

Hon Kiritapu Allan, Minister for Regional Development
 Hon Andrew Little, Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
 Hon Willow-Jean Prime, Minister of Conservation
 CC: Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations Te Arawhiti

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited – Summary of iwi/hapū engagement hui and next steps

Date	19 June 2023	File reference	X: OTS-Tongariro National Park- Official Correspondence
Priority	High	Report Number	2022/2023 – 286

Action Sought

Timeframe/Deadline

<p>Note the update from engagement hui held with iwi and hapū between 17-20 June in relation to Ruapehu Alpine Lifts matters; and</p> <p>Sign the letters to iwi/hapū recognising the flaws in recent engagement, noting matters discussed and agreed at hui and advising of next steps in relation to the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts matters.</p>	19 June 2023
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Contacts for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
		(work)	(a/h)	
Lil Anderson	Tumu Whakarae, Chief Executive The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti			✓
Robert Pigou	Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment			
Marie Long	Deputy Chief Executive, Department of Conservation			

s9(2)(a)

Purpose

1. This briefing provides Ministers with:
 - i) A summary of the iwi/hapū engagement hui that took place over 17-20 June in relation to the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (**RAL**) matter; and
 - ii) individual letters on Minister Allen's letterhead for your signature (attached as **Appendix A**) to each iwi and hapū group, recording Crown undertakings made to individual iwi or hapū, collective Crown proposals across the groupings, and noting that a record of the hui and other documents will be forwarded separately.

Background

1. Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (**RAL**) operated the Whakapapa and Tūroa Ski Areas on Mt Ruapehu under concessions issued by the Minister of Conservation, and owns the assets of the two ski areas. RAL entered Voluntary Administration on 11 October 2022, owing credits an estimated \$45 million at the time; including \$15 million in loans from the Crown, approximately \$13 million to ANZ Bank, and \$14 million to various community trusts, iwi organisations and local government authorities (the Bondholders). Further, RAL have a contingent debt to the Crown to “make good” the mountain by removing all infrastructure if they stop operating – this has been valued at between \$47 million and \$88 million.
2. The Crown is committed to collective negotiations with the iwi with interests in Tongariro National Park (including Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Uenuku/Ngāti Tamahaki/Ngāti Tamakana, and Ngāti Hāua). On this basis, Te Arawhiti advised that the Crown should engage broadly with all iwi as it seeks a solution in respect of the ski-fields.
3. Iwi have the longest association and connection with the land comprising the national park, and the associated ski-fields, and consider the maunga their tupuna. Iwi therefore have rights and responsibilities towards, and interests in, the ongoing care and protection of the maunga above those of the general public.
4. On 22 May Cabinet considered the future of the RAL ski field assets and options for government support [CAB-23-MIN-0192 refers]. Cabinet agreed to a set of parameters for Kānoa – Regional Development & Investment Unit – in negotiating with parties who had expressed an interest in purchasing the assets.
5. On 12 June, Cabinet agreed that Whakapapa Holdings and Pure Tūroa Holdings Limited would take over ski operations at Mt Ruapehu. Cabinet also agreed that Te Arawhiti, Kānoa and the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) would work closely with iwi and hapū to ensure their interests and relationships with Ruapehu are addressed and they are comfortable with the process and outcome.
6. On 13 June, the RAL Voluntary Administrators (**PWC**) called a Watershed meeting for 20 June, where creditors will be invited to vote on the future of RAL. In parallel, the DOC is also required to transfer RAL's concessions to operate on the mountain to the new entities. In order to transfer the concessions, the Minister of Conservation must make a statutory decision to do so.

7. Following a meeting between Minister Allan, officials from Te Arawhiti, DOC and Ministry of Business Innovation, and Employment (**MBIE**) and hapū/iwi on the evening of 12 June 2023, a series of engagement hui were scheduled between 17 and 20 June. The purpose of these hui is to hear and understand in more detail, the views of iwi/hāpu on both the new operators of the ski fields and the transfer of the existing DOC concessions from RAL to the new entities.
8. Crown officials led by the Chief Executive of The Office for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and including the Chief Executive, MBIE including the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Kanoa and Deputy Chief Executive of DOC and other senior officials from these agencies organised and attended the hui.

Hapū and Iwi engagement hui - summaries

9. Engagement hui were held with the following groups:
 - Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa
 - Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro
 - Patutokotoko
 - Te Kāhui o Paerangi - Ngāti Rangī tribal rūnanga
 - Te Korowai o Wainuiārua
 - Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust
 - Ta Tumu Te Heuheu and the Office of the Ariki (to be held on 20 June)
10. A summary of each hui and key actions follows. Detailed notes are available should you require them and these will be forwarded to each of the iwi/hāpu.

Common themes from the hui:

11. Concerns raised:

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

11.1. [REDACTED] Iwi/hapū expressed their deep distrust of the Crown and its processes, noting the current issue and insufficient time they have been given to engage as an example of why the lack of trust continues. Those with existing Treaty settlements noted that they have entered into these settlements in good faith and compromised much in doing so, and consider that the Crown has not upheld its obligations and Treaty promises. Finally, some questioned the Crown's commitments to entering into true partnerships with iwi/hapū, and again used the current issue of RAL as an example of how this is not occurring.

Out of scope

11.2. [REDACTED]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

Key messages and actions from each Hui

s9(2)(a) 12. **Saturday, 17 June at 10.00am - Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa:** [Redacted]

s9(2)(g)(i)
s9(2)(ba)(i) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scop [Redacted]

s9(2)(a) 14. **Saturday, 17 June at 12.00pm - Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo:** [Redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

■ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

e. **Government responses/commitments made:** officials acknowledged and apologised for not engaging with the group earlier in the process, and offered to meeting again to discuss how the Crown will ensure they are more closely involved in decisions in the future. [Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted] Officials also agreed that a clause could be included in the concession alongside a commitment made to Ngāti Hikairo to review the concessions within one year of them being transferred to the new operators. This will enable Ngāti Hikairo to create the space for conversations about what they want to see from the concession operators and provide for the 'blank sheet of paper'. It was

explained that the concession may still proceed as there was little time to make the comprehensive changes to the relationship with the operators that Ngāti Hikairo were seeking. However there would be time built into the concession and other relationship documents that would provide the space for Ngāti Hikairo, the proposed operators and the Crown to have a deeper conversation.

15. **Saturday, 17 June at 3.00pm – Patutokotoko:** [Redacted]

s9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

e. **Government responses/commitments made:** officials acknowledged and apologised for not engaging with the group earlier in the process, [Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

16. **Sunday, 18 June at 1.00pm - Te Kāhui o Paeranqi - Ngāti Ranqi tribal rūnanga:**

s9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Crown goes'. A commitment was made to provide a copy of the relevant Cabinet paper. MBIE officials advised both proposed operators had already indicated they would be willing to agree to remits 1 to 3. DOC officials committed to the removal of redundant infrastructure on the ski fields through Cabinets agreement around the 'make good' provisions, and to develop a plan with iwi to remove existing infrastructure as it becomes redundant. DOC officials discussed the changes proposed to the concessions in detail and committed to providing further detail about the proposed changes to the concessions for Ngati Rangi to consider. A commitment was made to provide a map of existing infrastructure by MBIE.

s9(2)(a) 17. Monday, 19 June at 9.30am - Te Korowai o te Wainuiārua: [redacted]
[redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

b. **Government responses/commitments made:** officials acknowledged and apologised for not engaging with the group earlier in the process. In particular, DOC acknowledged that the Tongariro National Park Management Plan only describes Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Rangi interests in Tongariro National Park. [redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
[redacted]

s9(2)(a) 18. Monday, 19 June at 12.00pm - Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust: [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

d. **Government responses/commitments made:** officials acknowledged and apologised for not engaging with Ngāti Hāua earlier in the process. DOC committed to working with Te Arawhiti to consider how Ngāti Hāua's desire for a relationship with the operators could be addressed through the concession

s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

21.4. The letters will also respond to specific issues raised by each iwi and hapū as noted above.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Recommendations

22. It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** senior Crown officials of The Office for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; and Department of Conservation held hui with each of the iwi and hapū groupings between 17-20 June 2023;
- b) **sign** the attached letters at **Appendix A** to the following groups who met with Crown officials between 17-20 June 2023:
 - Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa
 - Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro
 - Patutokotoko
 - Te Kāhui o Paerangi - Ngāti Rangi tribal rūnanga (via Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust)
 - Te Korowai o Wainuiārua
 - Ngāti Hāua
- c) **Note** that these letters will need to be sent on the morning of 20 June before the Watershed meeting is held to provide certainty on these matters;

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

- e) **Note** that a separate briefing will be provided in relation to the meeting to be held with Ta Tumu Te Heuheu on 20 June at 9.00am along with a proposed letter in response to matters raised in his 8 June email.
- f) **Forward** a copy of this report to Hon Kelvin Davis (note that this has been copied to Minister Davis' office given that Te Arawhiti led the engagement process and the time constraints)

