

29 September 2021

Pirimia Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Cc Nā Bernadette Cavanagh
Tunu Whakarae

Tēnā koe Pirimia

I write in response to your letter of 12 August 2021 and in response to the damaging action taken against tikanga Māori at Mataharehare on 27 September 2021.

You stated you remain committed to your comments at Waitangi for Māori to hold you and your government to account and yet when we do, we are ignored.

You have not responded to the concerns raised in my letter, because you are waiting for responses from others, yet on Monday you signal your intent to breach a Rāhui and bulldoze through your agenda, while matters are still before your Parliament?

Your government has failed to respond to concerns raised in my letters on several occasions:

- The Minister for Local Government has not responded to a letter sent over four months ago, raising concerns regarding the process undertaken by Local Government officials.
- The Māori Affairs Select Committee has not responded to concerns set out in March 2021 regarding the process in relation to all Māori.
- Your Ministry took over three months to provide information under OIA and refused to undertake an independent review of matters as it relates to mana whenua, even though requested and even though the Ministry's failings in this regard are clear.
- Your Ministry continues to refuse to meaningfully respond to my original letter of 4 March 2021, on matters that directly relate to the behaviour of the Crown in relation to its Treaty Partner.
- Margaret Brough is still waiting to hear from the Petitions Select Committee, dated 12 July 2021, regarding a petition of well over 15,000 New Zealanders.

Your Ministry has deliberately misled Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and the Waitematā Local Board. Critical information was withheld from the majority of decision makers, including yourself, throughout this flawed process. A process that has lacked integrity from the outset.

The support of Erebus families continues to be misrepresented by your Ministry and family members misinformed.

There has still been no cultural assessment of Te Hā from an appropriately qualified Māori Arborist.

Your Ministry have undertaken no assessment of the Tree's future growth and takes no responsibility for what could happen after the construction is completed.

The pākeha arborists approach to taonga and kaitiaki is clearly lacking as is their understanding of the pōhutukawa and in particular Te Hā.

On Monday of this week I learned of your intent to ignore a Rāhui and to drive your bulldozers through. No warning. No conversation. Taking action to remove the Rāhui sign is totally in breach of tribal tikanga.

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 your 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 the Motu.

When your contractors deliberately tore down the Rāhui sign and placed a construction notice in its place, your intent became clear.

So, with respect Pirimia, I am holding you to account as you asked me to do. I am holding all your Government to account.

Work on the memorial must stop immediately and an open hui on the whenua must occur to resolve this mess that your Ministry has created.

This structure cannot and will not be erected on this important historical site.

Ngā manaakitanga



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