

Our Ref DOIA 25-060

26 September 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request regarding Richmond Park School (closed) at 66 Bader Street, Hamilton.

This was transferred in part from the Ministry of Education (MOE) to Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) on 3 September 2024 as LINZ manages the disposal process for MOE. Your last question relating to the Kōhanga Reo, which is continuing to operate from the site, will be answered by MOE directly.

The questions being answered by LINZ are:

1. Is this property still being given back to Tainui, if so, when?
2. Are there plans in place for the property after the restoration to Iwi?
3. If it is not being restored to Tainui, what is the future of this site?
4. Will there be an opportunity to present a proposal for use of this site?

1. Is this property still being given back to Tainui, if so, when?

This property will be offered to Waikato Tainui under its Right of First Refusal. However, we have some items to complete before we can make this offer.

First, we must confirm the potential transfer of the grassed area at the rear of the site to the Department of Conservation (DOC). This section, the grassed area at the former school, is known to be long-tailed bat habitat.

It is intended for this area to be vested with the Hamilton City Council (HCC) as a local purpose reserve.

We are also working with HCC to obtain approval of the easements in gross for the right to convey sewage and drain water. These easements will be registered on the new titles for the property.

The offer to Waikato Tainui will be made once we have confirmed the transfer of the grassed area to DOC and once the terms and conditions of the easements have been finalised and approved.

Due to the reasons outlined above, we are unable to provide a definitive date for when the offer will be made to Waikato Tainui. However, we are committed to working through this process in a timely manner.

2. Are there plans in place for the property after the restoration to Iwi?

Any future use of the property will be determined by any new owners, we cannot answer this question.

3. If it is not being restored to Tainui, what is the future of this site?

If Waikato Tainui decline to purchase this property under its Right of First Refusal, the property will be sold on the open market.

4. Will there be an opportunity to present a proposal for use of this site?

The role of LINZ is to dispose of the site. Any proposals for future use should be made to a new owner.

OIA Request Information

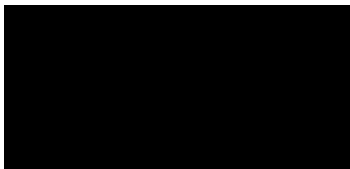
We have provided all of the information requested.

If you wish to discuss this response, please feel free to contact Simon Cornelius at disposals@linz.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response.. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 31 October 2024

Nāku noa, nā



Sonya Wikitera
Head of Crown Property