

OIR: 2526/113

12 September 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your emails of **9 and 10 September 2025** requesting the following information:

1. *May I ask who decided on the new name for Waikanae Library?*

The name Te Ara Whetu was gifted to the new building by Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai iwi. More information can be found here <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/council/news-and-information/news-and-stories/2024/may-2024/te-ara-whetu-te-atiawa-ki-whakarongotai-gifts-a-name-for-the-new-waikanae-library/>

2. *Has there been any community consultation?*

There has been extensive community consultation throughout the site selection, approach, needs and design planning process. The name was not consulted on because it was a gift.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

3. *In relation to my request has consideration been given to 'Waikanae' being a Maori name/word and 'pukapuka' being the Maori meaning for books?*

'Wharepukapuka' is a word used often within the library and Council. It is a basic descriptor (ie. Whare(house) + pukapuka(book)). Anyone describing Te Ara Whetu as the Waikanae Wharepukapuka will be correct, but the building will also be offering much more to the surrounding community, so in that sense, as a name, it would not represent the fullness of services and opportunities the building offers.

Ngā mihi,



Brendan Owens

Group Manager Customer and Community
Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū - Kiritaki me te Hapori