

25 July 2025

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RE: Waitākere Courthouse Fast-Track Application

Tēna koe [REDACTED],

I write on behalf of Te Kawerau ā Maki in relation to the fast-track application for the designation of the proposed new Waitākere Courthouse. This letter is in **support** of the application.

Te Kawerau are the tangata whenua iwi of Hikurangi (West Auckland). Te Kōpua (Henderson) is within our heartland and is where our Trust offices are located. Te Kawerau ā Maki entered into a Deed of Settlement with the Crown in 2014 that was enacted through the Te Kawerau ā Maki Claims Settlement Act 2015. Our settlement acknowledges this area as our heartland and includes a statutory acknowledgement over the Wai ō Pareira catchment in which the proposed Courthouse site is located.

We have engaged with the Ministry of Justice and its representatives on this matter since site feasibility began. We have also engaged with Auckland Council via their (recently disestablished) Eke Panuku – Auckland Development on the idea of a new Waitākere Courthouse as a keystone project within the 'Unlock Henderson' programme which seeks to drive sorely needed economic development within Henderson.

As the iwi of this area we are highly supportive of a new Waitākere Courthouse to service our community. The current facility is not fit for purpose, and a new courthouse would bring much needed civic status to Henderson and West Auckland. It would also greatly support improved placemaking and economic renewal of Henderson.

In February 2025 we undertook a high-level cultural report for the project site itself. We identified constraints including stormwater and two mature kauri trees within the building footprint, but also opportunities to address these and other matters. We have come to a position of support for the project occurring on the proposed site conditional on a design response that mitigates the overland flow path, supports our use of the two kauri on the site to be carved elements embedded within the building itself as means of mauri and mana of the whenua and of the new courthouse, and a commitment to work with us on cultural design elements to ensure the new courthouse carries appropriate mana and tikanga and reflects the rohe it sits within.

We look forward to continuing our work together on this important kaupapa.

Ngā Mihi,



Edward Ashby
CEO
Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust