Inner Harbour Working Group

Meeting summary – Monday, 25 May 2026 – 3.00pm

The Inner Harbour Working Group held its second meeting on Monday 25 May 2026. The Working Group brings together representatives from organisations and communities that use, depend on, and care about the Inner Harbour, providing a collaborative forum for Council to work alongside key stakeholders through the Make Safe phase and beyond. This meeting focused on progress across the current work programme and early planning for the precinct's longer-term future.

Key items discussed

Ahuriri Inner Harbour Hub

- Piling for the pontoon and jetty is complete, with pontoon and gangway installation scheduled for early June following a minor delay in component supply. A site blessing is upcoming.
- Council has approved a funding contribution of land-based works with the balance of the project to be fundraised. A plan for the land-based works will be brought to Council before funds are released.
- Council agreed to the name "Ahuriri Inner Harbour Hub" reflecting that the site will support more than waka. The facility will include marine education functions, bookable public spaces, and serve as a hub for celestial navigation.
- The building once constructed will be owned and maintained by the Atea a Rangi Trust. A site blessing is upcoming.

Jull Wharf extension

- The pontoon has been relocated, piling works are complete, and the pontoon will be refurbished in-situ. The team is working through temporary and permanent land-based access solutions.
- Relocating the six remaining vessels from Nelson Quay remains a priority. Gangway access is anticipated around mid-June, aligning with the official opening of the extension. Minor delays have been experienced due to timber supply.

Discharge Wharf and wave wall

- Both structures are in poor condition and their deconstruction forms part of the Make Safe programme. Tender evaluation is underway, with six submissions received, and works are expected to begin in the coming weeks.
- Works are being planned around the penguin breeding window, with guidance from an ornithologist. The Working Group will be consulted once a preferred contractor is identified, and longer-term solutions will be considered and costed.

West Quay

- An initial condition assessment indicates the structure is generally serviceable, with targeted remedial works required. Further investigations are underway, including a dive survey, pile integrity testing, and load and capacity assessments.

- A need has been identified for a formal maintenance programme, clear operational rules and capacity limits, and separation of commercial and public activities to support public safety and the longevity of the structure.
- Longer-term discharge options, including fuelling, are being investigated and will be brought back to the group. A safety review is also underway, including a CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) assessment in early June, with a report expected late June or early July.

Governance and long-term planning

- A workshop with councillors will be held on 11 June to confirm priorities and next steps, and to ensure alignment with the Long-Term Plan and available funding. This will help define the balance between public good, commercial use, and revenue generation. Once confirmed, plans will be made public for further consultation.
- Early-stage costings and options are being developed. Funding and delivery models such as private investment, licensing and partnerships will form part of future decision-making.

Priorities raised by the group

- **Activity hubs and shared space**: Continued support for "activity hubs" to better organise competing uses within limited space.
- **Traffic and parking:** Ongoing pressure on parking and trailer space, and potential congestion and safety considerations for pedestrians and cyclists. The group recommended clearly identifying intended parking zones and noted the need to balance access, affordability and sustainability of infrastructure.
- **Utilities for boat owners:** Power and water provision at the Jull Wharf Extension is recognised as necessary, currently a priority after vessel relocation.
- **Planning for longevity:** Support for designing for durability (for example, more resilient materials at West Quay) and for separating commercial and public activities.
- **Cost management and funding**: Members noted the need to balance community benefit with financial sustainability, that a blended approach is likely, and that public feedback will help guide this. Options such as a licence-to-occupy model are being explored, with further financial analysis to follow. All decisions will be decisions of the Council following public consultation.

Actions agreed

- Investigate fuel discharge issues and options and report back to Working Group *(Council Officers)*
- Assess the risk to ramp pontoons posed by removal of the Wave Wall *(Council Officers)*
- Clarify the timeline for power and services supply to the Jull Wharf extension *(Council Officers)*
- Arrange CPTED assessment interviews *(Council Officers)*