

SUBMISSION ON A PUBLICLY NOTIFIED APPLICATION CONCERNING RESOURCE CONSENT

To: Chief Executive Rotorua Lakes Council Private Bag RO3029 ROTORUA	Name of Submitter: <i>Matawhaitariki Hohepa</i>
--	--

This is a submission on an application from:

Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust

For a Resource Consent to:

Establish and operate Pūwhakamua, a live-in tikanga Māori reintegration housing facility for men on parole, at a rural site in Waikite Valley.

At:

671 Puaiti Road, Waikite Valley (Lot 1 DP 585350)

The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are:

- a) The establishment and operation of a reintegration housing programme
- b) The proposed use of the site, including buildings and facilities
- c) The cultural, social and rehabilitative function of Pūwhakamua
- d) The appropriateness of the rural setting for this kaupapa
- e) The overall public good and reduced reoffending benefits associated with the programme

My submission is:

I support the application in full.

I believe that Pūwhakamua provides a much-needed service that not only supports the successful reintegration of men back into the community, but also benefits the wider society. The use of tikanga Māori as the foundation of the programme ensures that the men are reconnected with their culture, identity, and responsibilities in a supportive and structured way.

Many of us in the community know the importance of second chances. Pūwhakamua creates a safe and disciplined environment where men can rebuild their lives, gain life skills, and contribute positively to society. It also helps to reduce the risk of reoffending by offering strong guidance, cultural reconnection, and real opportunities for personal growth.

I also support the rural location. The setting offers the peace and space needed for residents to focus on healing, learning, and long-term change — far from the pressures of urban environments. The low visibility and separation from busy neighbourhoods are in fact strengths, not risks, and are consistent with many other successful reintegration programmes.

This programme has already proven its effectiveness and is supported by key public agencies including the Department of Corrections, Ministry of Social Development, and Police. It has also contributed positively to the community, such as assisting in environmental work in the Lake Rotoiti area.

Rather than turning our backs on people re-entering society, Pūwhakamua shows us how we can do better — by welcoming rehabilitation, healing, and reconnection through tikanga Māori.

I seek the following decision from the consent authority:

That the Resource Consent Application be approved in full, with appropriate conditions to support safety, oversight, and community engagement as outlined by the applicant.

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission.

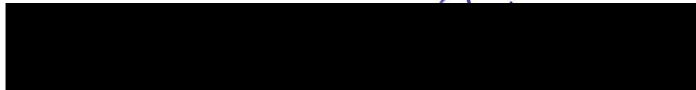
Signature of submitter:



Date:

18/06/25

Address for service of Submitter:



Telephone:



Contact person:

Email:

