

**SUBMISSION ON A PUBLICLY NOTIFIED APPLICATION CONCERNING
RESOURCE CONSENT**

To: Chief Executive Rotorua Lakes Council Private Bag RO3029 ROTORUA	Name of Submitter: Reina Anahira Whata
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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 its entirety.

Pūwhakamua is a tikanga Māori reintegration service with a proven track record of supporting the safe and successful transition of men back into the community. As a former Probation Officer with over 20 years of experience in Rotorua, I have seen first-hand the cycles of recidivism and the challenges men face upon release from prison. Pūwhakamua addresses these challenges through a kaupapa Māori approach that is both culturally grounded and results-driven.

This programme changes lives. Through tikanga, whānaungatanga, mentoring, and structured daily routines, Pūwhakamua restores identity, purpose, and pro-social behaviour. The fact that many of the facilitators have lived experience is a critical point of connection for the men and accelerates engagement and trust.

The proposed Waikite Valley site is well-suited to this activity. The rural setting offers peace, privacy, and space for residents to focus on healing and development, away from urban distractions. I believe this is not only appropriate, but necessary for this type of kaupapa.

Pūwhakamua also contributes directly to environmental initiatives for Ngāti Tamateatutahi-Ngāti Kawiti, a hapū of Ngāti Pikiao. For example, they have worked with us on environmental clean-up projects along the shores of Lake Rotoiti from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rotoiti to Tamatea Street. This contribution demonstrates their willingness to give back, learn, and engage with the local community in meaningful ways.

The community's concerns about safety must be balanced with the reality: these men are already in our communities on parole. Pūwhakamua provides structure, support, and accountability that enhances public safety rather than threatens it.

I seek the following decision from the consent authority:

That the Resource Consent Application be granted in full, subject to appropriate site management and community engagement conditions as outlined in the application.

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

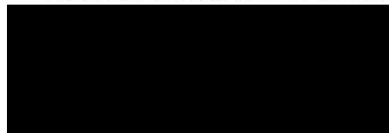
Signature of submitter:



Date:

19.6.25

Address for service of Submitter:



Telephone:



Contact person:

Reina Whata

Email:

