

June 2023 IRG – Murihiku Marae refurbishment and rebuild

IRG Funding: \$9.65m | Total Project Spend: \$15.62m



The cultural narrative of the land is reflected in the design of the buildings, drawing inspiration from the tohorā (whale) and waka that feature in stories of how Waihōpai and Te Ara-a-Kewa (Foveaux Strait) came to be. This new complex will provide the people of Waihopai a standing place fit for the future.

For the city, it will be a place of welcome for visitors and a place of hui. The runanga have ambitious plans, including the development of onsite papakāinga for kaumatua. The \$15.62 million redevelopment project was completed with \$9.65 million in support from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. Additional funding was provided from Waihōpai Rūnaka; Ngāi Tahu; Community Trust of Southland, Te Puni Kōkiri and the Department of Internal Affairs, Invercargill Licensing Trust Foundation; and the Pūtea Aumakae Fund.

Construction of the redevelopment at Murihiku began in October 2021 and was officially completed in June. During peak construction, 58 people were working on the project, and over 16 local companies were contracted for the rebuild.