Nāku noa, nā

Lil Anderson
Tumu Whakarae

NOTED /
 Hon Kelvin Davis Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Date: 20 / 06 / 2023
NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
Hon Kiritapu Allan Minister for Regional Development
Date: / /
NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
Hon Andrew Little Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Date: / /
NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
Hon Willow-Jean Prime Minister of Conservation
Date: / /

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Letters to iwi and hapu based on hui held from 17-20 June 2023

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Chair
Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust

s9(2)(a) **By email:** [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Whetu

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā Iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 18 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your people the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item 1]
- [Redacted list item 2]
- [Redacted list item 3]
- [Redacted list item 4]
- [Redacted list item 5]

Specific commitments to Ngāti Rangī

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block containing multiple paragraphs of blacked-out content]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your people are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

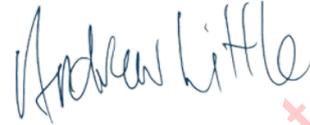
We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Kiritapu Allan

Minister for Regional Development

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Chair
Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust

s9(2)(a) **By email:** [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Graham

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā I ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā Iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 19 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand a number of you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your people the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item 1]
- [Redacted list item 2]
- [Redacted list item 3]
- [Redacted list item 4]
- [Redacted list item 5]

Specific commitments to Ngāti Hāua

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item 1]
- [Redacted list item 2]
- [Redacted list item 3]

[Redacted text block]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your people are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kiritapu Allan

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Regional Development

Minister of Conservation

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Cc:

- Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
- Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
- Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
- Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
- Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
- Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai



s9(2)(a)

██████████
Patutokotoko

s9(2)(a)

By email: ██████████

Tēnā koe Hayden

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā Iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 17 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your whānau as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and Patutokotoko as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and Patutokotoko the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Specific commitments to Patutokotoko

In addition to the general commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

Out of scope

[Redacted]

Next steps

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and Patutokotoko are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Kiritapu Allan

Minister for Regional Development

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

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s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Chair
Te Korowai o Wainuiārua

s9(2)(a) **By email:** Chair@uenuku.iwi.nz, [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Aiden

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā Iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 19 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand a number of you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your people the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

s9(2)(ba)(i) [Redacted]

s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Specific commitments to Te Korowai o Wainuiārua

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

s9(2)(ba)(i) [Redacted]
s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Next steps

Out of scope [Redacted]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your people are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kiritapu Allan

**Minister for Regional
Development**

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for Treaty of
Waitangi Negotiations**

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Chair

Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa Trust

s9(2)(a)

By email: [REDACTED] patai@tknt.maori.nz

Tēnā koe Wiari

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā Iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 17 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters have been flawed and we apologise for the impact this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand you have already formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your people the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item 1]
- [Redacted list item 2]
- [Redacted list item 3]
- [Redacted list item 4]
- [Redacted list item 5]
- [Redacted list item 6]

Specific commitments to Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your people are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Kiritapu Allan

Minister for Regional Development

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

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s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Chair
Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro Trust

s9(2)(a) **By email** [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Huria

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā Iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 17 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your hapū as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing matters that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand a number of you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your hapū the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item 1]
- [Redacted list item 2]
- [Redacted list item 3]
- [Redacted list item 4]
- [Redacted list item 5]
- [Redacted list item 6]

Specific commitments to Ngāti Hikairo

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item 1]
- [Redacted list item 2]
- [Redacted list item 3]
- [Redacted list item 4]
- [Redacted list item 5]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your hapū are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kiritapu Allan

**Minister for Regional
Development**

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for Treaty of
Waitangi Negotiations**

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

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Hon Kiritapu Allan, Minister for Regional Development
 Hon Andrew Little, Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
 Hon Willow-Jean Prime, Minister of Conservation
 Cc: Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited – Summary of hui with Te Ariki Tā Tumu

Date	20 June 2023	File reference	X: OTS-Tongariro National Park- Official Correspondence
Priority	High	Report Number	2022/2023 - 310

Action Sought

Timeframe/Deadline

<p>Note the update from the hui held with Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu on 20 June regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts matters;</p> <p>Note you will be briefed separately on the outcomes of the Watershed meeting that will take place on 20 June; and</p> <p>Sign the letter to Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu on next steps in relation to the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited matter.</p>	20 June 2023
--	--------------

Contacts for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
		(work)	(a/h)	
Lil Anderson	Tumu Whakarae, Chief Executive The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti			✓
Robert Pigou	Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment			
Marie Long	Deputy Chief Executive, Department of Conservation			

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with:
 - i) A summary of the hui with Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu (Tā Tumu) on 20 June regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited matters; and
 - ii) a letter (attached as **Appendix One**) to Tā Tumu.

Background

1. Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (**RAL**) operated the Whakapapa and Tūroa Ski Areas on Mt Ruapehu under concessions issued by the Minister of Conservation, and owns the assets of the two ski areas. RAL entered Voluntary Administration on 11 October 2022, owing creditors an estimated \$45 million at the time; including \$15 million in loans from the Crown, approximately \$13 million to ANZ Bank, and \$14 million to various community trusts, iwi organisations and local government authorities (the Bondholders). Further, RAL have a contingent debt to the Crown to “make good” the mountain by removing all infrastructure if they stop operating – this has been valued at between \$47 million and \$88 million.
2. The Crown is committed to collective negotiations with the iwi with interests in Tongariro National Park (including Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Uenuku/Ngāti Tamahaki/Ngāti Tamakana, and Ngāti Hāua). On this basis, Te Arawhiti advised that the Crown should engage broadly with all iwi as it seeks a solution in respect of the ski-fields.
3. Iwi have the longest association and connection with the land comprising the national park (and as a consequence, the associated ski-fields) and consider the maunga a tupuna. Iwi therefore have rights and responsibilities towards, and interests in, the ongoing care and protection of the maunga above those of the general public.
4. On 22 May Cabinet considered the future of the RAL ski field assets and options for government support [CAB-23-MIN-0192 refers]. Cabinet agreed to a set of parameters for Kānoa – Regional Development & Investment Unit – in negotiating with parties who had expressed an interest in purchasing the assets.
5. On 12 June, Cabinet agreed that Whakapapa Holdings and Pure Tūroa Holdings Limited would take over ski operations at Mt Ruapehu. Cabinet also agreed that Te Arawhiti, Kānoa and the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) would work closely with iwi and hapū to ensure their interests and relationships with Ruapehu are addressed and they are comfortable with the process and outcome.
6. On 13 June, the RAL Voluntary Administrators (**PWC**) called a Watershed meeting for 20 June, where creditors will be invited to vote on the future of RAL. In parallel, the DOC is also required to transfer RAL’s concessions to operate on the mountain to the new entities. In order to transfer the concessions, the Minister of Conservation must make a statutory decision to do so.
7. Following a meeting between Minister Allan, officials from Te Arawhiti, DOC and Ministry of Business Innovation, and Employment (**MBIE**) and hapū/iwi on the

evening of 12 June, a series of engagement hui were scheduled between 17 and 19 June. The purpose of the hui was to hear and understand in more detail, the views of hapū/iwi on both the new operators of the ski fields and the transfer of the existing DOC concessions from RAL to the new entities. Senior Crown officials of the Office for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, MBIE, DOC attended the hui.

- 8. On 19 June, you were briefed on the outcome of the engagement process referred above, and on 20 June letters were sent in advance of the Watershed meeting.
- 9. You will be briefed separately on the outcomes of the Watershed meeting.

Summary of hui with Tā Tumu

s9(2)(a) 10. On 20 June, Lil Anderson (Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti) and Damian Coutts (Regional Director, Te Papa Atawhai) met with Tā Tumu and [REDACTED] in Turangi.

s9(2)(a) 11. At the hui, Tā Tumu and [REDACTED] outlined:

a. Frustration and disappointment at the lack of engagement by the Crown regarding RAL. Ms Anderson reiterated the Crown's apology regarding the engagement to date.

b. Their primary focus is protection of the maunga, in particular its cultural significance (both in terms of whakapapa and as a burial site of significant tupuna on the summit). [REDACTED]

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(a) 13. Regarding RAL, Tā Tumu and [REDACTED]:

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

a. [REDACTED]

s9(2)(b)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(b)(ii)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

14. We indicated that we would relay all this with urgency following the hui and would respond as soon as were able.
15. Following the hui with Tā Tumu, Ms Anderson updated Minister Allan and Minister Little and Mr Coutts informed Minister Prime's office.
16. We recommend you consider the attached letter to Tā Tumu (**Appendix One**). Following the outcomes of the Watershed meeting, we may update the draft letter for your further consideration.

Next steps

17. We will work with Minister Little's office to organise the requested hui with Tā Tumu.
18. Following the Watershed meeting, we will brief Minister's in relation to the ongoing operation of the ski-fields and the impact of the renewed 2022 proposal from Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

Recommendations

20. It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** senior officials from Te Arawhiti and Te Papa Atawhai met with Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu (Tā Tumu) regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts matters on 20 June 2023;
- b) **note** you will be briefed separately on the outcomes of the Watershed meeting taking place on 20 June;
- c) **consider** the attached letter to Tā Tumu (**Appendix One**); and
- d) **note** the letter may be updated following the outcome of the Watershed meeting on 20 June.

Nāku noa, nā

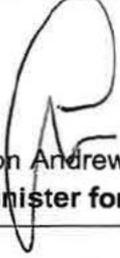


Lil Anderson
Tumu Whakarae
The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon Kiritapu Allan Minister for Regional Development
Date: / /
NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
Hon Andrew Little Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Date: / /
NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Hon Willow-Jean Prime Minister of Conservation
Date: 22 / 06 / 2023
NOTED /

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon Kiritapu Allan Minister for Regional Development
Date: / /
NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Hon Andrew Little Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Date: 22 / 6 / 23
NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
Hon Willow-Jean Prime Minister of Conservation
Date: / /
NOTED /

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Draft letter to Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu

By email: patai@tuwharetoa.iwi.nz

Tēnā koe e Te Ariki Tā Tumu

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Lil Anderson (Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti) and Damian Coutts (Regional Director, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai)), on 20 June at your offices in Tūrangi to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the proposed transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently. We know that Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Summary of 20 June hui

When you met with Ms Anderson and Mr Coutts, you reiterated messages given to Mr Coutts via email on 8 June, where you outlined your overarching frustration with the processes surrounding RAL in voluntary administration and the lack of attention the Crown has paid to the integral relationship between Ngāti Tūwharetoa and your tupuna maunga.

You also expressed specific frustration and disappointment at the lack of engagement by the Crown regarding RAL. You noted that your primary focus is the ongoing protection of the maunga, with a focus on its cultural significance.

s9(2)(j)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scop

[Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

Regarding RAL, you noted:

s9(2)(j)

- [Redacted]

s9(2)(b)(ii)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted]

We are expecting advice arising out of the Watershed meeting on 20 June. That advice will canvass suggested next steps in relation to the ongoing ski-field operations on the maunga [Redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

We have copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti, the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister for Regional
Development

Hon Andrew Little
Minister for Treaty of
Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Minister of Conservation

Cc:

Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Carolyn Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

Hon Kiritapu Allan, Minister for Regional Development
 Hon Andrew Little, Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
 Hon Willow-Jean Prime, Minister of Conservation
 CC: Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited – Summary of iwi/hapū engagement hui and next steps

Date	29 June 2023	File reference	X: OTS-Tongariro National Park- Official Correspondence
Priority	High	Report Number	2022/2023 - 294

Action Sought

Timeframe/Deadline

<p>Note the update from hui held with iwi between 27-29 June following Cabinet consideration on 26 June regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts matters; and</p> <p>Sign the letters to iwi/hapū following up on the hui and advising of next steps in relation to the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited matter.</p>	5 July 2023
--	-------------

Contacts for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
		(work)	(a/h)	
Lil Anderson	Tumu Whakarae, Chief Executive The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti			✓
Robert Pigou	Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment			
Marie Long	Deputy Chief Executive, Department of Conservation			

s9(2)(a)

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with:
 - i) a summary of the iwi engagement hui that took place over 27-29 June following Cabinet consideration on 26 June regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) matters; and
 - ii) attaches individual letters (attached as **Appendix A**) to each iwi grouping, recording Cabinet decisions, commitments made to iwi (if any) and summarising next steps in relation to the liquidation and concessions processes.

Background

1. RAL operated the Whakapapa and Tūroa Ski Areas on Mt Ruapehu under concessions issued by the Minister of Conservation and owns the assets of the two ski areas. RAL entered Voluntary Administration on 11 October 2022 and, due to a failure of creditors to reach agreement on next steps at the Watershed meeting on 20 June, was placed into liquidation on 21 June.

2. You have been briefed on RAL matters over the past two weeks:

- a. On 19 June, regarding:

- 2.1.1. the outcome of the engagement process with relevant hapū/iwi between 17 and 19 June to understand their views on the proposed two operators and the transfer of the existing concessions from RAL to the new entities, and

- 2.1.2. attaching follow up letters from Ministers Allan, Little and Prime to the relevant hapū/iwi sent in advance of the Watershed meeting;

- b. On 20 June, you were briefed on the outcome of a hui with Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu, [REDACTED]

- c. On 21 June, you were briefed on the options available following the vote at the Watershed meeting, including in relation to the proposal from Tā Tumu Te Heuheu that was formally tabled with Ministers following 20 June;

3. [REDACTED]

4. On 26 June, Cabinet agreed to provide up to an additional \$5 million loan to the liquidator of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts to enable the 2023 ski season to proceed.

5. Immediately following the public announcement, officials based themselves in Turangi and re-engaged with hapū/iwi from 27 to 29 June. This is because it was important that iwi did not feel like there was a void of engagement or lack of

information. The Crown team was led by the Chief Executive of The Office for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti; the Deputy Chief Executive of Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (**MBIE**) and Director of Kānoa; Deputy Chief Executive and the Deputy Director-General, National Operations and Regulatory Services: Department of Conservation (**DOC**); and senior officials from these agencies. The aim was to:

- a. provide reassurance and commit to a longer process of engagement;
 - b. ensure that the groups' have all the information necessary to be fully informed, including in relation to the future concessions process;
 - c. understand groups' initial views on the proposal from Tūwharetoa; and
 - d. understand what other support the groups may require through the next stages.
6. At the hui Crown officials provided the following information:
- a. Cabinet approved \$5 million for the liquidator to operate the ski field over the 2023 ski season;
 - b. that the Crown was unaware of the Tūwharetoa proposal when they last met with the groups from 17 to 19 June and only became aware of that proposal on the morning of the Watershed meeting on 20 June;
 - c. that a formal expression of interest from Tā Tumu Te Heuheu was received on 21 June, which Ministers decided in good faith to consider given the earlier November 2022 expression of interest, and that Tūwharetoa would need at least several weeks to complete their due diligence before submitting a fulsome proposal;
 - d. in addition to the Tūwharetoa proposal, the two previous proposals (from Whakapapa Holdings Limited and Pure Turoa) remained live for consideration;
 - e. Cabinet's decision has enabled more time for consideration of the transfer of RAL's concessions – because the liquidator can continue to trade under the existing concession, provided trade is conducted for the purpose of preparing RAL for sale; and

s9(2)(g)(i)

f. [REDACTED]

Hapū and Iwi engagement hui - summaries

7. Engagement hui were held with the following groups:
- Te Korowai o Wainuiārua (27 June);
 - Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust (27 June);
 - Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu (27 June); and
 - Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa (29 June).

8. A summary of each hui and key actions follows.

9. **Te Korowai o te Wainuiārua (Te Korowai):** [Redacted]

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

i. **Government responses/commitments made:**

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

Out of scope

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

b. Regarding the concession for the future ski fields operator/s, DOC noted the decisions following 21 June have enabled more time to get the concession outcome and process right. [Redacted]

s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted] DOC now consider the concession will need to be publicly notified, noting timeframes are not limitless as they are tied to the liquidation process. DOC do not have much detail on the revived Tūwharetoa proposal and had not yet engaged with them.

s9(2)(g)(i)

c. Noted the language [Redacted] used is about keeping the mountain for all of the iwi, keeping Ruapehu whole, and providing the opportunity for other iwi to be part of this.

Out of scope

d. [Redacted]

s9(2)(b)(ii)

- [Redacted]

s9(2)(a)

10. Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust: [Redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s9(2)(b)(ii)

[Redacted]

c. **Government responses/commitments made:**

i. MBIE stepped through the due diligence process that would be required, including the need for Tūwharetoa to obtain external advice, and what information and support is already available from MBIE; and

s9(2)(b)(ii)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

ii. [Redacted]

s9(2)(a)

12. **Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Te Kotahitanga):** [Redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

i. **Government responses/commitments made:**

s9(2)(g)(i)

i. [Redacted]

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s9(2)(g)(i)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Groups that did not meet with officials

13. The Ngāti Rangī tribal rūnanga (Te Kāhui o Paerangi) responded to the meeting invitation, noting that they didn't feel a need to meet, seeking further written information, clarification on funding support and indicating they would talk directly with Tūwharetoa.

Out of scope

14. [REDACTED]

15. Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro requested to meet at a time when officials were no longer in Turangi. However, Te Kotahitanga delegates of Ngāti Hikairo attended the hui on 29 June.

Proposed next steps

16. We recommend that a letter from Ministers Allan, Little and Prime be sent to follow up the hui with each iwi. Although we did not meet with Ngāti Rangī, we recommend they are sent the same information as the other iwi to ensure they remain informed of the next steps.

17. The letters:
- a. confirm Cabinet decisions;
 - b. highlight any specific commitments made at each hui; and
 - c. outline next steps in relation to the liquidation and concessions processes.

18. We do not consider that a letter is required to Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu as the nature of the discussion was different from those with iwi.

Recommendations

19. It is recommended that you:

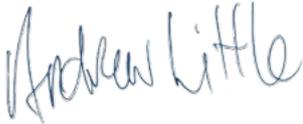
- a) **note** senior Crown officials of The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti; the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; and Department of Conservation offered to meet with each of the iwi and hapū groupings between 27-29 June 2023, following Cabinet's 26 June decision to provide funding to the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts liquidator to continue ski field operations starting on 1 July 2023;
- b) **note** Patutokotoko, and Ngāti Rangi did not seek further engagement with Crown officials at this time;
- c) **sign** the attached letters in Appendix A to groups that were invited to meet between 27-29 June 2023:
 - Te Korowai o Wainuiārua;
 - Ngāti Hāua;
 - Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa – inclusive of Te Kotahitanga delegates of Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro; and
 - Te Kāhui o Paerangi - Ngāti Rangi tribal rūnanga (via Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust).

- d) **note** that senior Crown officials met with Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu [REDACTED]

Nāku noa, nā



Lil Anderson
Tumu Whakarae
The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti

NOTED /
 Hon Kelvin Davis Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Date: / /
NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Hon Kiritapu Allan Minister for Regional Development
Date: / /
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Hon Andrew Little Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Date: 2 / 7 / 23
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Hon Willow-Jean Prime Minister of Conservation
Date: 4 / 7 / 23

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Appendix A: Draft Letters to iwi entities met from 26-29 June 2023

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]
Chair
Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa Trust

s9(2)(a)

By email: [REDACTED] patai@tknt.maori.nz

Tēnā koe Wiari

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts: Next steps regarding liquidation and concessions processes

Thank you for taking the time to again meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (**Te Papa Atawhai**), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (**MBIE**) on 29 June to discuss the 26 June Cabinet decisions regarding the continued operations of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (**RAL**), and the next steps in relation to the liquidation and concessions processes.

26 June Cabinet decisions

As you know, on 26 June, Cabinet agreed to provide up to an additional \$5 million to the liquidator of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts to enable the 2023 ski season to proceed. This allows more time to develop a sustainable solution.

Following the Watershed hui on 20 June, there are now three expressions of interest: Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu on behalf of Tūwharetoa, Whakapapa Holdings Limited and Pure Turoa Limited.

All the expressions of interest are being considered in relation to Government support, and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (**MBIE**) is leading the engagement with all the bidders to determine the best outcome for stakeholders (including the RAL creditors and the Crown). However, the final decision rests with the RAL liquidator.

As you will now be aware, final decisions on the transfer of the RAL concessions are not possible by 1 July. However, the liquidator can continue to operate under the existing concessions until such time as a new operator or operators take over.

Relatedly but separately, Te Papa Atawhai is currently assessing the timeframes for the concessions process, noting its Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities under s4 of the Conservation Act 1987. While there is more time than the process discussed two weeks ago, it remains important to move this work along relatively quickly.

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(g)(i)

Follow up from engagement

Te Arawhiti will provide you with a formal record of the meeting you had with officials. We understand some specific undertakings were also made to you.

Out of scope

[Redacted]

Te Papa Atawhai and Te Arawhiti agreed to work with Te Kotahitanga to design a process for engagement with iwi and hapū.

Next steps

We recognise the significant pressure that the RAL processes have placed you under. We reiterate our commitment for our agencies to work closely with you at every step through the next stages. Our respective Chief Executives are again copied into this letter.

Firstly, MBIE will keep you informed as it works alongside the liquidator to finalise the process. We have been advised that this process is likely to take approximately 6-8 weeks.

s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

We wish you all well in your discussions.

Nā mātou

Hon Kiritapu Allan

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Regional Development

Minister of Conservation

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Cc:

- Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
- Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
- Carolyn Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
- Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]
Chair
Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust

s9(2)(a)

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Whetu

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts: Next steps regarding liquidation and concessions processes

We are writing to follow up Cabinet decisions of 26 June regarding the continued operations of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL), and the next steps in relation to the liquidation and concessions processes.

26 June Cabinet decisions

As you know, on 26 June, Cabinet agreed to provide up to an additional \$5 million to the liquidator of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts to enable the 2023 ski season to proceed. This allows more time to develop a sustainable solution.

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All the expressions of interest are being considered in relation to Government support, and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is leading the engagement with all the bidders to determine the best outcome for stakeholders (including the RAL creditors and the Crown). However, the final decision rests with the RAL liquidator.

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Relatedly but separately, Te Papa Atawhai is currently assessing the timeframes for the concessions process, noting its Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities under s4 of the Conservation Act 1987. While there is more time than the process discussed two weeks ago, it remains important to move this work along relatively quickly.

s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

Next steps

We recognise the significant pressure that the RAL processes have placed you under. We reiterate our commitment for our agencies to work closely with you at every step through the next stages. Our respective Chief Executives are again copied into this letter.

Firstly, MBIE will keep you informed as it works alongside the liquidator to finalise the process. We have been advised that this process is likely to take approximately 6-8 weeks.

s9(2)(g)(i)



We wish you all well in your discussions.

Nā mātou

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation

Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Kiritapu Allan

Minister for Regional Development

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Carolyn Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Chair

Te Korowai o Wainuiārua

s9(2)(a)

By email: Chair@uenuku.iwi.nz [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Aiden

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts: Next steps regarding liquidation and concessions processes

Thank you for your letter of 26 June raising concerns over the processes relating to Rupehu Alpine Lifts. We acknowledge this kaupapa has been difficult. We acknowledge also the words you have noted from the Deed of Settlement that Te Korowai Wainuiārua and the Crown are working towards signing on 29 July. Those words express building a new relationship based on respect, trust, and the principles of te Tiriti/the Treaty between ourselves and future generations. That intent holds and must be the measure of our relationship going forward.

Thank you also for taking the time to again meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (**Te Papa Atawhai**), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (**MBIE**) on 27 June to discuss the 26 June Cabinet decisions regarding the continued operations of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (**RAL**), and the next steps in relation to the liquidation and concessions processes.

26 June Cabinet decisions

As you know, on 26 June, Cabinet agreed to provide up to an additional \$5 million to the liquidator of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts to enable the 2023 ski season to proceed. This allows more time to develop a sustainable solution.

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Relatedly but separately, Te Papa Atawhai is currently assessing the timeframes for the concessions process, noting its Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities under s4 of the

Conservation Act 1987. While there is more time than the process discussed two weeks ago, it remains important to move this work along relatively quickly.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Follow up from engagement

Te Arawhiti will provide you with a formal record of the meeting you had with officials. We understand some specific undertakings were also made to you.

Out of scope

Next steps

We recognise the significant pressure that the RAL processes have placed you under. We reiterate our commitment for our agencies to work closely with you at every step through the next stages. Our respective Chief Executives are again copied into this letter.

Firstly, MBIE will keep you informed as it works alongside the liquidator to finalise the process. We have been advised that this process is likely to take approximately 6-8 weeks.

s9(2)(g)(i)

We wish you all well in your discussions.

Nā mātou

Hon Kiritapu Allan

Minister for Regional Development

Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti

Carolyn Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment

Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Chair
Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust

s9(2)(a)

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Graham

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts: Next steps regarding liquidation and concessions processes

Thank you for taking the time to again meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (**Te Papa Atawhai**), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (**MBIE**) on 27 June to discuss the 26 June Cabinet decisions regarding the continued operations of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (**RAL**), and the next steps in relation to the liquidation and concessions processes.

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s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

Follow up from engagement

Te Arawhiti will provide you with a formal record of the meeting you had with officials. We understand some specific undertakings were also made to you:

Out of scope.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Next steps

We recognise the significant pressure that the RAL processes have placed you under. We reiterate our commitment for our agencies to work closely with you at every step through the next stages. Our respective Chief Executives are again copied into this letter.

Firstly, MBIE will keep you informed as it works alongside the liquidator to finalise the process. We have been advised that this process is likely to take approximately 6-8 weeks.

s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

We wish you all well in your discussions.

Nā mātou

Hon Kiritapu Allan

Minister for Regional Development

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation

Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Carolyn Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

Appendix C: Letter from Te Korowai o Wainuiārua regarding the process

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



31 August 2023

ATTENTION: HON ANDREW LITTLE AND HON KEIRAN MCANULTY
Minister Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations and;
Minister of Regional Development
Parliament Buildings
PO Box 6160
WELLINGTON

cc: a.little@ministers.govt.nz
k.mcanulty@ministers.govt.nz
lil.anderson@tearawhiti.govt.nz
Robert.Pigou@mbie.govt.nz

RE: TŪWHARETOA IWI – RAL KAUPAPA

Kei aku rangatira kai aku huia kaimanawa ko te mihi tēnei o te Waipuna roimata a kui ma a koro ma Koutou ka riro whawhati tata koutou ka riro ki te huinga ariki haere.

Kei ngā Minita, tenā korua,

You are aware that I have been undertaking the due diligence required to help me understand what position I must take in the protection of my tupuna maunga, and my people's aspiration for his care.

Out of scope

[Redacted]

Out of scope

What I don't want us to do is invite a situation where there is a prejudicing of [Redacted]

s9(2)(j)

[Redacted]

s9(2)(j)

[Redacted]

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

For any pātai please email patai@tuwharetoa.co.nz.

Naku noa nā,



Te Ariki Tumu te Heuheu

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

APPENDIX 1 – DUE DILIGENCE OUTCOME TŪWHARETOA

Introduction

Ngati Tuwharetoa has significant concerns regarding the liquidation (and associated asset sale process) of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (RAL).

s9(2)(b)(ii)

[REDACTED]

It is incompatible with our values and ethos as Ngati Tūwharetoa to entertain such an approach. The due diligence has also highlighted that we cannot consider a discreet commercial opportunity without first considering the Department of Conservation concession licence and the settlement negotiations still to be undertaken for the TNP. In particular, we believe that the process does not honour agreements outlined in the Deed of Settlement 2018 and prejudices our settlement negotiations regarding TNP.

Our recent due diligence identified a number of serious matters, driven by a process that:

- Fails to honour our agreements in the Deed of Settlement 2018
- Prejudices our negotiations of the Tongariro National Park
- Prejudices the outcome of the terms and conditions of the concession
- Creates residual risk to Ngati Tuwharetoa following partial privatisation

The position of Ngati Tūwharetoa is that the Crown is expected to act in good faith in regards to the Deed of Settlement 2018, the imminent negotiations of the TNP and the terms and conditions of the concession. In our view these good faith concerns sit above and ahead of the liquidation and any associated process. In essence, the current ordering of the process significantly prejudices Ngati Tūwharetoa.

Therefore, this letter proposes an alternative pathway reflecting our analysis to date, conversations within Ngati Tuwharetoa and with other iwi surrounding TNP and discussions with the various other stakeholders involved in the initial administration, liquidation and asset sales process including, but not limited to, MBIE, Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation, PWC and the other bidders.

I also note that our due diligence concluded that Ngati Tūwharetoa does not have the risk appetite to lead a commercial proposal. Our investigations highlighted that there are key unknowns which mean that exposing iwi capital to a ski field without the Crown as a partner would be imprudent.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Terms and Conditions of any Concession

Among the material uncertainties that will impact future commercial operations and non-commercial activities in the TNP, are the terms and conditions of any concession. Ngati Tūwharetoa has previously expressed significant reservations about activities permitted under the Crown's stewardship.

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

We have strongly held concerns about the scale and intensity of skiing operations and their sustainability, including mitigating pollution effects and risks, long term financial arrangements for the enduring sustainability of infrastructure and other usage and access arrangements for any future concessions. Therefore Ngati Tūwharetoa is expecting to have a primary role in the scoping of, and negotiation over, terms for permitted activities.

It is important to note that Ngati Tūwharetoa is supportive of long-term sustainable commercial activities that contribute to regional economic development and will proactively support investment accordingly.

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

s9(2)(j)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

s9(2)(j)

[Redacted text block]

Closing

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Ltd (In liquidation) – Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Date	7 September 2023	Priority:	High
Report No.	2023/2024 - 093	File ref:	CLA-N687-OF-02

Action sought

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations	<p>Note that Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu has written to you and the Minister for Regional Development, raising concerns about the process to find a commercial operator for the Mt Ruapehu ski fields; and</p>	By 8 September 2023
---	--	---------------------

Note that Te Arawhiti considers that any decisions taken by the government in relation to commercial activity on Mt Ruapehu, need to be cognisant of the commitments made in the 2018 Deed of Settlement with Ngāti Tūwharetoa, the pending Tongariro National Park negotiations; and an enduring Māori Crown relationship with Ngāti Tūwharetoa and other iwi who have interests in the area.

Agree to forward this briefing to the Ministers for Regional Development, Māori Crown Relations and Conservation.

Contact for phone discussion (if required)

s9(2)(a)	Name	Position	Phone	1 st Contact
	Lil Anderson	Tumu Whakarāe		✓
	Joana Johnston	Chief Advisor		

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Ltd (In liquidation) – Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Purpose

1. The purpose of this briefing is to provide you with:
 - a. a summary of the concerns Ngāti Tūwharetoa have raised in relation to the process to find a commercial operator for the Mt Ruapehu ski fields, and relevant background information; and
 - b. provide Te Arawhiti advice, as requested by the Minister for Regional Development, on decisions Ministers may make in relation to a commercial operator, in the context of the concerns raised by Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

Background

2. In June, Te Arawhiti supported MBIE and the Department of Conservation (DoC) at a number of targeted engagement hui with iwi and hapū with interests in Mt Ruapehu, following a breakdown in Māori-Crown relationships over the Mt Ruapehu ski fields.
3. The purpose of the engagement programme was to hear and understand iwi and hapū perspectives on the government’s plan to select an operator(s) for the Mt Ruapehu ski fields, when Ruapehu Alpine Lifts went into liquidation.

4. [REDACTED]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(j)

5. On 8 June, DoC received an email from Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu, in which he outlined his overarching frustration with the processes surrounding RAL in voluntary administration and the lack of attention the Crown had paid to the integral relationship between Ngāti Tūwharetoa and their tupuna maunga. [REDACTED]

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

6. On 20 June, a hui was held with Te Ariki, Tā Tumu Te Heuheu and [REDACTED] Lil Anderson - Tumu Whakarae of the Office of Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and Damian Coutts from the Department of Conservation attended on behalf of the government. At the hui, Te Ariki:

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

- a. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

c. [Redacted]

d. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Recent concerns raised by Ngāti Tuwharetoa

8. On 31 August, Te Ariki, Tā Tumu Te Heuheu wrote to you and the Minister for Regional Development, advising that Ngāti Tūwharetoa [Redacted]

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The DoC Concession

20. Ngāti Tūwharetoa have strongly held concerns about the scale and intensity of skiing operations and their sustainability, including mitigating pollution effects and risks, long term financial arrangements for the enduring sustainability of infrastructure and other usage and access arrangements for any future concessions. [Redacted]

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

21. It is important to note that other iwi also share the concerns raised by Ngāti Tūwharetoa, and also have an expectation that they will have a key role in the process.

22. The letter importantly notes that “...Ngāti Tūwharetoa is supportive of long-term sustainable commercial activities that contribute to regional economic development and will proactively support investment accordingly. [Redacted]

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

- 23. No applications for new ski field concessions have been lodged at this point in time, however, the Minister of Conservation or her delegate are obliged to consider any that are received.
- 24. In making a decision to grant or decline the application, the decision-maker must give consideration to the views of all relevant iwi to give effect the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi as per Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.
- 25. It is important to note, no iwi has right of veto over the application in this process for which the Crown is the decision-maker.

s9(2)(j)

[Redacted text block containing multiple paragraphs of blacked-out content]

s9(2)(j)

[Redacted text block containing multiple paragraphs of blacked-out content]

s9(2)(g)(i)

31. [Redacted text block containing one paragraph of blacked-out content]

s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

Te Arawhiti view

32. Ngāti Tūwharetoa have outlined their concerns with the commercial process the Crown has run in relation to the future of ski field operations on Mt Ruapehu a number of times. These concerns have now been raised in emails, in meetings and in letters to Ministers and in part relate to commitments made through the 2018 Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

33. The profound significance of the maunga is formally acknowledged by the Crown in the 2018 Settlement and is the Crown's commitment to entering into negotiations over the Tongariro National Park. Specifically, the Crown has acknowledged that when the peaks of the maunga were offered to the Crown, Ngāti Tūwharetoa sought to create a shared responsibility with the Crown to protect and preserve the mountains for Ngāti Tūwharetoa, for other iwi, and for all New Zealanders.

34. In offering the peaks of the maunga to the Crown, the intention of Ngāti Tūwharetoa was to enter into a partnership with the Queen, and not to make an unconditional gift – however legal ownership of the mountains was vested solely in the Crown and it has not always honoured its reciprocal obligations.

s9(2)(g)(i)

35. [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

An enduring relationship between Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the Crown

42. In the interests of an enduring relationship between Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the Crown, it is important that a final decision in relation to commercial operations on Mt Ruapehu is based on a way forward that:

- a. is a good faith attempt to address the concerns Ngāti Tūwharetoa has raised;
- b. does not compromise the commitments made by the Crown in the 2018 Deed of Settlement;

s9(2)(j)

c. [REDACTED]

d. Allows for a positive, enduring relationship between Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the Crown.

43. It is also important to note that the Crown has also made commitments to other iwi (including through their Deeds of Settlement) to grow and maintain enduring relationships based on mutual trust and respect. These also need to be acknowledged and recognised through the decision making process.

s9(2)(j)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(g)(i)

45. [REDACTED]

Next steps

46. We will continue to support MBIE and DoC to engage with Ngāti Tūwharetoa and other iwi through this process, and ensure the position of iwi and hapū is reflected in any relevant advice to Ministers.

Recommendations

47. It is recommended that you:

a. note that

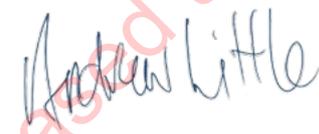
- i. that Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu has written to you and the Minister for Regional Development, raising concerns in relation to the process to find a commercial operator for the Mt Ruapehu ski fields; and
- ii. Te Arawhiti considers that any decisions taken by the government in relation to commercial activity on Mt Ruapehu, need to be cognisant of the commitments made in the 2018 Deed of Settlement with Ngāti Tūwharetoa, [REDACTED] and an enduring relationship with Ngāti Tūwharetoa and other iwi who have interests in the area.

