

17 March 2026

s 9(2)(a)

Via emails 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a),

Consistent with my priorities, supporting opportunities that offer real economic benefit, while reestablishing our city as a premiere destination, is critical.

I am encouraged by your proposal, and I would like to provide my support for the concept of a tourism facility that includes a 180-room hotel, Ryokan, a luxury Japanese geothermal retreat (Onsen), spa, yoga and associated services.

It is my opinion that this is a unique proposition of significant scale and offers considerable economic benefits to both the region of Auckland and the wider New Zealand population. There is quite nothing like this offering on Waiheke Island.

Tourism remains one of New Zealand's most important economic sectors. However, Auckland's tourism economy has yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels and in Auckland there is a lot of room for growth in this sector. I am encouraged by this opportunity designed to establish a world-class wellness and hospitality destination on Waiheke Island, which is currently lacking any formal luxury hotel accommodation capable of supporting longer visitor stays and higher tourism expenditure from international visitors to New Zealand.

I am confident this project would complement Waiheke's existing wine, nature, and boutique tourism offer. I understand that as part of the process there will be substantial work to be presented, but in principle I support this application.

Nau mai, Haere mai.

Yours sincerely,



Wayne Brown
Mayor of Auckland

s 9(2)(a)

Director
Media Blanco

29 October 2025

Re: Support for Sakura Onsen, Waiheke

I am writing to outline the Auckland Council - Economic Development Unit support for the development of the Sakura Onsen Hotel at 32 Tiri Road Oneroa, Waiheke. The Auckland Council - Economic Development Unit is Auckland's economic development division which is responsible for attracting business and investment into the Auckland region.

We understand that you and a consortium of investors are looking to develop master planned complex consisting of a 180 room hotel, plus ten Ryokan style luxury villas, private hot pools plus one large pool on Waiheke. The hotel would be operated by a professional hotel operator. In addition, you are planning for a function space on site to cater to approximately 300 guests. Consenting and construction is envisaged to be completed in approximately 3.5 years.

The Auckland Council - Economic Development Unit and our Investment team are well positioned to directly support this project for the following reasons:

- To enhance the visitor experience in the region which will help entice both domestic and international visitors.
- To provide quality accommodation of scale that is lacking on Waiheke.
- To provide a conference facility of scale in the region.
- The provision of a number of quality jobs through its construction and staff to run and support the complex.
- The project cost which is approximately a \$500M investment into the region.
- The Sakura Onsen would also provide support to all other attractions, businesses and operators in Waiheke.

Once again, we are pleased to support the establishment of the Sakura Onsen Waiheke, and we look forward to continuing to work together to support its development and growth.

Ngā mihi nui,



Marissa Brindley
Head of Investment

Economic Development Office