FORM 13

SUBMISSION ON A PUBLICLY OR LIMITED NOTIFIED APPLICATION CONCERNING RESOURCE CONSENT

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Section 96 Resource Management Act 1991
(Rotorua Lakes Council is the operating name of Rotorua District Council)

To:	**Name of Submitter:**
Chief Executive Rotorua Lakes Council Private Bag RO3029 ROTORUA	Kate Waterworth *[Full Name]*

This is a submission on an application from *[name of applicant]:*

Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust

for a Resource Consent to *[Briefly describe the type of consent, proposed activity, and location of the resource consent]*:

To establish and operate a reintegration housing activity in the rural zone 1A of the Rotorua Lakes District Plan.

at *[The location of the resource consent]*:

473 Puaiti Road, Waikite Valley, 3077

The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are *[Give Details]*:

The application in its entirety.

My submission is *[include whether you **support or oppose** the specific parts of the application or wish to have them amended; and the reasons for your views]:*

*Please see attachment submission

I seek the following decision from the consent authority *[Give precise details, including the general nature of any conditions sought]*:

To decline the application.

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- [x] **I wish to be heard in support of my submission**
- [ ] **I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission**
- [x] **If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing**

Signature of submitter *(or* person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter): RmWaterworth.	Date: 25-Jun-2025
Address for service of Submitter: [redacted]	Telephone: [redacted]
Contact person: *[name and designation, if applicable]*	Fax/email:

Note to submitter:

You must serve a copy of your submission on the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after you have served your submission on the consent authority.

The information you have provided on this form is required so that your submission can be processed under the RMA, and your name and address will be publicly available. The information will be stored on a public register and held by the Council, and may also be made available to the public on the Council's website. In addition, any on-going communications between you and Council will be held at Council's offices and may also be accessed upon request by a third party. Access to this information is administered in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the Privacy Act 1993. If you have any concerns about this, please discuss with a Council Planner prior to lodging your submission. If you would like to request access to, or correction of your details, please contact the Council.

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We, the residents of [redacted], wish to formally object to the proposed establishment of an intensive rehabilitation facility located just 400 metres from our family home. As a family deeply rooted in this rural community, running a full-time farming business and raising four young children, we have serious concerns about the suitability of this development in the Rural 1 zone and its potential impact on our safety, lifestyle, and wellbeing. The following outlines our key objections and the reasons why this proposal is inconsistent with the character and needs of the Waikite Valley.

- My husband and I live at 552 Puaiti Road with our four young children (aged 6, 4, 2, and 6 months), just 400 metres from the proposed facility site.
- We run a substantial farming business that operates around the clock, involving heavy machinery, regular noise, and constant animal movement.
- The proposed facility is located in the Rural 1 zone, which is not typically designated for this kind of development. Its placement feels highly unusual and inconsistent with the intended land use and the rural character of the Waikite Valley.
- This area is primarily dedicated to farming and other primary production activities. We value the buildings and structures that support rural operations such as farming and forestry, as they contribute to the area's character and amenity. However, placing an intensive rehabilitation centre for at-risk individuals on a small parcel of land is inconsistent with the rural nature of Waikite Valley and the intended purpose of this zone.
- My husband works long hours on the farm, while one child attends school and the other three stay at home with me during the day. Our daughter catches the school bus from the corner of Puaiti and Te Kopia Roads. However, due to increased traffic and safety concerns stemming from the proposed facility, I will no longer feel comfortable allowing her to wait at the bus stop alone.
- We chose to live rurally for the peace, safety, and minimal traffic—qualities that are likely to be compromised if the facility proceeds.
- We regularly rely on local babysitters in the evenings, but given the nature and proximity of the proposed facility, we would no longer feel comfortable having young females home alone with our children.
- Cell phone coverage is limited across our property, making it difficult to reach my husband while he is working on the farm or to quickly contact emergency services. In an emergency, response times could be dangerously delayed.
- Our children are growing up in a rural environment where they can freely explore, build, and help on the farm—a lifestyle we cherish deeply for the freedom and safety it offers. The thought that just 400 metres away, ten individuals with complex and challenging histories will be living unsettles me. It fills me with fear and discomfort to allow my children to play outside alone in what has always been a safe and secure home.
- The proposal includes a minimum of two staff members supervising ten legally restricted individuals, which raises serious safety concerns. This supervision ratio is inadequate, especially considering the potentially complex backgrounds of the residents.
- The lack of clear visitor protocols and the possibility of overnight weekend visits create further uncertainty and worries about constant disturbances.

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- While the programme reports an 85% success rate, what of the remaining 15%? It only takes one individual to walk up our driveway and put our family at risk. No one in their right mind would willingly raise a young family next to a facility housing legally restricted individuals—the safety risks are simply too great.
- A major concern is how these ten individuals will spend their days, especially given the small size and remote location of the site.
- Effective rehabilitation requires access to essential services, employment opportunities, and community support. The isolation of this site raises serious doubts about the programme's ability to safely and successfully reintegrate its residents into society.

In conclusion, we strongly believe that this proposed facility is incompatible with the rural nature of Waikite Valley and poses unacceptable risks to our family and the wider community. The location, supervision model, and isolation raise significant safety and operational concerns that cannot be overlooked. We urge decision-makers to consider the long-term wellbeing of local residents and reject this proposal in favour of more appropriate sites closer to essential services and support networks. Our priority is to protect our children's safety and maintain the peaceful, secure rural lifestyle we have chosen.

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