

1 October 2021

Richard Northey, Heamana o Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitematā

Cc: Phil Goff Te Koromatua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Jim Stabback Tumu Whakarae, Te Wananga o ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau, Karen Wilson, Te Akitai Waiohua and Ngarimu Blair, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

Tēnā koe Richard Northey

I am writing to advise that the Ministry of Culture and Heritage have taken damaging action against tikanga Māori at Mataharehare on 27 September 2021 and to seek an urgent review of Landowner approval granted to the Ministry on 7 December 2020.

Taking action to remove the Rāhui sign is totally in breach of tribal tikanga Māori.

With matters still before two select committee's this is an unacceptable breach of democracy. They are not the honourable actions of a Treaty Partner.

The attempt by the Ministry to challenge, undermine or breach the Rāhui placed on the whenua to protect the Tupuna Rākau by Kaumātua of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and sanctioned by the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Taumata, is completely unacceptable to all Māori across Tāmaki Makaurau.

Auckland Council has the authority to impose conditions on any consent or permission on any party for any purpose associated with Landowner approval, as set out below.

"The council will not be liable to any other party if, in its regulatory capacity, the council declines or imposes conditions on any consent or permission any party seeks for any purpose associated with this approval".

I am formally requesting that you impose the condition on the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and their contractors that they not commence any works on this whenua while the Rāhui remains in place. I further ask that you monitor the site and if this condition is breached you rescind Landowner Approval immediately. You will of course be aware that only those who lay a Rāhui can lift it.


Auckland City will be complicit in the breach of this Rāhui if you do not step in to ensure it is respected. I have copied this letter to the Mana Whenua Forum as this matter affects all Iwi in Tāmaki Makaurau.

This matter not only affects Mataharehare, but all Rāhui, both in place and to be placed. A precedent must not be set.

I do not need to remind you of the implications for all Māori of the Crown and Auckland City acting together to breach a Rāhui. What has been a peaceful protect, will escalate very quickly if calm heads do not prevail.

I attach a letter I wrote to the Prime Minister on Wednesday and await your urgent response.

Ngā manaakitanga



Dame Rangimarie Naida Glavish DNZM. JP
Chair, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
Chief Advisor – Tikanga Auckland and Waitemata DHBs
Long Serving Member Heritage NZ Pou Here Taonga