

# Eastern Busway

## Paki hoahoa DESIGN STORY

The Eastern Busway from Pakūranga towards Botany is being built and is a significant project for East Auckland. When it's completed, the busway and Rā Hihi (flyover) above Reeves Road will make local trips easier and more efficient by providing better connections and sustainable

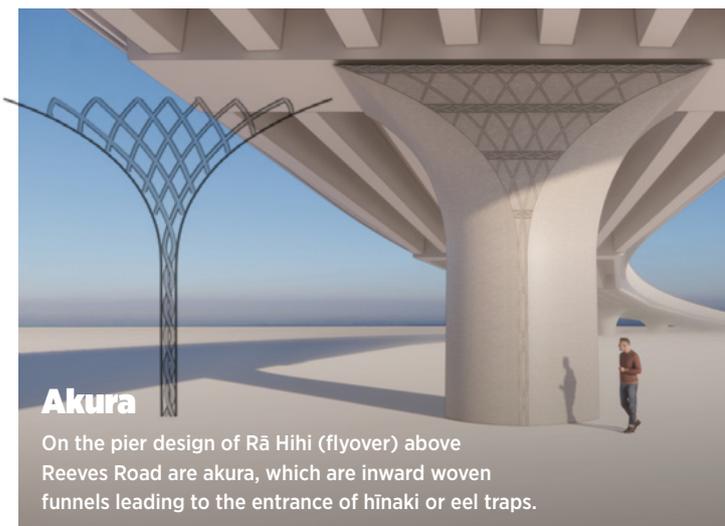
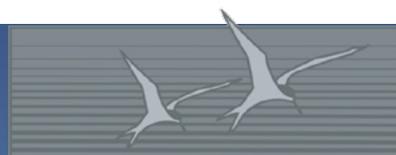
travel options for walkers, cyclists, motorists, bus and train customers. It will also create a reliable bus and train service between Botany and Waitemātā Station (Britomart) and will be an important part of the rapid transport network in Tāmaki Makaurau.

### Mahi toi (artwork)

Mana whenua are working with the project team to tell the story of the region through mahi toi or artwork. The designs reflect the area's cultural history and importance, and help to create a sense of welcome for people who travel through East Auckland.

#### Kāhui tara

Kāhui tara or a flock of tern represent a gathering of chiefs and navigation. The design has been inspired by the nearby nesting site for tara or tern and this mahi toi will be on the main barriers of Rā Hihi.



#### Akura

On the pier design of Rā Hihi (flyover) above Reeves Road are akura, which are inward woven funnels leading to the entrance of hīnaki or eel traps.



#### Hīnaki

On the bridge abutments and retaining walls of Rā Hihi are pairs of eels swimming below the moon towards the underside of the structure.

## Station and structure names

### Stations

When the 7km busway is completed it will span from Panmure to Botany and will have four new stations: **Pakūranga** in the town centre, **Te Taha Wai** near Edgewater, **Koata** near Riverhills Park, and **Pōhatu** in Burswood.