Out of scope

b. agree to forward this briefing to the Ministers for Regional Development, YES NO
Māori Crown Relations and Conservation.



Lil Anderson
Tumu Whakarae

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOTED / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
 Hon Andrew Little Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Date: 7 / 9 / 2023

Office of Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management
Minister of Local Government
Minister for Racing
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Rural Communities
Deputy Leader of the House



8 September 2023

COR4175

Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu

By email: patai@tuwharetoa.iwi.nz

Tēnā koe e Te Ariki Tā Tumu

Tūwharetoa Iwi – Ruapehu Alpine Lifts kaupapa

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa.

Thank you for your letter of 31 August, in which you outline your concerns with the purchase of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (in Liquidation) (RAL). Thank you for setting out your position. We do not propose here to address/respond to all the matters raised in your letter, some of which are no doubt for future discussion. Instead, we have sought to record our understanding of your concerns, to explain the point we have reached in the process and next steps, and to reiterate the importance of the relationship between the Crown and Ngāti Tūwharetoa and other iwi with interests in the Tongariro National Park, including upcoming hui with Ministers.

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

We acknowledge the concerns you have raised and the profound significance of the maunga to Ngāti Tūwharetoa, and therefore your desire to ensure the protection of your tupuna maunga, and your aspirations for his care.

We also acknowledge the importance of the Crown engaging with you in good faith. The Crown values and respects its relationship with Ngāti Tūwharetoa and [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

You will also understand the government needs to consider at this uncertain juncture a range of factors in relation to RAL and the ski fields, given RAL is now in liquidation. These include Ngāti Tūwharetoa’s profound interests and the concerns you have expressed, the significance of the Mt Ruapehu ski fields for employment and economic development in the

Out of scope

broader Ruapehu region, and also the responsible use of public funds. This, as you will appreciate, raises complex issues which need to continue to be worked through. Decisions have not yet been made as we describe below. The previous Minister for Regional Development asked the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to engage with Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the other bidders to determine the best outcome for the Mount Ruapehu ski fields that is commercially sustainable.

In terms of the current process, the liquidators of RAL have received four proposals for the purchase of RAL's assets. All four bidders have also made proposals to MBIE for Crown financial support. MBIE is considering the options and developing advice to Ministers for their consideration. All proposals are being considered in relation to the Government support being requested and any Government support is subject to Cabinet approval. The timeframes we expect for Cabinet consideration is 18 September.

We would like to clarify that the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) has no role in assessing the proposals for Crown financial support, nor the bids to buy RAL's business. The concession process would only be activated once DOC receives an application from a proposed new operator. At this stage no applications for concessions have been presented for consideration.

In a concessions process, DOC will of course continue to work with iwi in the region to understand their values and interests and how they might better be reflected in any future concessions process. Consulting with and giving due consideration to the views of Ngāti Tūwharetoa would be an integral part of the concessions process, should an application be made.

We have copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti, MBIE and the Director-General of DOC. We understand that the Chief Executive of Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Nigel Chee also wrote letters to each of them, raising your concerns. This letter also responds to the correspondence he has written to officials, and we have asked our officials to work closely with Mr Chee.

Finally, we want to reiterate the importance of our relationship with Ngāti Tūwharetoa and look forward to our hui on 11 September.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Andrew Little
**Minister for Treaty of Waitangi
Negotiations**



Hon Kieran McNulty
Minister for Regional Development

cc: Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister of Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, k.davis@ministers.govt.nz
Hon Willow-Jean Prime, Minister of Conservation, wj.prime@ministers.govt.nz
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti, lil.anderson@tearawhiti.govt.nz
Robert Pigou, Acting Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment, Robert.pigou@mbie.govt.nz
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, pnelson@doc.govt.nz
Nigel Chee, Chief Executive, Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa, [REDACTED]

s9(2)(a)



Aide Memoire

To: Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Hon Andrew Little, Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Date: 28 September 2023
From: Joana Johnston, Chief Advisor – Office of the Chief Executive
Report No: 2023/2024 – 76 (Minister Davis)
2023/2024 – 120 (Minister Little)

Te Arawhiti comment on the MBIE Cabinet paper: *Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (In Liquidation) (RAL) – options for government support*

Purpose

1. To provide you with advice on a paper that will be considered at Cabinet on Monday 2 October, entitled "*Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (In Liquidation) (RAL) – options for government support*".
2. The paper will be presented by the Minister for Regional Development.

Background

3. In June, Te Arawhiti supported the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) at a number of targeted engagement hui with iwi and hapū with interests in Mt Ruapehu, following a breakdown in Māori-Crown relationships over the Mt Ruapehu ski fields.
4. Following these hui, the Ministers for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Conservation and Regional Development wrote to iwi reiterating the commitment to work closely with them (through their respective agencies) through the remaining stages of the process. The letters also recognised the significant pressure that the RAL processes have placed iwi under.
5. MBIE has continued to progress work on the future of RAL and the Mt Ruapehu ski fields. This has included conversations with iwi.

s9(2)(j)

6. [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

Out of scope

■ [Redacted]

- 9. Based on our involvement in the development of the Cabinet paper, and through our own direct conversations with iwi, we provide our advice on whether the views and positions of iwi with interests in Mount Ruapehu are appropriately reflected in the Cabinet paper developed by MBIE.

Iwi perspectives

Out of scope

- 10. The Cabinet paper has been revised several times, and Te Arawhiti has provided feedback focused on ensuring the perspectives of iwi are reflected accurately. [Redacted]

s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- 13. The following table outlines our understanding of each groups perspective.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)
s9(2)(i)
s9(2)(j)

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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Te Arawhiti advice

14. In summary, the Cabinet paper recommends two options:

- i. **Option 1:** Provide financial support to allow RAL to continue operating the ski fields on Mount Ruapehu until March 2024, and move RAL out of liquidation and into receivership. This option also includes an in principle agreement to provide support to Pure Tūroa Limited to run the Tūroa ski field – subject to being granted a concession and final Cabinet approval. This option also recommends that MBIE officials provide advice to the Minister for Regional Development before Christmas 2023, on options to continue to operate the Whakapapa ski field after March 2024, if required.
- ii. **Option 2:** Don't provide RAL further funding, and instead provide DoC funding - so it can continue to cover its immediate operational costs related to the ski fields, and to start removing redundant infrastructure.

s9(2)(g)(i)

15. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

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20. We have also attached copies of the letters from Ministers, to iwi since June.



Joana Johnston
Chief Advisor – Office of the Chief Executive

NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED	NOTED / APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
Hon Kelvin Davis Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti	 Hon Andrew Little Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Date: / / 2023	Date: 29 / 9 / 2023

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s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

| [Redacted]

| [Redacted]

| [Redacted]

| [Redacted]

[Redacted]

| [Redacted]

| [Redacted]

| [Redacted]

| [Redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon Kiri Allan

MP for East Coast
Minister of Justice
Minister for Regional Development
Associate Minister of Transport



s9(2)(a)

Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe e Te Ariki Tā Tumu

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā iwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Lil Anderson (Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti) and Damian Coutts (Regional Director, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai)), on 20 June at your offices in Tūrangi to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the proposed transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently. We know that Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Summary of 20 June hui

When you met with Ms Anderson and Mr Coutts, you reiterated messages given to Mr Coutts via email on 8 June, where you outlined your overarching frustration with the processes surrounding RAL in voluntary administration and the lack of attention the Crown has paid to the integral relationship between Ngāti Tūwharetoa and your tupuna maunga.

s9(2)(j)

You also expressed specific frustration and disappointment at the lack of engagement by the Crown regarding RAL. You noted that your primary focus is the ongoing protection of the maunga, with a focus on its cultural significance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Out of scope

Out of scope

[Redacted]

Regarding RAL, you noted:

s9(2)(j)

- [Redacted]

s9(2)(b)(ii)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted]

We are expecting advice arising out of the Watershed meeting on 20 June. That advice will canvass suggested next steps in relation to the ongoing ski-field operations on the maunga, [Redacted]

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

We have copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti, the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Kiritapu Allan
**Minister for Regional
Development**

Hon Andrew Little
**Minister for Treaty of
Waitangi Negotiations**

Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Minister of Conservation

Cc:

- Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
- Carolyn Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
- Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

Hon Kiri Allan

MP for East Coast
Minister of Justice
Minister for Regional Development
Associate Minister of Transport



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Chair
Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust

s9(2)(a)

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Whetu

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā lwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 18 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your people the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

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beehive.govt.nz

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Specific commitments to Ngāti Rangi

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kiritapu Allan

**Minister for Regional
Development**



Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for Treaty of
Waltangi Negotiations**

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

Specific commitments to Ngāti Hāua

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your people are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister for Regional Development

Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Minister of Conservation

Hon Andrew Little
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Cc:

- Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
- Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
- Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
- Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
- Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
- Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon Kiri Allan

MP for East Coast
Minister of Justice
Minister for Regional Development
Associate Minister of Transport



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]
Patutokotoko

s9(2)(a)

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Hayden

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā lwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 17 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your whānau as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and Patutokotoko as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and Patutokotoko the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

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s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Specific commitments to Patutokotoko

In addition to the general commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

Next steps

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and Patutokotoko are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kiritapu Allan

**Minister for Regional
Development**



Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for Treaty of
Waitangi Negotiations**

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

Hon Kiri Allan

MP for East Coast
Minister of Justice
Minister for Regional Development
Associate Minister of Transport



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Chair
Te Korowai o Wainuiārua

s9(2)(a)

By email: Chair@uenuku.iwi.nz, [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Aiden

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā lwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 19 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand a number of you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your people the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

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s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Specific commitments to Te Korowai o Wainuiārua

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your people are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kiritapu Allan

**Minister for Regional
Development**



Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for Treaty of
Waitangi Negotiations**

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
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Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

Hon Kiri Allan

MP for East Coast
Minister of Justice
Minister for Regional Development
Associate Minister of Transport



[REDACTED]
Chair
Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa Trust

By email: [REDACTED] patai@tknt.maori.nz

Tēnā koe Wiari

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā lwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 17 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters have been flawed and we apologise for the impact this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your people as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing some of the issues that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand you have already formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your people the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

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s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Specific commitments to Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

Out of scope

[Redacted]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your people are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kiritapu Allan

**Minister for Regional
Development**



Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for Treaty of
Waltangi Negotiations**

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

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Hon Kiri Allan

MP for East Coast
Minister of Justice
Minister for Regional Development
Associate Minister of Transport



s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

Chair
Te Rūnanganui o Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro Trust

s9(2)(a)

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Huria

Next steps regarding Ruapehu Alpine Lifts

E rere atu rā i ngā mihi whakamahana ki a koe i runga i ngā kaupapa i raro iho nei. Horahia te aroha ki ngā lwi o te Kāhui maunga, tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to meet with officials from Te Arawhiti, Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai), and the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 17 June to discuss the proposed new operators for the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski-fields and the transfer of the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) concessions. The note of your hui will be sent by officials shortly.

This letter acknowledges that the engagement process in relation to these matters has been flawed and we apologise for the impact that this has had on you and your communities as you look to inform yourselves and form views on the RAL proposal.

We understand the significance of this kaupapa to you and your hapū as it relates to ongoing activities on your tupuna, Ruapehu. We acknowledge that the process has not met the standard of rigour that you should expect from the Crown as it has not allowed appropriate time and quality information – two fundamental elements of good engagement.

We are fully committed to our agencies working with you differently and we have copied in the Minister for Māori Crown Relations given his oversight role in Cabinet across the Crown's engagement, particularly in the post settlement space. We know that he and Te Arawhiti will certainly be addressing matters that arose through this process with the wider public service so that we are all able to learn from it and work harder to ensure it does not happen again.

Proposed Operators

As you are aware, the two proposed operators are:

- Pure Tūroa Limited; and
- Whakapapa Holdings Limited.

We understand a number of you have formed relationships with the potential purchasers and given the significance of the ski-fields for you and your hapū the Crown will do all it can to ensure these relationships flourish.

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

+64 4 817 8732 |

k.allan@ministers.govt.nz |

beehive.govt.nz

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Specific commitments to Ngāti Hikairo

In addition to the commitments in relation to the concessions activity outlined above, this letter also records the specific commitments arising from your hui with our officials.

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

s9(2)(ba)(i)
s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- █ [Redacted]
- █ [Redacted]
- █ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Next steps

Out of scope

[Redacted]

We have copied in the future Chair of Whakapapa Holdings Limited and the Director of Pure Tūroa Limited. They are aware of the contents of this letter, and are supportive of the necessary requirements to ensure that you, and your hapū are engaged in a meaningful way in the future operations on the maunga. Our expectation is to see a real change and we intend to use the Crown shareholding in the new entities to monitor the delivery of these commitments.

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We have also copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti and MBIE, and the Director-General of Te Papa Atawhai. As a collective of Ministers, we have instructed our officials to work closely with you to ensure that the collective and individual actions outlined in this letter are carried out and that you are fully informed at every step.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kiritapu Allan

**Minister for Regional
Development**



Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister of Conservation



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for Treaty of
Waitangi Negotiations**

Cc:

Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Dave Mazey, Chair, Whakapapa Holdings Limited
Cameron Robertson, Director, Pure Tūroa Limited
Lil Anderson, Tumu Whakarae, Te Arawhiti
Caroline Tremain, Chief Executive, Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment
Penny Nelson, Director-General, Te Papa Atawhai

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s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

5. [Redacted]

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s9(2)(ba)(i)

6.

[Redacted]

■

[Redacted]

■

[Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Ruapehu Skifields
Stakeholders Association

Ruapehu Skifields Stakeholders Association

info@rssa.org.nz

28 September 2023

The Hon Kieran McAnulty
Minister for Regional Development

Ski community call for halt to fire-sale of the Ruapehu skifields

Tēnā koutou Minister McAnulty,

I'm writing to you again on behalf of the Ruapehu Skifields Stakeholders Association. We represent a diverse membership of skiers, snowboarders, life pass holders, local residents, tourism businesses and the wider community with a love of Mt Ruapehu.

We are gravely concerned that recent objections voiced by multiple groups from across Ngā Iwi o te kāhui maunga regarding the insolvency process have been minimised and/or not given the gravity they deserve. The ski community sees ourselves as guest on Mt Ruapehu and the very existence of skiing in the Ruapehu region rests on continued positive relationships with the local community and local Iwi.

We are supportive of local Iwi interests in the skifields at whatever level suits them and allows for long-term preservation of skiing for generations to come. In particular, we support the multi-Iwi efforts of Ngā Iwi o te kāhui maunga regarding a transitional arrangement that can act as a safe pair of hands until the conclusion of the Tongariro National Park treaty settlement process.

The imminent possibility of an asset sale being halted by an impasse in DOC concession discussions across both skifields means that no restructuring decisions should be completed without proper consultation (which has not yet happened). We have previously raised concerns regarding MBIE's continued efforts to use government money to seize control of a community-owned organisation and sell the assets to private interests.

A community-ownership model which re-invests the profits back into the region is the most sensible long-term operating model for skifields on Mt Ruapehu and a better fit for the complex environmental, social and cultural context than for-profit private commercial ownership.

We are urgently calling on Ministers to halt the sale of the Ruapehu skifields into private hands.

Nāku noa, nā

Jason Platt
Chairman
Ruapehu Skifields Stakeholders Association

28 September, 2023

Request for Adequate Consideration, Time and Consultation on Proposed Transition Plans

Tena koe,

Takiri te ata ki runga Tongariro, he ata kai taua, he ata kai tangata. He mihi kau atu ki runga i ngā tini āhuatanga o te wa.

We are writing as the collective representatives of Patūtokōtokō to address the concerns raised in your email dated 14th September 2023, regarding the ongoing RAL negotiations and proposed plans.

Your email noted that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We have also engaged in face-to-face dialogues with the Tongāriro Taupō Conservation Board, the RSSA and Ruapehu District Councillors, all of whom have expressed their support for an [REDACTED]

We, Patūtokōtokō are unified with Ngā Iwi o te Kāhui Maunga by our belief that any proposed solutions must, primarily:

- Uphold all our Settlement agreements
- [REDACTED]
- Not prejudice the outcome of the terms and conditions of any concession license to be issued.

Despite MBIE's awareness of this opportunity to collaborate with Iwi towards a substantial transition solution, we were allocated just eleven working days to contemplate the Crown's new plan. Which we understand includes:

- Splitting the ski fields
- Selling the operations of Tūroa to private entities and
- Allocating millions in tax-payer funded resources for Pure Tūroa, among other provisions.

Our immediate response to this request for feedback on your solutions is that we require additional time.

The Crown's process to address these matters alongside our tribe has shown an inability to work effectively in a way that upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Throughout this process we have experienced a significant lack of information and time from the Crown. Patūtokōtokō has repeatedly raised these concerns, yet we are in a similar situation again. Despite being safeguarded by numerous governmental acts, policies, management plans and laws, the indigenous people are continually compelled to advocate for protecting our rights and interests.

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

We anticipate your understanding and cooperation in this matter and look forward to a more inclusive and consultative approach moving forward.

Nāku nōa
Kura Te Wanikau Tāhana Tūroa



Te Patūtokōtokō Representative

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30 October 2023

PATŪTOKŌTOKŌ POSITION PAPER

RUAPEHU ALPINE LIFTS

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

The purpose of this position paper is to assist in the ongoing discussions between the Crown, the hapū of Patūtokōtokō and Ngā Iwi o te Kāhui Maunga regarding the finalisation of an agreeable solution for Ruapehu Alpine Lifts.

The hapū of Patūtokōtokō are unified with Ngā Iwi o te Kāhui Maunga in our belief that any proposed solution/s must, primarily:

- Uphold all our settlement agreements
- Not prejudice future settlement negotiations related to the Tongariro National Park
- Not prejudice the outcome of the terms and conditions of any concession license/s to be issued.

As previously communicated with the Crown, the position of Patūtokōtokō, as hapū at place, has always been that adequate consideration, time, resource and consultation should be afforded to all iwi and hapū ahead of the finalisation of any proposed transition plan/s.

Patūtokōtokō has repeatedly raised our concerns throughout this process and continued to experience a significant lack of information, time and engagement from the Crown. Despite being safeguarded through a number of te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement and numerous governmental acts, policies, management plans and laws, we as tangata whenua have been continually compelled to advocate for the protection of our rights and interests.

It is our position that owing to the ski fields of Whakapapa and Tūroa being situated entirely within the original tuku or “gift” area – rather than the arbitrarily defined Department of Conservation “Pristine Area” – Patūtokōtokō requests that no further decisions are made or endorsed, whether in principle or otherwise, until we have been granted the time, space and resource required to continue exploring the opportunity a Ngā Iwi o te Kāhui Maunga transition plan – a pan-iwi led solution to the ongoing operations of the ski fields with the Crown and associated agencies.

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

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Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

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Out of scope

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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6. CONCLUSION

The ongoing inability of the Crown and associated agencies to give meaningful effect to the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi while honouring multiple historic and future settlements in relation to Tongariro National Park, the rohe of Patūtokōtokō and how this pertains to the Ruapehu Alpine Lifts discussions could possibly be explained by an abject lack of understanding of what is a highly complex post-settlement space involving multiple iwi.

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted text block]

As recommended by the authors of the Te Kāhui Maunga: the National Park District Inquiry Report, "a Treaty-compliant process for ongoing decision making about this issue should properly be discussed between all claimants and the Crown in the future. Only then will tapu areas on the maunga be guaranteed of appropriate protection"²¹.

s9(2)(j)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted text block]

- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]

s9(2)(ba)(i)

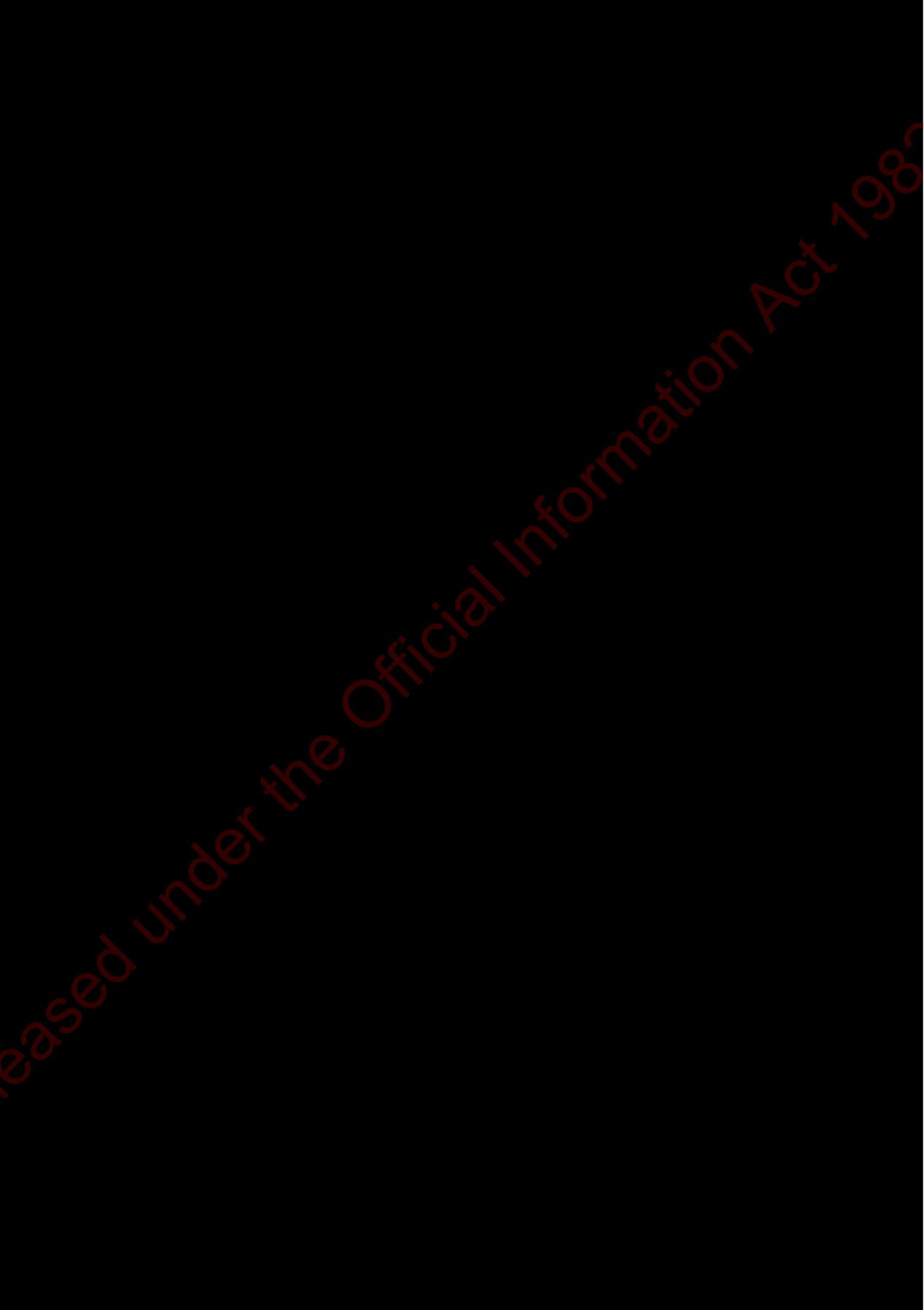
[Redacted text block]

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

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Out of scope



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Out of scope

[REDACTED]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Office of Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management
Minister of Local Government
Minister for Racing
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Rural Communities
Deputy Leader of the House



COR4402

12 October 2023

Graham Bell
Chair
Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust

Tēnā koe Graham

We refer to your letter of 25 September 2023, which outlines Ngāti Hāua’s concerns with the liquidation and potential sale of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (RAL). Thank you for setting out your position. We have sought to record the concerns, explain the point we have reached in the process and the next steps, and reiterate the importance of the relationship between the Crown and Ngāti Hāua and other iwi with interests in the Tongariro National Park.

s9(2)(ba)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted] You also clearly state that you are seeking an approach that protects the mana of ngā Iwi o Te Kāhui Maunga, upholds the Crown’s obligations to ngā Iwi o Te Kāhui Maunga, [Redacted]

Out of scope

RAL’s demise, and the question of what should now happen with the Mt Ruapehu ski fields, is a complex question raising a number of issues requiring careful consideration. These include Ngāti Hāua’s interests and the concerns you have expressed, the interests of other iwi in Tongariro National Park, the significance of the Mt Ruapehu ski fields for employment and economic development in the broader Ruapehu region, and the responsible use of public funds.

On 2 October 2023, Cabinet agreed in principle to provide financial support for the bid from Pure Tūroa Limited to acquire RAL’s Tūroa assets and take over commercial operations of the Tūroa ski field, subject to Pure Tūroa Limited being granted a concession by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and final Cabinet approval. Cabinet has also made decisions that allow further time for officials, iwi and potential operators to continue discussions regarding the future of the Whakapapa ski field.

Your letter also raises concerns that the commercial bids being considered by the Crown are not viable and that there has been a lack of due diligence by the Crown in considering the various proposals that have been put forward, including both short-term and long-term impacts.

s9(2)(b)(ii)

[Redacted]

s9(2)(b)(ii)

[Redacted]

We acknowledge the concerns you have raised and the profound significance of the maunga to Ngāti Hāua, and therefore your desire to ensure the protection and teachings of your tūpuna. We also acknowledge the importance of the Crown engaging with you in good faith. The Crown values and respects its relationship with Ngāti Hāua and understands the importance of the Tongariro National Park to you.

As you know, Pure Tūroa Limited will only be able to operate a ski field on Tūroa if it is successful in obtaining a concession from the Minister of Conservation (or her delegate) under the Conservation Act 1987. DOC has had no role in assessing the proposals for Crown financial support, nor the bids to buy RAL's business. At this stage, no applications for concessions have been presented to DOC for consideration.

If an application is made for a concession, DOC will continue to work with iwi in the region to understand their values and interests, and to ensure that in administering the Conservation Act 1987, the Crown is giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Consulting with and giving due consideration to the views of Ngāti Hāua would be an integral part of the concessions process, should an application be made.

Out of scope

[Redacted]

We have copied in the Chief Executives of Te Arawhiti, MBIE and the Director-General of DOC. We have asked them to ensure their agencies continue to engage with Ngāti Hāua on the process.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kieran McAnulty
Minister for Regional Development



Hon Andrew Little
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations