

Email received 14 February 2025.

Hi

Yes only available 24th. Born and raised in Waikite valley and currently have my house rented out at *..(personal info deleted)..*

Was horrified to learn of the proposed facility as did not get any notification about this and looks like the development was deliberately kept quiet ?

I'm concerned this is just a tick and flick council requirement to say community was consulted with the decision already made.

There are some serious questions that need to be addressed but don't think this will be done.

There needs to be some real due-diligence done as to why they are moving facility from Rotokawa to Waikite , their own trustees don't want the facility there so just moving problem to another location.

There are some underlying issues that need to be worked through regarding why they are moving ?

Did council rezone this area for this facility?

There sounds like the way the property was bought raised some questions as well.

Just don't understand why anyone thinks it a good idea to put a correction facility in rural community, and not expect a response.

Would you a facility like this down the road from you.

Real safety concerns about this and really feel Waikite does not deserve this.

There is millions of acres of private Māori land available, why can't that be used?.

Do you have ability to really ask the hard questions?

Sorry but so frustrating seeing council roll over not wanting to upset anyone and feel we are being bullied into something that no body asked for and no body wants.

Regards

..(personal info deleted)..

Email received 18 February 2025.

We have been I waikite valley for 30 years.

It's is a lovely community where everyone looks out for others.

We don't have a lot if problems here but I feel if this goes ahead it will disrupt the lives of those that live in that neighborhood.

One of the neighbours used to take young people in and get them on the right way of life. And I feel he should be able to enjoy his retirement without the stress and worry of this being on his doorstep.

There is very little cell ph cover up there.

At least 45 mins or more for police etc to arrive.

They are so far from family and no public transport.

I worry as live next door to our local garage .school.playcentre etc

What are these men meant to do re employment.

There is no work out here for them

These men need to be near family and help with counselors etc not stuck in the middle of nowhere with no way of getting the help they need.

..(personal info deleted)..

Email received 19 February 2025.

Top whom it may concern.

We have grave concerns regards the proposal of a integration centre being proposed for our area.

My wife and I live on *..(personal info deleted)..* road and feel we would/ could be exposed to unsavory elements from other communities. Although we have one residence, I work away from home Monday to Thursday thus leaving my wife feeling vulnerable. In saying that, we have two neighbors who are single ladies and they too feel vulnerable. Without legally being able to defend oneself in New Zealand and where there is no police presence, any invitation for people use our area for potential crime is not tenable.

It is only recently we had to call the police for having 3 people in the reserve across from us point a fire arm at my family. The police promptly arrived over an hour later long after the culprits tore the reserve up with thier car for over 35 min then left.

So putting an integration facility when there is virtually non responsive law enforcement in place hardly seems like a logical approach. If those in power to make such decisions for our community are willing to take full responsibility for thier actions and outcomes them I'm sure that the proposal will be reviewed.

Perhaps the integration unit could be close/attached to an existing cultural centre such as a marae this allowing family members to have better access.

Regards

..(personal info deleted)..

Email received 20 February 2025.

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like express my objection to the proposed residential reintegration facility on Puaiti Rd.

Firstly, how do you reintegrate people into society in an isolated community. This isolation also means a slow response time from emergency services. There has been a recent incidence where police took two hours to respond to an emergency call for intruders trying to enter a family home. Are we to believe if there are issues that help will arrive in a timely manner?

Secondly, as a solo mother of two kids, 4 and 5, I feel that the risk to our safety and that of our close-knit community is unacceptable. As a family we enjoy freedom of a big area to explore and have fun in. With a facility of that nature there is a risk, not only of them escaping, but, that some of the people that come to visit them will not be upstanding citizens and pose unnecessary danger to our quiet way of life.

Lastly, this is a small community that watch out for each other, we generally know the cars on our roads and anyone that is out of place and suspicious we generally take number plates and let our neighbour's know. With the increase traffic on our narrow windy roads from visitors it will be considerably harder to keep track of the suspicious activity.

I am opposed to the facility progressing in our area as it is an inappropriate location that will have large impacts on the quality of this small community's lifestyle.

Yours faithfully,

..(personal info deleted)..

Letter received by email received 20 February 2025.

Summary of Social Impacts on my Family

In sum, we are fearful of the impacts on the way we live, the safety of our children and the economic prospects for the value of our property if this proposed facility goes ahead for the reasons outlined below.

- We currently live in a safe, rural community where there is a ‘no need to lock your doors’ mentality – I feel secure in knowing that I am at extremely low risk of criminal activity and this is one of the reasons we chose to live rurally. This will change if we have a facility of offenders who are not yet ready to be reintegrated into society down the road, with no police presence on site. Of concern is also the visual, noise and social impact of the visitors that will be allowed to visit this property.
- I am a female who works from home, on a very remote property with remote access/one way driveway, alone and currently feel safe doing so – I will not feel safe if this facility is down the road with no corrections or police staff on site and over 40 mins from a police station
- I like to run before or after my husband goes to work – the lighting is naturally low at these times and, as we are very rural, there is no street lighting I will no longer feel safe doing this. We don’t have access to gyms etc being rural so running at these times is an important part of my wellbeing
- We live on a road with very patchy cell coverage – in many places/roads in Waikite Valley near the facility there is NO cell phone coverage – given we are so far from the police, in the case of an incident being unable to call 111 in an emergency is scary
- The way we socialise will change – we currently let our children and friends’ children do things like pick blackberries or ride their bike on safe rural roads near home – this will no longer be an activity we allow if the facility proceeds – it will change the way we live in our small rural community
- The use of the bus stop on our road is on Puaiti Road – we would no longer feel safe or comfortable leaving our kids at a bus stop with the facility only a couple of km down the road with no police on site/40 min response time
- Waikite is a small community that needs young families to come and then remain for the community to be sustainable – this facility would put people off living so remotely/away from the police
- We are very concerned about the emergency services response time out here if and when something goes wrong with one of the residents – we are 40 mins out of town with no police presence, this causes anxiety and fear for us and our children. It’s just not an appropriate location – if there are no police or corrections staff onsite, it should be near a police station
- Our home is our economic future and biggest asset – the proposed facility would definitely negative impact property values and size of pool of future buyers

Email received 22 February 2025.

I would like to provide my view of feedback regarding the Social Impact Assessment for Puwhakamua.

Hazard/Risk assessment: how are the risks going to be minimised at this site, are there security on site 27/7?, are there going to be high wire security fences, how will this all look?

I have not been informed what type of prisoner/ex prisoner for rehab these residents will be.

One of my initial concerns was associates of prisoners coming out to Waikite, with potential for further crime, theft, scoping out properties.

Right now, there are several temporary housing-like structures, transportable bachs on site.

Will there be more of these, as it currently threatens to look like the clutch of bachs on the road by the dump, where the homeless live.

Community Infrastructure: for many residents of the valley, we struggle with decent mobile phone coverage, and internet availability. If there is a need for emergency services, i.e. fire, Police, ambulance, there will always be a delay, due to the isolation of the site.

The road, Puaiti, is a very quiet, beautiful road, that I walk on daily, and that peace and quiet would be disturbed by increased traffic on the road.

Local livelihoods/economic benefits: there is a local blueberry farm, and neighbouring farms that may hire workers, although that would be limited economic benefit. I do not see how such a small site can be sustaining to 10 or so residents, I mean, what are they going to do all day?

Quality of Life: for the residents of the facility - what will they do all day? How will they get to town? Are they actually able to integrate with the community, are they free to walk about, can they go for walks up the road? Are there work options available?

