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Fast-Track Consenting Team
Environmental Protection Authority
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Tēnā koe

COVID 19 RECOVERY (FAST TRACK CONSENTING) – 46-48 HOSPITAL ROAD, BLENHEIM – PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Rangitāne have resided in Te Taihū (the Top of the South) for many generations since the arrival of our tupuna, Te Huataki, in the sixteenth century. In 2010, Rangitāne concluded negotiations for a comprehensive Deed of Settlement with the Crown, settling our long-standing grievances. Rangitāne has an extensive Area of Interest (set out in our Deed of Settlement), traversing a northwards journey through Kekerengu, Cape Campbell, Lake Grassmere, White Bluffs and Wairau Lagoons, extending northwards to Cape Lambert, northwest to d'Urville Island, encompassing Nelson and Waimea, and then following the Motupiko River to the Nelson Lakes (Rotorua and Rotorua), across to our southernmost boundary which follows the Clarence River to its mouth.

Rangitāne has been engaged in processes related to the site adjacent to Wairau Hospital (46-48 Hospital Road). In its own right, Rangitāne has led engagement with the Crown, which ultimately led to the acquisition of the land by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development via its Land for Housing programme. Rangitāne has engaged with ngā iwi o Te Taihū (on multiple occasions at Chief Executive/General Manager level) and is the lead iwi partner on the proposed development.

A fundamental objective of Rangitāne is to support the health and wellbeing of our whānau. Central to this is the provision of safe, warm, dry and affordable housing. The Marlborough region has experienced increased pressure in the housing market, and faster than anticipated population growth over the past three years. Whānau Māori experience worse housing outcomes than other demographics, this being evident through figures such as our Social Housing Register. As a Crown partner, and as an organisation which has whānau at its centre, Rangitāne sees itself as well positioned to support whānau with opportunities that enable them to access affordable housing. The proposed Hospital Road development gives

Rangitāne an opportunity to play a role in solving the housing challenges for our whānau and broader community, whilst also generating other outcomes such as cultural identity and footprint, employment outcomes and wellbeing outcomes.

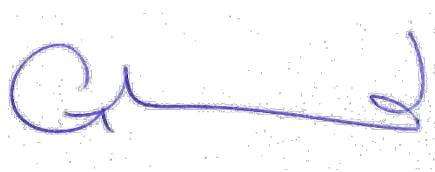
Extensive research and investigations have been undertaken in relation to the site. As a result, Rangitāne is confident that the site is suitable for the proposed development. The site is not subject to any known concerns in relation to cultural or ecological significance, and the site is already zoned (under the Marlborough Environment Plan) for urban development. The site is also adjacent to existing urban housing and the region's hospital. It has good infrastructure connections and close proximity to important community assets (including schools, early childhood education facilities, parks and reserves, the river and shopping centres).

Rangitāne is excited by the master planning work that it has undertaken to date. We have been careful to ensure that considerable thought and effort has gone into providing an affordable, functional, modern, pleasant, safe and community proposal. It is Rangitāne's views that the proposed development will provide significant community benefits and cultural wellbeing.

If consent for the proposed development is granted, Rangitāne will continue to prioritise employment of local companies and people for the physical development phase. We will also seek opportunities to partner with iwi Māori firms, with a social procurement lens applied.

Rangitāne records that it categorically supports the proposed development and is willing to discuss with and/or provide additional information to the Minister and Consent Authority should it be required.

Ngā manaakitanga, nā



Corey Hebbard
Kaiwhakahaere Matua (General Manager)
Rangitāne o Wairau Group