

Christchurch Coastal Pathway: Te Ara Ihutai

Did you know the te reo Māori name for the Christchurch Coastal Pathway is “Te Ara Ihutai”? In 2019 the pathway was gifted this name by Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Upoko Te Maire Tau.

Ihutai is an important fishing easement located in the New Brighton - Sumner coastline area.

This was part of a much larger fishery or mahinga kai used by a number of specially designated hapū and whānau groups. The owners of these traditional sites were those of the Kaiapoi Reserve and their immediate descendants.



Translated the name means Ihutai Path. The name relates to the geographical shape of the land. Ihu means nose and Tai means sea coast . It is the coastline that is shaped like a nose on papaptuanuku.

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Te Ara Ihutai is a shared path

What is a shared path? According to Waka Kotahi, a shared path is defined as “a path that is intended to be used by both pedestrians, cyclists, mobility devices and wheeled recreational devices.”

There are different ways to manage the use of shared paths. Some include a median strip and directional arrows to show people which side they should be using. Te Ara Ihutai has no formal separation or segregation of modes. This means that pathway users will naturally “sort themselves out” and be aware of other people on the pathway and how they are travelling.

The vision for the Te Ara Ihutai is to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all pathway users including young families and disabled people. This means it is critical that people moving faster on bikes or scooters etc need to slow down when they are approaching pedestrians and take care when passing them. For commuter cyclists or those who want to travel at speed, there is a dedicated cycle lane on the road all the way from Sumner to Ferrymead.

When the final construction stage is complete we expect traffic on the pathway will increase, and the need for directional separation or segregation of modes may be reviewed. We welcome feedback from the public on their experiences on the pathway to monitor whether the current “sort yourselves out” approach is working. Please contact us at info@ccp.org.nz if you have feedback on this or any other issues.



Please look after our road workers!

We are very excited to see the construction fences and cones going up around Moncks Bay as Fulton Hogan begins constructing the pathway's "missing link". This final part of the project is supported by the Government's Shovel Ready Fund. We ask for your help to look after our workers- please stick to the reduced 30 kph speed limit when driving through the roadworks. There are cyclists merging into the traffic lane, and of course, no one wants to injure our road workers. Please also look out for pedestrians at the temporary crossings along this stretch of road.

We're hoping that people driving along Main Road will also be users of Te Ara Ihutai, and therefore we're asking for patience and understanding as we work towards completing this exciting project.



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