



Hon Todd McClay
MP for Rotorua

23 June 2025

**SUBMISSION RE- APPLICATION FOR RESOURCE CONSENT
BY TIKIANGA ARORO CHARITABLE TRUST.**

To whom it may concern,

I write to OPPOSE the application of a resource consent for the purpose of building a Reintegration Facility by Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust on Lot 1 DP 585350, 473 Puaiti Road, Waikite Valley.

Waikite Valley is a peaceful rural farming and rural lifestyle community that consists of farmers, and families raising young children in a village setting. It is also home to tourist attractions such as hot pools and geothermal sites that draw a considerable number of tourists to the area.

The development of a live-in residential support facility for men who have either “been in prison,” or “who are deemed to be at high risk of re-offending” in a rural setting raises a number of concerns for the community, and the local residents. The programme is to support the participants and their whanau.

The location of Puaiti Road, is forty-one kms from Rotorua. The location is deep in the farming community with limited cell phone coverage, no public transport, no local law enforcement, and no medical facilities. In the event of any emergency, medical, fire and police services are dispatched from Rotorua.

A re-integration facility does not fit into daily rural community life. The residents of this facility having completed a sentence within a structured prison facility, will be paroled to a remote location where there is limited opportunity to integrate into the community and where local employment opportunities are few with no transportation from the facility.



Authorised by Todd McClay MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.





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Whanau are not located on site and this location will make it difficult for whanau connection and integration with their lives. The programme also requires participants to “re-develop essential skills to function in society, including grocery shopping,” which is also not close by, and instead enables isolation rather than re-integration.

Residents are likely to have a high need for medical and social services. Travel to Rotorua for medical, employment, social agency or other purposes is over a 1-hour round trip.

The low-level security design of the proposed centre, and the low staff ratio, raises considerable concern for community safety should an issue arise. Police assistance for any breach of security will take over one hour and could put local residents at risk.

Whilst the re-integration of paroles into society is necessary, it is ill-conceived and impractical to provide such services with low security for what is described as potential high-risk re-offenders within a remote rural location.

Sincerely,

Hon Todd McClay
Member of Parliament for Rotorua



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