

NGA KAITIAKI O PUKETAPU HAPU TRUST

8 Warre Street, Waitara
PO box 255, Waitara
Taranaki 4320



Friday 4th August 2023

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of Support for North Taranaki Visitor Centre Project

Ngā Kaitiaki o Puketapu Hapū Trust wish to express our full support for the proposed new North Taranaki Visitors Centre project on Maunga Taranaki. We acknowledge our engagement and involvement in the project's development and firmly endorse its implementation as it aligns with our shared commitment to preserving, promoting, and enhancing the cultural heritage of our rohe and Taranaki Maunga.

The North Taranaki Visitors Centre represents an exciting opportunity to create a space that honors the spiritual and ancestral significance of Taranaki Maunga while providing an engaging and educational experience for visitors. We commend the project team for their proactive approach in seeking our input, engaging with our hapū, and taking our cultural values and perspectives into consideration throughout the planning process.

The following points outline our support and engagement with the North Taranaki Visitors Centre project:

Cultural Significance: We acknowledge the project's emphasis on recognizing the cultural significance of Taranaki Maunga to Puketapu Hapū and the wider Māori community. The inclusion of design elements that reflect our ancestral connections, narratives, and spiritual beliefs is commendable and essential in preserving our cultural heritage.

Environmental Stewardship: We appreciate the project teams commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly design practices, reflecting Māori concepts of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) over our natural environment. The integration of environmentally responsible features aligns with our values and promotes a sense of responsibility towards the land.

Inclusive Design: The project team's dedication to creating an inclusive space that welcomes people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds is praiseworthy. We believe that an inclusive environment fosters a sense of unity and respect among visitors and encourages meaningful cultural exchanges.

Community Engagement: We acknowledge the efforts made by the project team in engaging with our hapū throughout the development process. The commitment to listening to our perspectives, values, and aspirations has been instrumental in shaping a project that resonates with our hapū.

Educational and Cultural Opportunities: We support the potential for educational programs and exhibits within the North Taranaki Visitors Centre, which will allow visitors to learn about the history, cultural significance, and environmental importance of Taranaki Maunga.

Economic and Social Benefits: We recognize the potential economic and social benefits the Visitors Centre can bring to our Hapū and the wider community. We believe that the project's success will contribute positively to the well-being and prosperity of our people.

Ngā Kaitiaki o Puketapu Hapū Trust wholeheartedly supports the consents application for the construction of the proposed North Taranaki Visitors Centre. We are excited to be part of this journey and look forward to the realisation of the new Visitors Centre as a testament to the unity between our Hapū and the wider community.

Should you require any further information or have any queries regarding our support for the project, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at puketapu.manager@gmail.com.

Nāku noa, nā,



Chairperson

Ngā Kaitiaki o Puketapu Hapū Trust