

Pirimia Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Bernadette Cavanagh, CEO Ministry of Culture and Heritage

Richard Northey, Chair Waitematā Local Board, and Board Members

Marama Royal, Chair Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust

Jim Stabback, CEO Auckland Council

11 October 2021

Tēnā koutou,

**Rāhui at Mataharehare/Dove Myer Robinson Park.**

We write to clarify what appears to be some misunderstanding in relation to the Rāhui that is in place at Mataharehare/Taurarua.

The Rāhui was sanctioned by the chair of the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei taumata, and then laid by Tautoko Witika of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, with support from Kaumātua Maurice Watene, Marsh Grey and Steve Phillips.

We attach imagery from the morning that the Rāhui was laid. (see below)

Kaumātua Tautoko Witika sought, and was given approval to place the Rāhui on the whenua by the appropriate tribal position (Chair of Taumata), prior to its placement. It was placed in accordance with tribal tikanga Māori. It was endorsed by other tribes who also have an interest in the protection of sacred resources, in accordance with kaitiakitanga and the role of acting mana whenua.

Subsequently, the matter was raised on 3 occasions with the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Taumata (the Executive and the group of elders that the executive serves). The Rāhui was formally acknowledged by the taumata (group of elders in consensus), the Chair of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Taumata (Danny Tumahai) the co-chair (Matt Maihi) and the Trust Board Chair (Marama Royal). Not once, was the validity of the raahui challenged in a cultural forum korero, in front of the elders of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. We attach meeting minutes and the transcript.

We trust this now satisfies those who have questioned the Rāhui, that not only was it laid appropriately, but it has also subsequently been sanctioned by the Taumata of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and by extension, the Trust. If the Trust Board wished to question the validity of the Rāhui, the time to have done that was at the taumata hui of March, April, May 2021, in front of the council of elders. Not only did no challenge occur, at all 3 hui, the group of elders were verbally supportive of the raahui.

Arguing publicly about this matter is not mana enhancing for any party, and in fact it is detrimental for all Māori across the Motu. Breaching of this Rāhui is a matter which has significant ramifications for Māoridom, especially if that breach is led by the Ministry responsible for protecting our culture.

It puts our hapū and tikanga Māori at risk, and calls into question the cultural competency of Manatū Taonga and the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Board.

We understand that an invitation to a hui was issued, with the hope that an appropriate resolution can be reached. We are deeply grateful for Kahurangi Dame Nadia Galvish and Tautoko Witika for their wisdom in this matter, and for reaching out to resolve matters respectfully.

Further video footage, photos, audio and documentation, supporting the raahui and its endorsed validity, can be made available upon request.

Ngā mihi

Maurice Watene



Steve Phillips



Matt Rua



APPENDICES





1.

Photos of the morning of 17 March 2021 showing kaumaatua Tautoko Witika, Maurice Waatene, Marsh Grey (who subsequently reinforced the validity of the raahui at the taumata hui of April 27 2021 , WITHOUT CHALLENGE from Marama Royal or any kaumaatua)

2. TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING NOTES OF TAUMATA HUI 27 APRIL 2021

ASPERSIONS CAST BY NWO CHAIR AND CHALLENGED BY NWO MEMBER, 27 APRIL, 2021

At the meeting of 27 April 2021, when interrogated as to why Marama was casting aspersions upon the rāhui, the korero captured and transcribed is;

MEMBER - "Yeah Marama, about the Rāhui, I've been Ngati whatua for 63 years now, I dont understand cos I was at (the placing of) the rāhui, and I'm much older than any of you from the trust board, and I'm just wondering what you're talking about, that it hasn't gone through?"

MARAMA " you have every right, I'm not doubting that at all, all I was saying to the taumata, was that Tautoko stood up last meeting and said that he was the one representing Ngati Whātua when he put the Rāhui on, that was all I said"

MEMBER - "well what's wrong with that ?"

MARAMA - "nothing , I'm just letting them know"

MEMBER - "well why do you guys have to be there?"

MARAMA - "I didnt say we have to be there"

MEMBER - "so it's on again?"

MARAMA - **"I never said it was off."**

OTHER KAUMĀTUA - "so the rāhui still stands!"

The chair of the taumata then proceeded to inform that he sanctioned the rāhui by saying ;

CHAIR - " look Tautoko, you're a kaumatua with us and you know what youre doing and you have my support"

### 3. MINUTES OF TAUMATA HUI 27 APRIL 2021

Showing that the council of elders, in consensus were supportive of the Raahui and state "THE RAAHUI STILL STANDS"

### 3.3 Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust

Presented by Marama Royal - Chair, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust

#### Erebus National Memorial

The Chair and Deputy Chair have met with the Taumata Executive to hear the position of the Taumata in relation to this kaupapa. It was asked that the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust send in writing a formal letter to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage requesting that they reconsider the scale of the memorial and also ask for further information around the Erebus whānau not supporting the monument at Taurarua. The letter has been sent under the guidance and mandate of the Taumata Executive.

As per the kōrero at the previous Taumata Hui by Tautoko Witika, a rāhui was put in place by himself, Rangī McLean and Martin Cooper. For clarity the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust did not initiate the rāhui and it was carried out by Tautoko Witika and those mentioned after speaking with Te Puna Tumahaī.

Marsh Grey: Raised concern regarding the rāhui put in place at Mataharehare by Tautoko Witika and questioned why the rāhui is now off because Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust were not present.

The rāhui still stands. Clarity was provided to the Taumata that the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust were not involved in the initiation of or placement of the rāhui.

Te Puna Tumahaī: Apology expressed to the Taumata. A phone call was received from Tautoko Witika seeking support. The location of the rāhui was misunderstood and support was given with the understanding that it was being placed at the Holy Sepulchre in Parnell.

Maurice Watene: History on the land at Mataharehare shared with the Taumata. Apihai Te Kawau sold 3000 acres of Mataharehare. What was left belonged to his son Te Hira. Te Hira's land at Mataharehare was succeeded by Kirihipina Pateora. The successor of Te Hira Pateora's land is unknown. Kirihipina Pateora's shares were succeeded by Wiremu Watene Tautari, husband of Kirihipina Pateora.

Steve Phillips: Raised the difficulty expressed by the Trust at the previous Taumata Hui to meet with Whaea Naida. Questioned raised around the invitation sent to Whaea Naida and recommendation put forward that the same invitation be extended to Whaea Naida by the Taumata and not the Trust. If it is agreed that the Taumata extend the invitation, a condition of that should be that a further hui, within two weeks, be arranged to take place the Mataharehare site in Parnell.

Te Puna Tumahaī: It's important that the Taumata know all the details before any meeting is arranged. It's not ideal that kuia and kaumātua attend a meeting without knowing all the detail and have a clear understanding of what is going on.

Steve Phillips: A request raised seeking clarification around the process that the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust took during a hui on the 9 November 2018 at the Bowling Club. A document was presented about this particular project asking for support. The Trust hui took place on Friday and soon after a letter from the Trust was sent supporting the location of this. Question raised about the Trust's knowledge at the time around the scale of the project and all the detailed information, including that of an arborist report about the Pohutukawa tree.