



## NGA MANA TOOPU O KIRIKIROA

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May 12, 2009.

Kiaora Ian.

### **RE: MERIDIAN 37 LTD - PROPOSED PRIVATE PLAN CHANGE RAYNES ROAD, RUKUHIA, HAMILTON: IWI CONSULTATION.**

I further inspected the aerial photos of the site from 1953 which shows evidence of borrow pits along the river terraces. The site was originally cultivated by ancient Maori for the growing of root crops such as Kumara, Uwhi (yams) and Taro Maori. With the introduction of European crops such as potatoes from the mid 1700s onwards increased the size of the cultivations.

Descriptions of these garden complexes can be gleaned from early missionary accounts from the 1850s describe the stretch of river between Ngaruawahia and Cambridge as an unbroken continuous line of cultivations with groves of peach trees sited near Maori settlements along the Waikato River. The narrows below the property and next to the bridge also marks the historic crossing of famed Waikato ancestors Turongo and Mahinarangi with their child Raukawa who was strapped to the back of his mother Mahinarangi, this naming the Tamahere district after this historic crossing. Tama means child or boy. Here means to bind.

The last hapu to occupy this area was Ngati Koura and Ngati Ruru who occupied Nukuhou Pa further north established a flour and flax mill including landing sites for canoes that were used for sending produce to Auckland in order to sell to European settlers. The land wars of 1863 and the land confiscations dislodged Ngati Koura from their traditional land holdings.

Whist, many of the features of significances to ancient Maori on site have been modified due to past sand extractions, the fact of the matter is that the land is still significantly important to local hapu and their descendants.

We hereby inform you that Nga Mana Toopu O Kirikiriroa have no concerns with regard to this property, and hence support the proposed private plan change, but **on the strict provision that:**

1. All earthworks on the property must be undertaken within the framework of a set of protocols developed by Nga Mana Toopu O Kirikiriroa. These protocols define the procedures to be followed in the event that any Koiwi (human remains) or Taonga are unearthed during the development. A copy of the protocols is attached to this report.
2. A carved Pou could be erected on site overlooking the Waikato River in order to commemorate the crossing of Turongo and Mahinarangi and past hapu who lived and cultivated the site in ancient times and prior to the 1863 Land Wars. We would welcome further discussions on this matter.

Kiaora.

Wiremu Puke.  
For NaMTOK Consultancy Ltd.

REF: 681/H480EMS