**Te Taha Wai** represents the water's edge, the riverbanks of Te Wai o Taiki (Tāmaki River)

**Koata** speaks to the heart of Tī Rākau, the New Zealand native cabbage tree which is found in the Pakūranga area

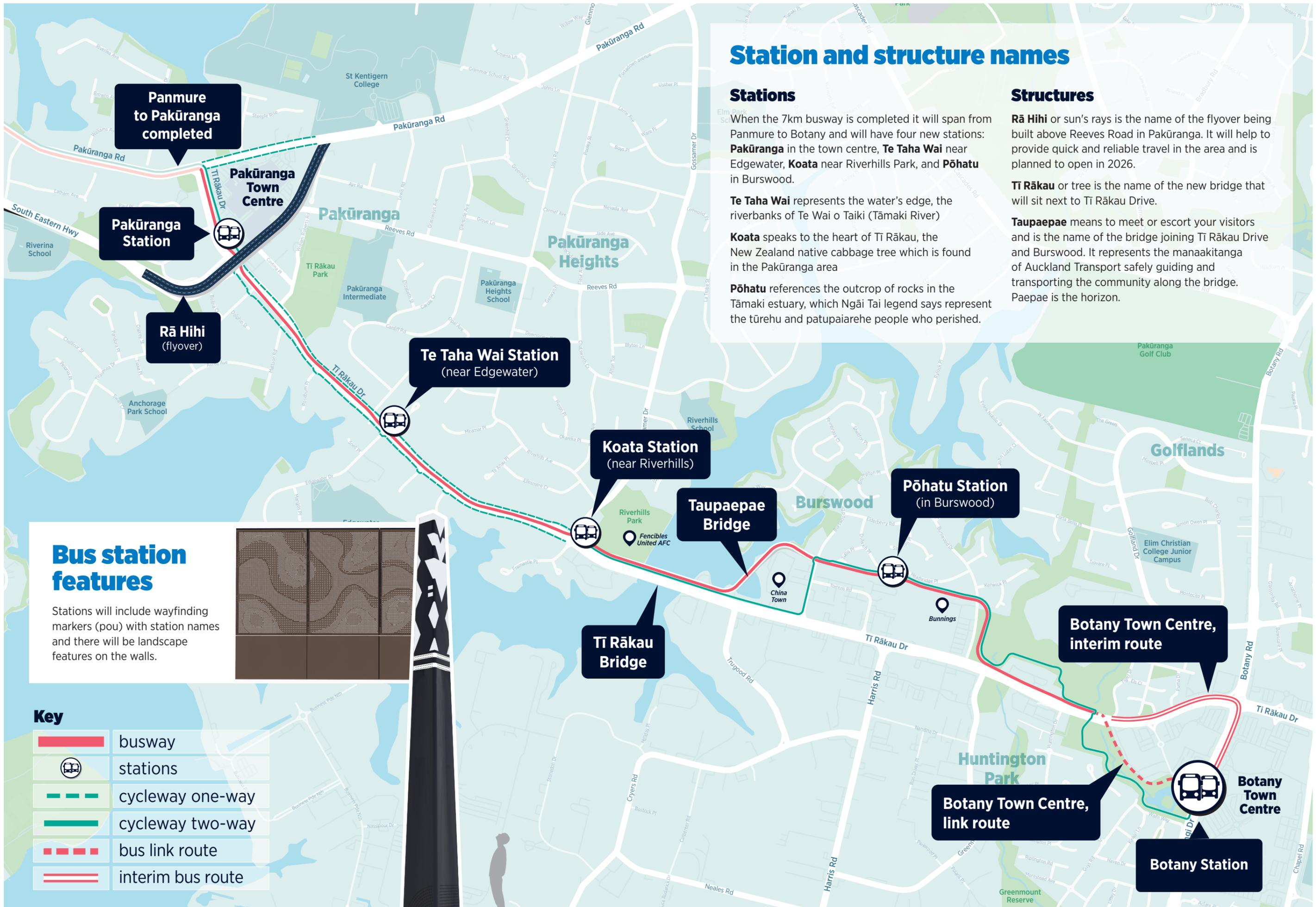
**Pōhatu** references the outcrop of rocks in the Tāmaki estuary, which Ngāi Tai legend says represent the tūrehu and patupaiarehe people who perished.

### Structures

**Rā Hihi** or sun's rays is the name of the flyover being built above Reeves Road in Pakūranga. It will help to provide quick and reliable travel in the area and is planned to open in 2026.

**Tī Rākau** or tree is the name of the new bridge that will sit next to Tī Rākau Drive.

**Taupaeapae** means to meet or escort your visitors and is the name of the bridge joining Tī Rākau Drive and Burswood. It represents the manaakitanga of Auckland Transport safely guiding and transporting the community along the bridge. Paepae is the horizon.



## Bus station features

Stations will include wayfinding markers (pou) with station names and there will be landscape features on the walls.



### Key

	busway
	stations
	cycleway one-way
	cycleway two-way
	bus link route
	interim bus route



## Artist profile

The artwork of Reuben Kirkwood (Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki) can be found throughout Tāmaki Makarau and he has led the design of the mahi toi (artwork) that features across the Eastern Busway project. He has been designing mahi toi for transport and community spaces for several decades.

## Historical context

Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) has layers of history and has been well populated since the arrival of Māori in the late 900s. Tāmaki was a rich source of kai or food and the area has strong connections to mana whenua and their responsibility as kaitiaki or guardians for the rohe or project area.

Historically the main method of travel within the rohe for Māori was by waka traversing awa or rivers and portages. When it became too shallow the waka would be walked along the watercourse. Te Wai o Tāiki (Tāmaki River) is a significant awa, as a major waka highway connecting the Te Waitematā (East Coast) with the Manukau (West Coast).

The project is located in an area known as Te Pakūranga Rāhihi, shortened to Pakūranga. It originates from pūrākau or legend and is named after a battle of the sunlight or sun's rays that took place there between the patupaiarehe from Waitakere and the patupaiarehe from Hunua. The battle raged until a tohunga caused the sun to rise earlier than expected. Caught by surprise in the rays of the sun, the patupaiarehe perished.

The area contains sites of significance including several maunga or mountains with Maungarei or Mount Wellington being the closest and able to be seen from Tī Rākau Drive and Pakūranga Town Centre. Mokoia Pā and Mauinaina are located on the northern banks of the Tāmaki River. The maunga, coastal waterways and former forests of the area are part of the original landscape.

In the early 1800s the landscape between the Tāmaki River and Pakūranga Creek was mostly covered with kahikatea and pukatea trees with pōhutukawa lining the coast. Totara, kanuka, puriri, kahikatea and tī rākau or cabbage trees were common species west of Pakūranga Creek. Kahikatea is a swamp forest and tī rākau is a species of it. The naming of Tī Rākau Drive indicates that the trees were prominent in the area, and cabbage trees provided a food source for Māori.

Water is a taonga that provides for and sustains all life. It is integral to cultural and personal identity and wairua for whānau, hapu and iwi.

Although the landscape has changed over time, Māori connection to the land is enduring.

## More information

Thank you for your ongoing support while the Eastern Busway is built and a more connected, accessible future for East Auckland takes shape. If you have any questions about this information or would like to talk to the team, please use the details below to contact us.



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