper promoting the concept was presented to Positively Wellington Tourism and Greater Wellington.
- A successful application was made to WCC for \$2000 to create a website with details of the route, times, facilities, information on historical & natural features.
- The website – www.greatharbourway.org.nz - was completed in 2005.
- In 2008 other groups became involved as a result of their interest in 'fixing the gap' between Petone and Ngauranga – a critical part of the route.
- Celia Wade-Brown, Living Streets Aotearoa and Cycle Aware reinvigorated the concept, calling together interested parties and organising this meeting.



Pride!

Te Whanganui a Tara is a harbour of great natural beauty. Recognising and celebrating this with the development of the Great Harbour Way will give everyone in the region something of which to be enormously proud.

