

To:
Chief Executive
Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag RO3029
ROTORUA

From:
Alistair Harding and Aggie Zhang, 

This is a submission on an application from:
Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust ('TACT')

For a Resource Consent to:
to establish and operate a reintegration facility

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to establish and operate a reintegration facility

At:
at 473 Puaiti Road, Ngakuru, Rotorua (Lot 1 DP 585350).

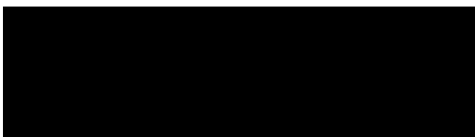
Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you this submission to OPPOSE the proposed Pūwhakamua Reintegration Facility in Waikite Valley. Please include our submission in your deliberations. And please note WE WISH TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF MY SUBMISSION.

Thank you and kind regards,

Alistair Harding and Aggie Zhang

Contact details:



Submission Opposing the Pūwhakamua Reintegration Facility Relocation to Waikite Valley

To: Rotorua Lakes Council
Subject: Strong Opposition to Resource Consent Application for Pūwhakamua Reintegration Facility in Waikite Valley

I write to unequivocally oppose the application by Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust to relocate the Pūwhakamua prisoner reintegration facility from Ōwhata, Rotorua, to Waikite Valley. This proposal is inappropriate for the site and must be rejected due to clear non-compliance with district plan rules, serious threats to community safety, inadequate infrastructure, and detrimental impacts on the rural character of Waikite Valley.

1. Clear Non-Compliance with District Plan Zoning and Consent Requirements

The proposed site is zoned **Rural** under the Rotorua District Plan, a zoning strictly intended for farming, forestry, and low-density residential activities. The proposed reintegration facility is not a permitted activity in this zone and, as such, the application is a non-complying activity.

The Pūwhakamua facility's history of breaching consent conditions at its current Rotorua site—including an official **abatement notice** for operating without required resource consent and exceeding permitted resident numbers—demonstrates a troubling pattern of non-compliance. There is no reason to believe this facility will adhere to the rules any better at Waikite Valley.

This blatant disregard for the district plan and resource consent requirements alone justifies outright refusal of the application.

2. Serious Community Safety Risks

The proposal involves housing up to 10 parolees assessed as **high risk of re-offending**. This population demands intensive supervision and secure management to protect the public.

Waikite Valley's rural location, approximately 40 km from the nearest fully staffed police station in Rotorua, creates unacceptably long police response times in emergencies—typically 30 to 40 minutes or more. In critical incidents such as assaults or escapes, these delays could result in serious harm to residents.

No amount of on-site controls can fully mitigate these risks. Placing a high-risk reintegration facility in a remote rural area is reckless and endangers the safety of the Waikite Valley community.

3. Inadequate Infrastructure and Emergency Services

Waikite Valley lacks the necessary infrastructure to support this facility's needs. The existing rural roads, emergency services access, and utility provisions are insufficient for an institution housing multiple parolees requiring constant supervision.

Local roads are not designed for increased traffic from staff and visitors, and emergency medical and fire services face delayed response times. The facility's operation would place undue strain on community resources, which are neither equipped nor funded to manage such demands.

This infrastructure shortfall further underscores why the proposal is wholly unsuitable for this location.

4. Negative Impact on Rural Character and Community Well-being

Waikite Valley is a peaceful rural community with a lifestyle centered on farming and low-density living. The introduction of a reintegration facility housing high-risk parolees threatens to disrupt this environment.

Local residents have expressed strong opposition, citing fears about decreased property values, increased perceptions of crime, and loss of rural tranquility. These concerns are valid and must be respected. The council has a duty to protect the interests and well-being of existing communities over the convenience of relocating a problematic facility.

5. Existing Facilities Do Not Justify Additional Burdens on Our Community

It must also be noted that the nearby community already hosts **Te Maioha o Parekarangi**, a youth justice residence near Rotorua, which the community has accepted under the premise of responsible operation and appropriate location.

Our community should not be expected to absorb further justice-related facilities, especially one housing adult parolees assessed as high risk, without adequate consideration of the cumulative impacts.

Using the presence of Te Maioha to justify or lean on our community for more reintegration facilities is unreasonable and unfair.

6. Lessons from Existing Facilities and Pūwhakamua's Compliance Failures

Pūwhakamua's current site has already demonstrated non-compliance severe enough to warrant enforcement action. Relocating the facility to a less accessible rural area only amplifies the risks and challenges.

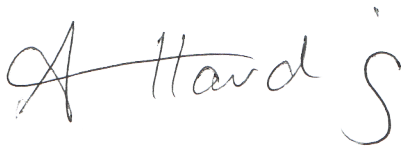
Other youth and reintegration facilities succeed when located closer to urban centres with appropriate support and emergency response capabilities. Replicating such a model in Waikite Valley ignores these essential factors and sets the stage for inevitable failure.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, the Pūwhakamua reintegration facility's relocation to Waikite Valley is fundamentally incompatible with the district plan and community expectations. The risks to community safety, infrastructure limitations, and adverse social impacts are too great to justify approval.

I strongly urge Rotorua Lakes Council to **reject this application outright** to preserve the safety, character, and well-being of the Waikite Valley community.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Harding'.

Alistair Harding

Mangatete Road, Ngakuru