

MEDIA STATEMENT

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust

2 May 2014

SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS FROM LONG-TERM LEASE OF WAKAKURA

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust Deputy Chairman Ngarimu Blair says a long-term lease agreed with Ryman Healthcare has significant benefits to the hapū.

“The Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust has a responsibility to create inter-generational wealth for our people, and today’s announcement of the long-term lease with Ryman is an example of that.

“Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei remains the kaitiaki of the land at Wakakura and will always have mana there.

“We are proud that profits from the sale of the lease will be reinvested to provide greater returns to the hapū,” says Mr Blair.

Details of the lease agreement are commercially sensitive and therefore confidential, however the land at Wakakura remains in Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei ownership and will be leased to Ryman Healthcare for 150 years. This is contrary to earlier news reports that the land had been sold.

“Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei fought hard to get this land returned as part of our Treaty of Waitangi settlement with the Crown.

“Wakakura has not been sold, but all going well it will be developed and provide long-term sustainable benefits to our people,” said Mr Blair.

Rob Hutchison, chief executive of Whai Rawa, the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei commercial arm, said the agreement with Ryman Healthcare is for 4.2 hectares, and is a small part of the total 21 hectares of hapū landholdings.

“The hapū has considered several options for development of its land, not just at Wakakura but across Tāmaki Makaurau.

“The Wakakura land, because of restricted access and Lake Road traffic problems, is unlikely to ever permit high density housing and the land value means affordable housing is uneconomic.

“Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei recently stated that a retirement village was the preferred and most viable option for the site, due both to traffic concerns and the ability to provide diverse housing in the area, particularly for the elderly,” said Mr Hutchison.

ENDS

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust spokesperson:

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(Please note: Ngarimu is in a Board meeting until 5pm but will attempt to respond to calls as soon as possible).