Quality of Life for the neighbouring community residents: if I was a near neighbour of this facility, I would not sleep well at night. I would expect to lock up my house at night, lock my cars and outbuildings, my entire life would become focused on my safety, wondering if one of these ex-prisoners will come to my house, looking for a car to steal, so they can get to town.

Social cohesion/ Social Values/ Cultural heritage: I can imagine there being a wide gulf between the community and these residents. I have listened to opinions at the meetings, this committee must realise the strong culture of these primarily old stock white farmers, with a very strong sense of community, working hard, pioneers breaking in the land, achieving much, and they all know each other. My example, I am a *..(personal info deleted)..* who has lived on *..(personal info deleted)..* road for 30 years now, and I once went walking on the road, where I always walk, when a car stopped and a local says to me, "can I help you, you don't look like a local". Another person, while I'm walking on the road "Who are you, you don't look like you're from here".

So, my main concerns that affect me personally, the perception of increased crime in the area, wonder at how the direct neighbours must feel at the threat of this facility, my freedom being curtailed from walking on Puaiti road, the purpose of the facility in an isolated area such as this, what benefits are these facility residents really going to achieve. If it was a larger property like a farm with associated activities, I would be more positive about it.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions.

Kind Regards,

..(personal info deleted)..

Email received 23 February 2025.

Kia ora,

This letter is to outline what we believe the social impacts of the proposed Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust project on Puaiti rd could be if it is allowed to go ahead.

We live in the Waikite Valley and while we don't live within 3km of the proposed site, we have significant concerns about the proposed location for this prisoner reintegration facility.

Just to be absolutely clear, we support the concept of prisoner reintegration but can think of better locations for the project within our rohe.

The proposed location on Puaiti Rd is reasonably isolated from not just emergency services, but the various support services that we imagine would be necessary to ensure those living at the facility could be adequately supported. This increases the possibility of an incident and increases the communities levels of fear and stress around the project.

As yet we have not seen a systematic, documented risk assessment of the proposed activity on this site but we imagine it would not be an acceptable level of risk given the sites proximity to neighbours and the low security approach being proposed. As such we believe the actual risk of this project to be unacceptable.

We acknowledge that the level of perceived risk of such a facility close by vulnerable residents can be driven by emotion, but this too should be taken into account regarding the way it would change the historical feel of safety and security in the area.

Furthermore, the deceitful manner in which the land was acquired, leads us to conclude that honesty and integrity are not values of those pushing for the project to get resource consent. Our community, as a result, already faces a situation where someone they can't trust is wanting to establish a commercial entity in the area. The resulting stress and anxiety being felt within our community has already been to high a price to pay for the proposed project.

In short we believe the social impacts of the project far outweigh the potential benefits if it were to gain resource consent at it's current location.

Due to the aggressive approach of the Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust's representatives over the past 6 months, we would prefer to keep our names confidential.

Email received 24 February 2025.

Morena

I am a resident of Waikite Valley. I repeat and reiterate the points made in my wifes *..(personal info deleted)..* submissions and also wish to remain anonymous but feel strongly about this also. In addition to her points, the usual security measures one would install to mitigate increased risk of crime/feelings of fear like security cameras and alarms are largely ineffectual out here. These would work in town (which is where these facilities should be) but we are very rural, remote and our neighbours wouldn't even hear an alarm.

Look forward to reading the SIA

..(personal info deleted)..

Email received 25 February 2025.

Dear Claire,

We are perturbed and very very concerned that anyone can purchase a piece of land in a rural zone, then realise the business they planned for that site doesn't comply, so appeals to have the zone changed to suit them or their business requirements within that (rural) zone.!!

This does not bode well for other, similar, communities either...

This development will impact the rural character. The block will have more than the stipulated number of occupants (intensification of the block) It will reduce the separation distances between neighbours and neighbouring properties.

Please,
Let's keep Rural, Rural.

Regards ..(*personal info deleted*)..

Letter received by email 26 February 2025.

Social Impact on us/our Waikite Valley community - Puwhakamua Reintegration Facility 28.02.25

- We are not opposed to the concept of a reintegration facility - just the proposed location (distance from town), and who is going to be overseeing and managing (given the process from the start seems to have been underhand eg the property purchase , and given concerns re Rotokawa facility management have been raised).
- It seems also that the Police and Corrections Department have concerns re the Waikite Valley site.

Our residency

- We have farmed here for over 20 years. Our children have also enjoyed living here. It has been a safe and happy community to live and raise them in. We have had extensive community involvement. We also have two farm cottages which have housed many families who also enjoyed the safe and secure community.
- We also value attending community events in our halls - such as our annual Community Christmas Carols, private dances, school quizzes etc
- As an example of how our community can pull together we are heralded by Rotorua Lakes Council as being the district with the most comprehensive locally compiled civil defence emergency plan (important given our propensity for earthquakes as we're on a fault line).

Concerns:

- Safety - of people/property - Escapes do happen - distance from town will impact response time of emergency services. Phone coverage when seeking help can be hugely challenging.
- The application to RLC stated 'the facility gates will be locked at night - mostly for the safety of the residents'. This seems to suggest unwanted visitors are anticipated (gang retribution?)
- Visitors will apparently be restricted in number, and 'vetted'. This process is not always able to be managed as effectively as is proposed.

Impact on our lifestyle

- Many currently go for walks along our road sides, including Te Kopia Road. This will no longer feel safe.
- Our *..(personal info deleted – children go swimming in a special local spot)...* This will no longer be able to happen.
- Our son and his friends cycled all around the valley - we would not be able to allow this now.
- Our children were allowed to bike down to the school out of school hours and use the school playground. They would also bike to *..(personal info deleted)...* for eeling. These activities won't happen now, without parental supervision.
- We've always felt safe leaving our home unlocked - admittedly a luxury in this day and age - but unlocked would no longer be the case. Our community had a 'youth home' on Te Weta Rd some years ago. Some of the youths escaped

and broke into people's homes. Our farming neighbour was away from the farm and his wife went down to their bedroom and discovered two youths going through their drawers. Luckily the bedroom had a ranch slider which the youths ran out of (instead of running past the wife). She rang her son who, with a friend, managed to capture the youths and hold them prior to police arriving (this was during the day when there are more police on duty than at nighttime - apparently about 5 or 6 for all the Rotorua area)!

Impact on our community

- As a community we will not be able to enjoy the sense of safety and security around us we currently do
- Increased traffic - Cycling has become a hugely popular leisure activity. Many cyclists (including our residents/children) use our roads - they will be impacted by the increased traffic to/from the facility
- Waikite Valley's popularity as a place for young farmers to try and buy their first farm will be impacted. As will the value of lifestyle blocks. It is possible it will be even more challenging to attract labour to work on the farms, or in our local businesses, and teachers for our school.

..(personal info deleted)..

Letter received by email 26 February 2025.

We feel that we will lose the ability to walk and enjoy our surroundings, without fear of being impacted by crime, due to the increased visits to the area of associates of some very serious criminals.

The ability to leave expensive and sometimes hazardous equipment in remote areas, as we do presently, as we run a rural contracting business, this will be curtailed, as we will not know who will be around on properties surrounding the proposed site, necessitating unnecessary movement of equipment away from these properties, adding additional costs to our business. One property alone is 1200 acres, we do all of the work on the property, which bounds the proposed site, often leaving machinery, fuel supplies and materials on site.

The quality of the cabins that have already been moved to the site are detrimental to the scenic outlook of the area, which when you consider that on building a home here, even paint colour and reflection is often required to be planned appropriately by Council. These cabins do not fit with the environment, which is an often appreciated beauty spot by tourists who visit the nearby geothermal area, and may also be affected by increased theft from vehicles potentially bought into the area by visitors to the site.

I am aware of more than one of my customers already suffering significant stress, impacting their health by the proposal, which when so much good work is been done to help rural people to cope with mental health, it seems thoughtless to add another level of stress to a farming community, when some of these people have invested decades and generations into the area. We will lose some wonderful people from the district if this was to go ahead.

We are also concerned that should this proposal go ahead, property values in the area will fall, which when you consider the recent increases, could put some people into negative equity, disadvantaging their families. This will make the area less attractive to young families who nearly always move to a rural area for a quieter more wholesome life for their children. It would be a shame to discourage these people from moving to the area, as often when people move here, they stay for two or three generations creating a strong vibrant supportive community.

We are also concerned that should the proposed site go ahead, there is inadequate Police support for the community now. We have had a situation ourselves, where a man was hiding in blackberry at the bottom of a driveway and was clearly up to no good. It took the Police 5 hours to attend, on a week day. We have also had two instances, one where a community based programme for young people using horses to rehabilitate at risk kids. The person running the programme was assaulted, badly beaten and almost killed before they could get Police. My neighbours were burgled by two youths from another community based programme, which was in Te Wheta Road. The local Monastery currently uses periodic detention workers to help with their grounds, one of these workers threw a tool from an onsite contractor through a wood chipper, damaging the wood chipper.

So in our opinion the community has already tried to do its part with various schemes, which have all ended badly. Therefore bringing serious recidivist offenders to the district who are to be monitored only by ankle bracelets, which on the surrounding properties, there is little or no phone coverage is extremely dangerous to say the least.

We have a larger lifestyle block, where you can't see the home from the whole block, we won't feel safe to leave our house and shed unlocked while we work elsewhere on our block. One of the things we currently enjoy with living in the country. We will also need to ensure all doors and windows are shut and locked at night. We often sleep with the windows open, all this would stop, effectively making us a prisoner in our own home.

Letter received by email 26 February 2025.

Kia ora Claire,

Before I begin I feel it is important to say that I do not consent to my name being shared with the Puwhakamua Trust or any individuals employed by them, including their Planner. I understand other people in the community have felt intimidated by members of the Trust and I don't want to risk that for myself or my Husband.

My Husband and I are new residents to the Valley having bought our house in August last year, choosing to continue living rurally for peace and quiet, greater safety and space. We have found all of this here, as well as a lovely community that looks out for each other. We both currently work full-time away from Waikite Valley and feel secure that we can do that without issue. I am pregnant with my first child and have great hopes that our child will have much more independence and freedom growing up where we live. We have concerns that this facility will affect the way we have been living and plan to live in the future, as well as causing safety issues.

Lack of services:

- Internet and cell reception: We have had to use Starlink for internet as no other provider has coverage for where we live, we also have no cell reception in our house and the surrounding area meaning we rely on WIFI calling. This is fine until we have a power cut, which can be a fairly common occurrence on our end of *..(personal info deleted- location within 3km radius of the site)..*
- When this occurs we have no way of contacting anyone if there is an emergency, and with our closest neighbours over 700m away there is no one close by to assist.
- Wait time for emergency services: The drive from Rotorua to our house takes 40 minutes and we are all aware that emergency services are currently stretched incredibly thin. The chances of police, ambulance or fire service arriving to assist within an hour of calling is pretty much impossible. This is not something I worry about currently, but the introduction of individuals to the area who have committed serious crimes certainly gives me anxiety on the matter.
- No nearby gas station: The nearest gas station is just over 20km away.

Fears:

- Children's freedom: We had hopes of our child being able to ride around the area on their bike in the future, and would not be comfortable doing this if the proposed development goes ahead. I have heard that the service has an 85% success rate, certainly not high enough to take a chance on a child's safety.

Theft and Vandalism:

- Currently we don't worry about the security of our house, livestock and property, we often leave our front gate open. We don't drive home from work dreading that someone has trespassed on our property, we absolutely will if the proposed site goes ahead. We will definitely be reluctant to stay away from the house overnight, which affects our ability to see family and friends.

Safety:

I will be on maternity leave later this year, the thought of being alone in a house with a baby with the facility around the corner is pretty terrifying. I don't believe that all the participants have the potential to be a danger, I do believe people can change, however in an area this remote and cut off from essential services it only takes one bad apple to have potentially catastrophic outcomes. Thinking about this facility going ahead is a serious worry and is

already affecting my mental wellness, I know I'm not the only one in the community who feels this way.

Environment:

- Increased traffic: The roads around the proposed site are not well maintained, very few streetlights, some sections are unsealed, and there is often tractors/farm machinery and livestock being moved. Extra traffic from staff, residents and visitors, many of which may not be used to driving on rural roads can only have a negative affect on the safety of the roads.

Economy:

- If this site goes ahead and becomes permanent there is a real chance that it will affect the price of house in the area, making it hard for people to sell if they need to move.

View:

- The proposed facility is not in keeping with the rural feel of the area and will certainly affect the view of those surrounding it.

If there is any positive to come out of this process so far it is that the community has come together in wanting to oppose this and we have met a lot more locals! I personally have no problem with the kaupapa and ideology of the rehabilitation facility, but the remote place they are proposing to put it is not practical or safe, and will be detrimental to the Waikite Valley community. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi

..(personal info deleted)..

Email received 27 February 2025.

Hi, I would like to CONFIDENTALLY reply to the above subject.

I totally oppose the Tikanga Aroro programme being occupied in Waikite Valley, my issues are this has not been requested to be publicly notified with the council under the resource consent. This should be.

I have a business that we run in Waikite Valley and are very concerned with items being stolen, children walking on the road to and from school buses. Members of the programme will have ability to drive past and their visitors visiting our area, which now is so safe and no crime/gang connections in the Waikite Community.

The internet service is not 100% and the servers drop out so often. That will certainly impact the bracelets that some of the occupants can be wearing. The Police and Armed Defenders can be so hard to contact when the phone service is not working. The distance for them to drive to our community is around 30 minutes and this is not acceptable for our community safety.

Power goes out so often and that will impact the ability to have reliable internet and telephone services.

..(personal info deleted)..

Email received 27 February 2025.

Dear Claire,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed prisoner reintegration facility in Waikite Valley. My family and I, including our four-year-old child, are deeply worried about the potential negative impacts this facility will have on our safety, well-being, and livelihood. The fear that emergency services may not be able to reach us in time is causing us significant distress, and we are losing sleep over it.

While we would have preferred to attend the interview, we were unable to secure a space. I hope you will still take my concerns into account as part of your research.

Emergency Services Concerns

One of my biggest fears about this proposal is the risk to our safety in an emergency. I have personally experienced how slow response times can be in Waikite Valley. In a past emergency, it took hours for an ambulance to arrive, which was deeply concerning. While the outcome was fortunately not serious, the delay highlighted the vulnerability of our area when it comes to accessing urgent medical assistance.

With the presence of a prisoner reintegration facility nearby, I fear that emergency services will be even more stretched, making it harder to get the help we might need in a critical situation. The prospect of a facility housing repeat offenders in an area with already limited emergency services and unreliable cell coverage is alarming. If something were to happen—whether a medical emergency or a security incident—the time it takes for emergency responders to reach us could mean the difference between life and death. The lack of reliable communication in parts of Waikite Valley and its surroundings further exacerbates this concern, as it could make it impossible to contact authorities when every second counts.

Mismanagement Concerns

Additionally, I have serious concerns about the potential mismanagement of the facility. The operators have already demonstrated poor management at Rotokawa Baths, where they faced a number of issues. This raises major doubts about their ability to ensure the safety and security of both residents and the surrounding community.

If the facility is poorly managed, the risks to my family, our property, and the wider community will only increase. A mismanaged facility could lead to dangerous situations that impact not just those housed within it but also those living nearby. This is a risk we simply cannot afford to take.

Complex Individuals and Community Preparedness

When dealing with reoffenders of this magnitude, past situations and research suggest that the question isn't *if* an incident will happen, but *when* it will happen. The reality is that Waikite Valley is not equipped to handle the potential incidents that may arise from housing individuals with complex backgrounds in such a small, rural area. The local infrastructure, emergency response systems, and community support structures are simply not designed to manage the risks this facility would bring. The potential for incidents is high, and we are not prepared for the consequences.

Impact on Our Business and Property Value

Beyond safety and management concerns, the facility's proximity could have devastating effects on our business, which is our primary livelihood. We own and operate an *..(personal info deleted – home based hospitality business)..* in Waikite Valley, and this business is our sole source of income. The presence of a reintegration facility would likely tarnish the area's reputation, discouraging potential guests from booking stays. If we can no longer attract visitors due to safety concerns, it would be a life-changing blow to our financial stability.

Additionally, I am deeply concerned about the potential decrease in property values. If the facility goes ahead, the associated safety concerns, mismanagement risks, and stigma could make it much harder for us to sell our property in the future, leaving us at a significant financial disadvantage. My home is both a personal sanctuary for my family and a business investment, and I cannot afford to see its value decline due to this proposal.

Social Impact on the Community and My Family

The social implications of this facility cannot be ignored. Waikite Valley is a close-knit community where neighbors know and support one another. The introduction of a prisoner reintegration facility in such a small, rural area would disrupt the social fabric of our community. It would create an atmosphere of fear and mistrust, making residents feel uneasy about engaging in everyday activities—whether visiting the lakes, attending the local market, or even just going for a walk.

For my family and me, the fear of living in such an environment is overwhelming. The anxiety about our safety and the psychological toll of constant worry would affect our well-being and ability to thrive. This concern is not just about our physical safety but also about the emotional and social consequences of living in an area marked by fear and division. We are already discussing the possibility of leaving the area should this facility go ahead.

Request for Anonymity

I also request that my name, address, phone number or anything else that can reveal our identity will stay confidential as part of this objection. I am concerned that if my

personal details are revealed, I may be approached directly or even threatened. This adds to the stress and anxiety that this situation is already causing my family. I sincerely hope that my request for privacy and protection will be respected during the review of this proposal.

Conclusion

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge the council to reconsider the establishment of a prisoner reintegration facility in Waikite Valley. The risks to safety, potential mismanagement, impact on emergency response times, damage to my business, and loss of property value are all deeply concerning. The social repercussions—for my family, our business, and the wider community—would be devastating. Furthermore, the fact that Waikite Valley is not equipped to accommodate individuals with complex backgrounds, coupled with the lack of reliable cell coverage, only heightens the urgency of finding a more suitable location.

I hope our concerns are taken seriously and that alternative locations are considered for this facility. I look forward to hearing from you and engaging in further community consultation on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

..(personal info deleted)..

Email received 27 February 2025.

Sorry, I'm old and forgetful and I've forgotten the politically correct name for this type of 'prison'.

Basically nobody wants a prison sited amidst their community; either rural, suburban or parks, recreational areas, sports-fields.

So, how about thinking of a different site - where nobody lives, e.g. In an industrial area. If some Council officials say "the land is designated industrial",

well, the Council are pushing for this, they can change the designation.

Cheers,

..(personal info deleted)...

Email received 27 February 2025

We are *..(personal info deleted)...*, and we farm at *..(personal info deleted)...* Road, Waikite Valley, which is approximately 5 kilometers from the proposed Reintegration Facility on Puaiti Road. We have lived in the Waikite Valley area for 23 years and have resided on *..(personal info deleted)...* Road for the past 17 years. Prior to this, we shared milked for 7 years on Tumunui Road for the Tumunui Lands Trust.

As long-time residents of this rural community, we understand the importance of safety and security in our daily lives. Our rural way of living, as well as the culture of our community, relies on this sense of security and the freedom to engage in community activities such as fundraisers, working bees, and recreational pursuits like running, cycling, kayaking, and boating on the Waikato River.

We are deeply concerned that the proposed Reintegration Facility may jeopardize these aspects of our community life for two main reasons:

1. **The residents participating in the reintegration program:** We worry about the potential risks posed by individuals with criminal backgrounds being housed in such close proximity to our homes and families.
2. **The visitors of the residents:** The constant flow of visitors to the facility could further exacerbate safety concerns, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty and anxiety in our community.

The culture of the Waikite Valley is one of trust, loyalty, engagement, and safety. We fear that the establishment of this facility will significantly undermine these values, particularly for those living in close proximity to the center. For example, parents may feel uncomfortable allowing their children to wait for a school bus or get off a bus near their homes. Residents may also begin to question the safety of their property and adopt defensive measures, as we will all be living in a constant state of heightened alert and anxiety.

The long-term impact on our community is already becoming apparent, and we believe this will only worsen if the facility is permitted to move forward. We have yet to see any realistic solutions or mitigation plans proposed that adequately address these concerns.

Having farmed in the Waikite Valley for over two decades, we are committed to being responsible kaitiaki of the land, not just as individuals but as a community. We take great pride in what we have achieved and intend to continue this stewardship. Allowing this center to proceed goes against the principles of being a good kaitiaki in a rural-zoned area. By overpopulating the proposed site and potentially altering the rural zoning, we risk setting a dangerous precedent for future development in our community.

In light of these concerns, we hope that the voices of those most affected are heard and considered. We would like to request that our names remain confidential in any documentation or public reference, while still permitting the information provided to be used as needed. We trust that this will be respected and appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

..(personal info deleted)...

Email received 27 February 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed prisoner reintegration facility in Waikite Valley. As a long-time resident and business owner in the area, I am deeply concerned about the impact this facility would have on my family, our livelihood, and the broader community. My wife and I have worked hard to create a safe and stable environment for our four-year-old child, and we fear that this proposal jeopardizes everything we have built.

Emergency Response Limitations

One of my greatest concerns is the strain this facility could place on emergency services. I have personally witnessed how long it can take for an ambulance to reach Waikite Valley in urgent situations. Given our remote location and the already limited resources available, adding a facility with high-risk individuals could worsen response times when every second counts.

Waikite Valley is not equipped to handle emergencies efficiently, particularly in areas where cell service is unreliable. If an incident were to occur—whether medical or security-related—help might not arrive in time. Introducing individuals with complex backgrounds into an area with these limitations creates a serious safety risk for residents.

Concerns About Facility Oversight

Beyond emergency response concerns, I also question whether this facility will be managed effectively. The same organization proposing this facility has a history of poor operational standards, as seen in their previous management of Rotokawa Baths. If they were unable to maintain basic oversight in that setting, how can they be trusted with a facility of this scale?

If management is inadequate, the consequences could be severe—not just for those in the facility but also for nearby residents. Security failures, lack of proper supervision, and insufficient support systems could all contribute to dangerous situations that put the community at risk.

Impact on Property and Business Viability

My family's livelihood depends on our ability to attract visitors to our *..(personal info deleted – home based hospitality business)...* in Waikite Valley. Tourism is the backbone of our income, and the presence of a reintegration facility could significantly damage the area's reputation. Many potential guests may feel uneasy about staying in close proximity to such a facility, which could lead to a drastic decline in bookings.

Moreover, this proposal could negatively affect property values. If Waikite Valley becomes associated with safety concerns, potential buyers may be deterred, leaving homeowners at a financial disadvantage. This is not a risk I am willing to take with my family's home and future.

Social and Psychological Toll

Waikite Valley has always been a close-knit, peaceful community, and this facility threatens to change that. The presence of a reintegration center could create an atmosphere of unease, making residents feel less secure in their daily lives. Parents will worry more about their

Pūwhakamua SIA written feedback from community

children playing outside, and community interactions may be overshadowed by concerns about safety.

For my own family, the stress of living in such an environment would be overwhelming. We want to continue raising our child in a place where we feel safe, not in a setting where we are constantly questioning the security of our surroundings. If this facility moves forward, we would be forced to reconsider our future in Waikite Valley.

Request for Confidentiality

Due to the sensitivity of this matter, I request that my personal information remains confidential. I do not wish to be publicly identified in opposition to this facility, as I fear potential backlash or unwanted attention. I trust that my concerns will be considered seriously without requiring my personal details to be disclosed.

Final Appeal

I strongly urge decision-makers to reconsider this proposal. The risks far outweigh any potential benefits, and Waikite Valley is simply not an appropriate location for this facility. The safety of residents, the viability of local businesses, and the overall well-being of the community must take priority.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope that our voices will be heard.

Sincerely,

..(personal info deleted)...

Email received 28 February 2025

Dear Claire,

I am writing today to express my concerns regarding the proposed reintegration facility in Waikite Valley. At this time we would like to remain anonymous and not have any of our personal details shared with any other party.

I am aware that those residing closest to the proposed facility (within 3kms) have been offered in person interviews to discuss their concerns. My partner and I live beyond this boundary but I hope my written feedback will be regarded as valuable. I'd like to note that our proximity to the proposed facility could be greatly reduced if Rotorua Lakes Council are successful in converting "paper roads" to formed roads as set out on page 24 of their 2024-2034 Long Term Plan. <https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/plans-policies-bylaws/long-term-plan>. The development of this road would mean an alternative, or possible preferred route to the facility.

Our History, Connection to Waikite Valley and Aspirations for the Future

My partner is the third generation of his family to live on this land in Waikite Valley. His grandfather was the original farm manager who broke in the land, transforming it from abandoned scrub to the very first farms. One of the roads here in the Valley is named after this man. With this rich sense of history and belonging to the land we have no intentions of selling the property. The property is already set up in a trust to be passed down to our future generations. Our greatest aspiration is for our future generations to experience the same hard work, success, freedom and safety that we have. If the proposed reintegration facility does go ahead we feel that future generations will have a very different experience.

Access to emergency services

Waikite Valley is a rural location and as such the residents here experience many challenges. Landlines are relatively rare now due to poor maintenance and the phasing out of old copper phone lines. We had only one option of internet providers and our cell phones don't have service beyond the farmhouse. We still experience fairly frequent unplanned power outages, particularly through winter. These issues alone make it difficult to access emergency services when required. With our land size being too small to earn a household income from we work full time away from the farm. This means that my partner is often outside at night tending to the stock. When he is out alone he has no access to a phone. A reintegration facility with serious offenders and those visiting them who may have criminal histories and connections in our community would leave him feeling very vulnerable in these situations.

We know that emergency services will experience a delay due to the travel time and any logistical planning before they depart Rotorua. Due to this my partner drove himself into Rotorua Hospital after suffering an injury rather than calling for an ambulance.

With this access to emergency services being challenging we fear that people will attempt to resolve issues on their own rather than requesting police assistance. This could lead to farmers being pushed to act in self defence if they were to encounter intruders on their property. With many farmers having access to firearms this could lead to serious injury and/or loss of life. It's not unreasonable to believe that someone would do all they could to protect themselves, their loved ones, their property and possessions. This was certainly the case with William Burr in October 2020.

Health, Wellbeing & Personal Safety

Our rural roads are frequented by people engaging in physical activities. Tourists laden down with luggage on bicycles are common any day of the week. Local cyclists are common during the weekends as Rotorua Cycling Inc, RATS and Jogging the Powerpoles prefer to get away from the traffic of town and open highways. Locals walk their dogs in the evenings or take a stroll alone. I myself run the roads, typically in the hours of low light, either first thing in the morning or late evening. At the peak of my training I can easily cover 21km distances within the valley. I excel at listening for vehicles and moving myself out of the way accordingly. I know exactly which properties contain dogs who alert my presence and which dogs can easily escape their properties. Currently I know exactly where the dangers to my personal safety are. If a Reintegration Facility is opened here there is another risk to my personal safety. One that I have no way of mitigating. This would result in me not being able to engage in this hobby. I know the same is true for other walkers, runners and cyclists in the community. For me running is a source of stress relief. Being unable to engage in running will have negative impacts on other aspects of my life, including my relationship with my partner, ability to handle work stress and general contentment and happiness in life. Sadly, it is well documented that rural communities in New Zealand face higher rates of mental health concerns, including depression and suicide. Our isolated location adds another challenge to accessing medical care. Access to firearms, chemicals, and machinery intensifies the risk of suicide. Waikite Valley already tells several tales of firearms being used in self harm events and to harm members of families.

As mentioned earlier my partner does spend several hours on the farm tending to stock in the dark. He has shared that if the Reintegration Facility is established in the valley he will feel like he constantly has to keep an eye out in case someone suddenly appears willing to do harm to him. I have no doubt this was hard for him to admit. He is a proud, masculine, brave man who typically has no aversions to confrontations. When his business takes him 2+ hours away from home he chooses to stay away during the working week rather than travel each day. This means that I spend the week alone in the house or on the farm checking stock and fences. This leaves me vulnerable to home invasion or personal harm. Being alone it would be tremendously difficult to seek help from neighbours or emergency services.

Environment

As mentioned earlier Rotorua Lakes Council plan to develop and give greater access to “paper roads”, which could include Te Weta Road. If this were to happen Te Weta Road will open directly onto Puaiti Rd, close to the Integration Facility. This has the potential to increase traffic on the road as people travel back and forth from the facility. Currently on the corner of Te Weta Rd and Waikite Valley Rd we are subjected to locals who like to practice their sustained loss of tractions. This causes noise disruption to the way we live and a hazard for motorcyclists who come upon the gravel on the road that is kicked out by these vehicles from Te Weta Rd. Being a small community it doesn’t take much to find out who the culprits of these activities are. We have been known to confront these people directly. If a reintegration facility is opened we believe instances of these activities will only increase, even if the road is tar sealed.

Property

We wholeheartedly believe that a Reintegration Facility in our community will lead to higher rates of crime, in particular theft. If Te Weta Rd does end up being a route to the facility it leaves more of our

Pūwhakamua SIA written feedback from community

property vulnerable. Clear observations of our stock, sheds, equipment and our own movements around the farm can be made from the road, which would then be experiencing increased traffic. We believe that this will result in opportunistic theft, something we don't currently consider at all. There would be a financial and mental health burden attached to loss of property as well as installing new security measures.

Previously, there was a home on Te Weta Rd that was taking in at risk youth. I was not privy to many of the details but we did notice a hive of activity around the area. Gates on our property and those of our neighbours were being left open and small items around the farm disappeared. We fear there will be a resurgence with events like this with the introduction of a reintegration facility.

Tourism

Tourists frequent Waikite Valley year round. We have many local businesses, both commercial and private landowners attempting to make a living with air B&Bs. If a reintegration facility were to come to Waikite Valley we anticipate that this would have a negative impact and reduce our numbers of tourism. It would also impact tourists freedom to explore. Currently we regularly have tourists stop on the side of the road to admire the magnificence and take photos of our animals in the paddocks. With a reintegration facility in the area we would be on high alert with these admirers. It would be in the back of our minds that rather than tourists they could be visitors to the facility, who could come back and steal cause harm to the animal to score a trophy. Therefore our course of action would likely be to greet these people in an unfriendly manner on the side of the road.

We'd like to thank you for your time considering our feedback for the Social Impact Assessment of the Proposed Reintegration Facility. Throughout the feedback there is an abundance of personal information that does reveal exactly who we are and where we live. I'd like to reiterate again that we'd like to remain anonymous at this time as we are aware that there have already been breaches of trust and confidentiality. I will sign off with our names for your information. Should you require further information please do reach out.

...(personal info deleted)...

Email received 28 February 2025

Afternoon Claire,

As Owners *..(personal info deleted)...*, we, my brothers' and my company, were not advised of the proposed residential reintegration facility on Puaiti Road, Ngakuru.

Fortunately two of our tenants received the leaflet drop, I did not on *..(personal info deleted)...* Road.

On our *..(personal info deleted)...* Road property there are three homes rented out, all three to solo mothers. I believe all three solo mothers have written a submission and one, for good reason, chooses to be anonymous and has attached her submission to mine. I believe you have already heard her voice but have attached the submission anyway.

They have nine children between them. They actively choose country living in the hope of their children avoiding elements that are much more prevalent in an urban setting. Removing themselves as much as possible from bad influences, to a village like atmosphere, where they know their neighbors and have a close knit community that they can rely on for support and security to raise their children in a happy, healthy environment.

Quite apart from listing the obvious, increased traffic on narrow winding country roads, and random visitors to the centre, no doubt some with a questionable take on life being introduced to the valley. These roads are heavily used by walkers, runners, cyclists, kids on bikes and horse riders because there is currently limited traffic.

Traffic can enter the valley from Tokoroa, Whakatane, Rotorua and Taupo by four different routes. Due to the difficult cell phone reception in the valley GPS does not always work and I am always finding frustrated lost souls at the crossroads hopelessly confused, several times the same couple twice which is bit of a hoot.

There is also the issue of livestock being moved up and down the roads. Perfectly legally and driving safely through them by motorists is an act of patience and consideration.

Valley safety will need to be reviewed with the change of characters visiting the valley and with the increased traffic. Will school children aged 5 to teenager be safe waiting at isolated crossroads and at the end of long driveways, or will parents, like urban parents, ensure their children's safety by delivering their offspring to school and picking up after...entailing even more traffic on our underfunded roads.

The Mangatete Road South property has been the Ngakuru/Waikite Valley Pony Club grounds for approximately 50 years. (Gratis the whole time, part of being a community). The N/WVPC meet on a regular basis, run competitions regularly catering for young children to teenagers and beyond. The Pony Club utilize land on both sides of the Mangatete Road South so again traffic safety is an issue. Trekking over surrounding

farmland and staying over in isolated woodshed up the valley, ie Puaiti Rd way, has always been part of the joys of pony club. The introduction of this facility into our rural community would now need to be considered in a health and safety plan for any treks that go over that area. The hazards would be identified but risks could not be eliminated due to the inability to get assistance if needed. Therefore the likelihood is that trekking in this area of the valley would stop which has a huge impact on years of trekking traditions in that area....why should children that grow up in a rural area have their experiences suddenly compromised by something that is better positioned closer to services. This is a social injustice to our young people in the pony club.

Policing in Rotorua will need to be increased as any incidents that require the police are a good 45 minutes away, taking that unit out of Rotorua for at least two hours. Can Rotorua afford this?

We all know how much the factor of isolation featured prominently in the outcome of the Peter Bently case in 2014, the tragic case of the Bouma's in 2018 or even closer to home the Campbell's, Ngapouri Rd.

We have already had the halfway house for youth on Te Weta Rd, another "secure facility", that youth from there managed to escape, enter local homes and steal.

Rural farmers are continually acting under the Resource Management Act to maintain their livelihood and uphold the rules that govern this country, and here we are, in a zoned Rural area, being expected to accept a modification of the rules to allow repeat criminals into our beautiful valley. Once a precedence is set, ie an exception is made, others have a way in to Ngakuru/Waikite Valley. As Rotorua became synonymous with homeless living in motels, our beautiful valley is a "sitting duck" to become known as a criminal dumping ground. Please do not let this happen, as rate payers of Rotorua Lakes Council District and taxpayers of New Zealand government, we deserve better

I am completely opposed to the proposed residential reintegration facility being introduced into our peaceful rural setting.

Regards

...(personal info deleted)...

Email conversation forwarded 28 February 2025

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Office of Todd McClay** <rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz>

Date: Mon, 7 Oct 2024 at 15:32

Subject: RE: Re Proposed PPR Pauiti rd Waikite Valley

To: *..(personal info deleted)...*

Dear *..(personal info deleted)...*

Thank you for your email about a proposed prisoner rehabilitation site in Waikite Valley. It's concerning that such a facility is being considered so far from town in a relatively isolated community with no public transport and limited cell phone coverage.

I've received a number of messages and calls from local people who live on the area and I'm working with them to firstly see exactly what is proposed for this land and by whom as well as engaging with RLC and the office of the Minister of Corrections.

At this point I'm informed that no application for a Resource Consent has been received by RLC in respect of any change of use of this land, nor for the establishment of any permanent buildings on the land. RLC have agreed that concerned locals can email them directly with their concerns, prior to any consent being received and I would encourage you to do so. The email is as follows Jason.Ward@rotorualc.nz.

Should a consent application be received I have encouraged them to decide that this is a 'publicly notified' process so that local residents are informed and can express their concerns to the Council formally.

In the meantime, as we seek additional information, I will ensure that both RLC and the Minister's office are aware of the issues you have raised.

with regards,

Todd.

Hon Todd McClay MP | Office Hon Todd McClay | MP for Rotorua |

Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Forestry, Minister for Trade, Minister for Hunting and Fishing, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs. | www.toddmccclay.co.nz | 1301 Amohau Street, Rotorua | Todd.McClay@parliament.govt.nz

Pūwhakamua SIA written feedback from community

From: *..(personal info deleted)...*

Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 1:30 PM

To: karen.barker@rotorualc.nz; Office of Todd McClay <rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: Re Proposed PPR Pauiti rd Waikite Valley

To Karen Barker And Todd McClay

I wish to concern my opposition to the above project on the following grounds

Security

Safety

Monitoring

staffing

Location

Integrity ie .The manner in which this land was purchased

In Summary: This Location is 40 kms from Rotorua and is remote.Cell phone coverage is poor and power cuts numerous

Emergency service coverage i.e Police/Ambulance would be challenging.

This PPR would be better located nearer Rotorua on any numerous Iwi land holding and therefore closer to emergency services.

I NOTE THIS IS NOT A PERMITTED ACTIVITY IN THIS RURAL ZONING OF WAIKITE VALLEY.

We therefore REQUEST this to be a PUBLICALLY NOTIFIABLE EVENT SUBJECT TO RESOURCE CONSENT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

due to the significant risk to the local community

Yours Sincerely

..(personal info deleted)...

Email received 28 February 2025

Hi Claire,

I am writing regarding the proposed reintegration facility Puwhakamua have planned for Puaiti Road, Waikite Valley.

Firstly, can my submission please be kept confidential, not just my name but identifying factors such as the nature of our business, proximity to the family farm and age of children etc. as this would make us easily identifiable.

Background

We have a small *...(personal info deleted – business)...* on our lifestyle block. *...(personal info deleted...other family live and operate farms nearby)....* We are *...(personal info deleted- location)* . The family farm (and our property) have been owned by my parents or us for over 40 years.

The risks I see with the facility include:

- Participants who are not fit to be released directly into society being able to live in our community with little security in place.
- Visitors to the participants coming into our area (increased traffic, opportunistic crime etc)
- Proximity to emergency services should someone leave the facility
- Proximity to emergency services should increased crime/theft/threatening behaviour become an issue.
- Lack of cellphone coverage in MANY places within the area of the proposed facility.
- Lack of security at the proposed site.

Our Community

We live in a small, tight knit community who help each other out. The fear that has been instilled in the community with this proposed facility is very real and my concern is that our ability to pull together and help one another out will be compromised because of this. I think this will cause us to all stick to our own backyard a little more for fear of retaliation and to keep ourselves safe.

I have been a part of this community as a child until age 18 and moved back to the family farm 11 years ago with my husband and 3 sons due to the safe and nurturing environment we could bring our children up in. *...(personal info deleted)*. The opportunities the children have to 'just be kids' and go adventuring has always been a big draw card for us but I feel that they will not get those same

opportunities I did due to the risk to their safety, not only from participants of the programme but those who come out to visit.

Our Business

We own and live on a *..(personal info deleted)* which I often work alone or with my female neighbour (my husband works in town). I have always felt safe working alone *..(personal info deleted)*.. however I am quite anxious about this should the facility go ahead.

We also open to the public for a few weeks over summer (and the holiday period), at which time I have the need to store cash and stock at home due to limited opening hours at shops and the bank. I have always felt safe to do this but will not if the facility goes ahead.

We store equipment, *..(personal info deleted)*..tools and horse gear all over the property and my concern would be that we would no longer be able to do so safely.

Socially

My *..(personal info deleted)*..has a job helping on the farm that borders the proposed facility and I have always been comfortable with him biking to and from work but will no longer be comfortable with this (and we are yet to decide if he will be able to continue working on the farm should the facility go ahead).

We are leaders for the local cub group and often host them at our place for activities, our proximity to the facility means a number of our parents will be uncomfortable coming to our farm were it to go ahead

We currently feel comfortable to let our children *..(personal info deleted)*.. go on the farm to build huts, ride horses, hunt animals, ride bikes, visit their cousins etc. Should the facility go ahead this would be severely restricted.

Our older son is allowed to visit the natural hot pool down the road alone or with friends to swim and go fishing, this would no longer be ok with us.

The problem we see with all these activities is the proximity to emergency help were something to happen, and the lack of cellphone coverage in so many places.

The fact that we also anticipate our roads to be busier with traffic visiting the facility also increases the safety risk.

We also choose to live in the country to protect our children's innocence as long as possible. I feel having our children exposed to former inmates who are

unable to be released directly into society due to the nature of their offending or level of rehabilitation completely removes this benefit from us.

Wellbeing

I enjoy exercise and often walk or run up the road in the direction of the facility (as the other way includes a narrow gravel road). I have done this for the past 11 years but will no longer feel comfortable doing this alone if the facility is in place.

My middle son experiences anxiety which has largely been under control until the rumours of the reintegration facility began. Although we shield him from discussions surrounding this he is constantly asking what is happening with it. He is struggling to sleep at night with the thought of the facility so I am very nervous about the impact it will have on him should it go ahead.

He also goes to the local pony club which requires us to bypass the site, unfortunately reminding him of its existence every time as there are cabins on there now.

I stay home with the children a lot as my husband enjoys fishing, I have never had a problem with this before but will be rethinking what I do in the future if the facility goes ahead.

My children also like to camp on the farm, this would make me very uncomfortable if the facility was to go ahead.

I fear our movements (and therefore weaknesses in security etc) will be more obvious to people living in (or regularly visiting) our community as they will have the opportunity to observe this more.

I also fear retaliation from the organisers, participants or their families towards my family or property.

Our ability to sell up and remove ourselves from the area would be compromised due to the effect this will have on property values in the area. And the sentimental attachment we (and our children) have to the property can't be replaced.

Security

Many in the community don't lock their homes as we all work nearby. We also have a lot of things stored outside that are unable to be locked. In the past we have been able to live freely like this but the increase in traffic and the nature of the participants at the facility (and the visitors they may have) will make this

difficult. To physically be able to lock all our possessions away would be costly and impractical.

In summary about how the facility would affect our lifestyle, I think it would take away the wholesome carefree living we moved here for. We sacrifice a lot in the way of convenience for this lifestyle and a facility such as this would be detrimental to myself and my family, both physically and mentally, but also financially.

I would be happy to discuss my submission further if you require.

Kind Regards

.. (personal info deleted)..

Email received 28 February 2025

To Whom it May Concern, KiaOra,

My wife and I have lived in the Waikite Valley for several years, My wife having taught in the past, at .. *(personal info deleted)*.. School and I farming. For the past 27 years we have developed and run the .. *(personal info deleted – local business)*... In this time, we have seen a lot of changes within our community especially from it being predominately agriculture based, whereas now we have a number of residents involved in a wide variety of trades and occupations.

In October 2024 It was brought to our attention that a 2ha property on Puaiti Road was sold to an individual who immediately on sold it to Puwhakamua Tikanga Aroro trust, to be used as a re-integration/rehabilitation centre for men still serving time in jail for a variety of crimes, some violent. This in our view is intolerable and object to this centre ever being established in Waikite Valley.

- As with a lot of rural communities, our community values rely a lot on trust, for example people's doors are never locked, keys left in vehicles accepting people for who they are at face value, admittedly this has changed a bit in the past few years due to the increase in crime nationally and the resources of our emergency services stretched. Having a facility such as Puwhakamua within our district will cause the upmost anxiety, particularly those on their own and the elderly who may leave, as their quiet enjoyment of life is compromised.
- Having a business exposed as we are to the public 7 days a week, *(personal info deleted)*..., we have on the odd occasion been subjected to a range of offences/activities ranging from theft, anti-social behaviour, substance abuse and verbal abuse resulting in police being alerted and trespass notices issued. As a business owner and employer, we have an obligation to the health and safety, to our visitors and staff alike and envisage that a facility such as a puwhakamua would attract people into the area who are capable of the offences and a lot worse ! And in all likely hood this will force us to re consider our operating hours and having to close early, resulting in loss of earnings and staff redundancies.
- Waikite Valley, being a rural area and with *(personal info deleted – local business)*... operating in a rural area whenever we have needed emergency services, be it Fire, Ambulance or Police, the response time at the very best has been 40 minutes and in most cases it has been an hour. On occasion we have waited for 2 hours !
- It is well documented that we have a shortage of personnel not only in the emergency services, but also other services that residents of Puwhakamua will potentially need, such as mental health services, treatment for a wide variety of addiction services, potential for future employment (not everyone will want to milk a cow!). Being in a location such as Puaiti road due to travel constraints these services and opportunities will be compromised, resulting in less than satisfactory results for the clients of Puwhakamua.

Altering the conditions of a resource consent to allow a facility such as Puwhakamua in an area deemed obviously rural is setting a dangerous precedent to not only the residents of Waikite Valley/Ngakuru but to all rural communities throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand, whereby people have invested not only financially, but also with there time and mahi to make there community safe and secure, and a place to call home.

Nga Mihi

..*(personal info deleted)*...

Email received 28 February 2025

Social Impact on our Waikite Valley community - Puwhakamua Reintegration Facility

If reintegration facilities work - that is good for society. However I am concerned about the proposed location, and who is going to run the facility.

I have lived in Waikite on and off since 1999. My wife and I now have a farm here, which we have sharemilkers on.

I've participated in farm discussion groups and enjoy our squash club. As a teenager I enjoyed the ability to go down to the school without supervision, and do skateboarding or tennis. With a nearby reintegration facility we would not now let our boys be at the school grounds without us.

I'm concerned about the safety of people and property as escapes seem to happen. The distance from town will impact response time

The application to RLC stated 'the facility gates will be locked at night - mostly for the safety of the residents'. This seems to suggest unwanted visitors are anticipated which is worrying.

They say visitors will be restricted and 'vetted'. Difficult to do properly.

Impacts

Safety for our residents and children is a huge concern as the facility will be at least a 40 minute drive from town, and emergency services. Our phone reception areas are fickle.

Many currently go for walks along our road sides - this won't be as safe, with more traffic to and from facility. Kids won't bike along the roads as much, or explore our great environment (including hunting in the Paeroas, and eeling in Finnerty's stream).

I'll have to be much more wary of leaving farm machinery/tools outside - as will my sharemilker, and his farm worker.

My sharemilker has enough trouble getting good farm labour now - with Waikite Valley having a less favourable reputation this will be worse

I have a very high mortgage - am concerned a decrease in the value of local properties will affect the equity.

Please keep name/address confidential:

...(personal info deleted)...

Email received 1 March 2025

We have a *..(personal info deleted - business)...* at *..(personal info deleted - location)...*
, Ngakuru called *..(personal info deleted)...*

.

We rely on people from town coming here to *..(personal info deleted – patronise the business)...* It works really well for all involved.

It is very family oriented with grandparents, parents and children enjoying a healthy day out together and going home with *..(personal info deleted – the product of the business)....*

Our concern is that being in proximity to inmates who are still completing their sentences and have come from a high/maximum security facility now being housed in the Valley in less than a minimum security environment will create a risk that our customers will find unacceptable.

Some of our customers have asked what the situation regarding the above is.

In all honesty there is nothing we can say or do for our customers to alleviate their concerns. To indicate that there will not be a higher level of concern regarding their safety would be lying.

..(personal info deleted)...

Email received 2 March 2025

To whom this may concern,

I am a resident of Waikite Valley Rotorua. I live on the main route out of Waikite Valley close to the hot pools.

My husband, two teenage daughters and I have lived here for 11 years and have been fully entrenched in our safe and close-knit community since arrival. Both kids attended the local school and kindergarten as well as most community after school activities. My husband and I both work locally also.

As a family we feel the placement of a facility which wants to integrate prisoners in this isolated rural area presents significant and unacceptable risks to our safety and wellbeing for existing rural residents as well as the potential residents of the proposed facility as well as having ongoing adverse social effects for the wider Waikite Valley community.

My daughters are both teenagers, at a very vulnerable age and are already feeling some anxiety with regards to this proposal. They frequently walk and ride their bikes to friends houses on Puaiti Road, and Te Kopia Road – as a parent we have made the decision for this activity to stop if the facility is there for their own safety. They attend the local Pony Club also. My youngest daughter exercises local residence' horses in the area, mainly across the farms bordering the proposed facility.

This activity gives her pocket money and freedom that she will not have if this facility was in operation. She, as well as my husband and I will no longer feel safe for her to ride alone on the roads or through the farms. This will affect the owners of the animals as well as her physical and mental health. Kids in rural areas do not get the same opportunities as town kids due to their remote location. We try to provide as many opportunities as we can within the local community that we know are safe.

If the facility goes ahead, the traffic will also be considerably amplified. Of course, there will be visitors to the facility. A lot of people who are used to driving in town situations do not expect to see horses or animals on the roads and do tend to speed in the area because the roads are so quiet. This I know for a fact as I have had many a 'town' driver come through my fencing around the corner. What if it was my daughters riding their bikes, horses or even walking the dogs that got hit? We do not have the luxury of paths on our country roads. The risk is too great, therefore they would no longer be able to do those things.

Why would a group of people who have had their chance at success in life and chosen the wrong path – have the right to take the limited amount of opportunities from my children. The local kids should not have to suffer in order to rehabilitate adults who should have made better choices.

I am also one of the local Real Estate Agents in the area. I work for Sotheby's International Realty and sell lifestyle blocks, farms and residential property. I have been selling property in this area for seven years. Due to my fiduciary responsibilities in accordance with REAA guidelines, it is my legal responsibility to inform potential purchasers and vendors of any developments that could be happening in the area. I have had potential purchasers pull out of deals once they have learnt of the potential facility (property in question on Mangatete Road – house number not available due to privacy). Many potential purchasers come to open homes, ask how far away the facility will be and once they find out, do not have any further interest in the property. As well as vendors that have removed their properties from the market or not list

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their properties, in fear that the value of their home has been lowered due to this (Te Kopia Road). Therefore, my livelihood is already suffering from the mere thought of this activity being undertaken in Waikite Valley. Vendors are extremely nervous, and potential purchasers are avoiding the area. This is and will continue to have a detrimental effect on our community and the residents' futures moving forward.

Happy to have a conversation about this in person should anyone wish too.

Kindest regards

Email received 2 March 2025

Hi Claire,

This letter comes to you from Waikite Valley Pony Club members.

Our pony club has been running in Mangatete Road for over 50 years. We hold regular rallies and undertake events throughout the year that draw riders in from all over the North Island. These are one day events as well as events for younger riders (First Start). We have had the privilege of being able to utilise one of the farms in the area close to the potential site of the Prisoner Integration Facility, for the last 50 years. Our riders often go to the site, unaccompanied to practice their cross country, have regular lessons and trek over the farm. We have had an indication from most of the riders that they would not feel safe being there alone if a facility of this type was to be placed in our community. Therefore hindering this particular group of the communities health and wellness as well as learning.

Our concern as a collective is that the activities our riders, being adults, teenagers and young children will be significantly impacted if the Puwhakamua facility is developed. Our riders trek often over *...(personal info deleted – specified local farms)...* bordering the potential development site. We would not feel comfortable letting our team, of mostly women riders, undertake these activities knowing there are a group of men with convictions we are not privy too, so close to a vulnerable group of our community.

As our riders are familiar with the farm workers as well as the owners of those farms, they feel safe. If there was to be an incident, the mobile coverage out here is sporadic at best, no matter what company you are with. Therefore, the ability to call for help will be limited should such an unsafe situation arrive. I hear you ask, ‘an emergency could happen regardless’. Yes, but the workers and owners are aware of riders over their farms and we have an expected time of departure and return. If we are not back, they come looking.

The Police and emergency services take longer to get here, if at all at the best of times also. I am sure there are plenty of people submitting their thoughts will have specific examples. Where does that leave us?

We have many activities in the area that attract riders from all over the North Island. One of those is the Puaiti Road Trek, which has just taken place. This trek is an annual event with many horsey people and trucks and floats that park in the paddock just up the road from the proposed facility site. There is no way the riders would leave their floats there if this integration facility was in action. Not just because of the risk of inmates, but those people that may be in the area that have associated with them. My children both attend this event and stay overnight in the paddock with the rest of the trekking community. This will absolutely not be an option in the future should the facility be opened out here.

The extra traffic that will be generated is also of some concern. Mangatete Road is one of the direct routes to Puaiti Road from State Highway 30 and State Highway 5. We often ride on the roads, in large groups to get to the next farm or an activity. The danger to horses and humans will significantly rise with the rise of more traffic to the facility. We pride ourselves on providing a safe, welcoming and structured environment for our riders, who in some cases have gone on to represent New Zealand in this chosen sport. If our pony club has to close due to lack of numbers and people moving to pony clubs that are safe would be a crying shame as we have been running for over 50 years.

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The kids in our community, especially, need this pony club. We have some kids with diagnosed high anxiety disorders, who use the horses as an outlet and calming influence as well as a tool to learn routine, patience, empathy, confidence and responsibility. As well as a true confidence builder for our older generation (me being one of them!), who in some cases this is their only outlet off the farm for some recreation and social interaction. I cannot stress how important this club is for them. One of the very few community groups available to them.

Kind regards

Waikite Valley Pony Club