



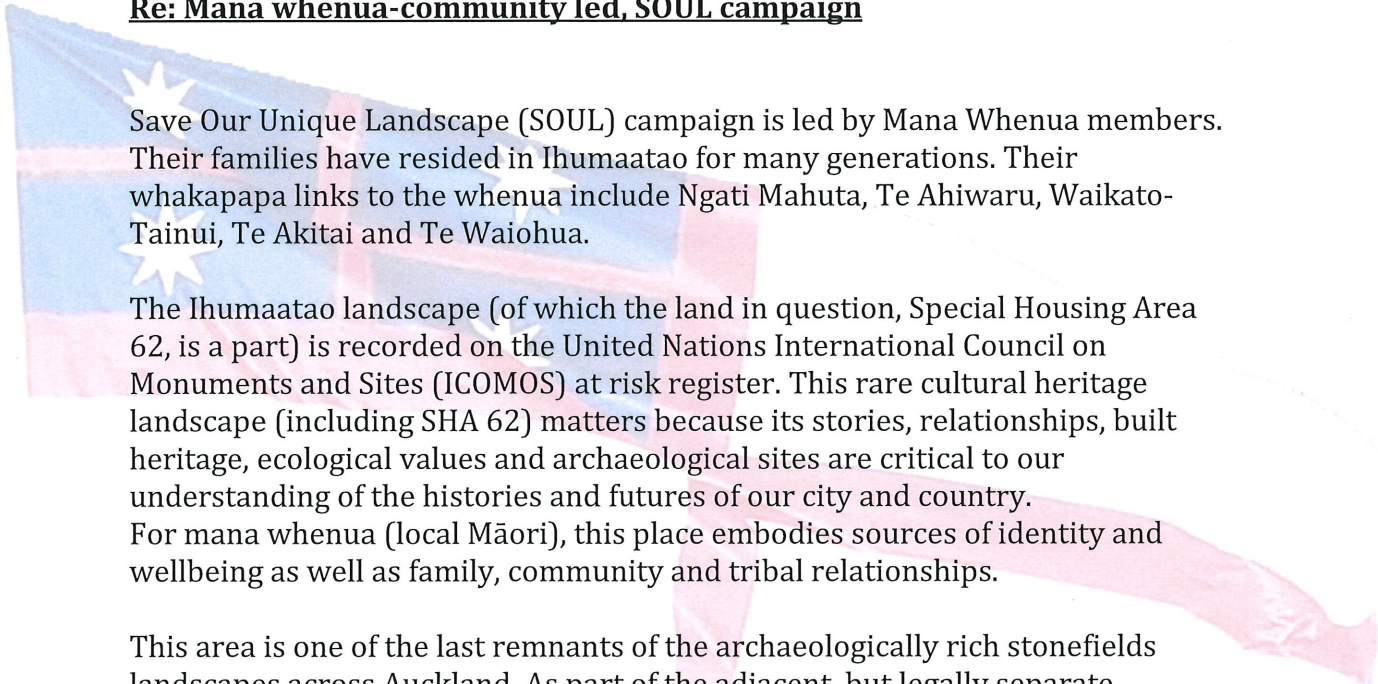
# Protect Ihumatao

The International Maori Cultural Centre  
Avenue du Prince d'Orange 223  
Uccle 1180  
Belgium

Friday 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

Dear Sir,

**Re: Mana whenua-community led, SOUL campaign**



Save Our Unique Landscape (SOUL) campaign is led by Mana Whenua members. Their families have resided in Ihumaatao for many generations. Their whakapapa links to the whenua include Ngati Mahuta, Te Ahiwaru, Waikato-Tainui, Te Akitai and Te Waiohau.

The Ihumaatao landscape (of which the land in question, Special Housing Area 62, is a part) is recorded on the United Nations International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) at risk register. This rare cultural heritage landscape (including SHA 62) matters because its stories, relationships, built heritage, ecological values and archaeological sites are critical to our understanding of the histories and futures of our city and country. For mana whenua (local Māori), this place embodies sources of identity and wellbeing as well as family, community and tribal relationships.

This area is one of the last remnants of the archaeologically rich stonefields landscapes across Auckland. As part of the adjacent, but legally separate, Otuaataua Stonefields Historic Reserve, the land in question holds the stories of the earliest inhabitants of our country. It is one of the last surviving places where the land and stone walls used by Māori for growing new crops, such as wheat and European vegetables for the Auckland markets prior to 1863, still exists. Here, the ancient and more recent gardens stand next to each other.

This cultural landscape connects with one of New Zealand's' oldest continuously inhabited papakainga (village) and this connection will be irreparably broken by the proposed development. Houses built up to the existing boundary of the Historic Reserve will threaten its future.

The land was confiscated 'by proclamation' under the New Zealand Settlements Act in 1863 as part of the colonial invasion of the Waikato that drove mana whenua from their lands, ahead of the settler armies. Overnight they were made landless and impoverished. Now, that existence is further threatened by the commercial development.



# Protect Ihumatao

The proposed development site is only a few kilometres from Auckland International Airport and should be considered as a promising cultural, heritage and ecotourism location. For many years there have been aspirations for social enterprise, local employment and sustainability initiatives that enable kaitiakitanga and tino rangatiratanga. These aspirations range from a mana whenua-led research, visitor and education center, a food forest, a working farm, guided walkways, cultural experiences, and, open green space.

Local and central government used the fast-track, developer-friendly provisions of the Special Housing Areas Act 2013 to designate the land. Mana whenua and community concerns were sidelined. We have presented concerns to the Auckland Council Governing Body and to Parliament, met with politicians and been to the United Nations three times in two years. In 2017 the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination wrote to the NZ Government recommending that it ensure proper consultation with all affected Maori on this issue.

A recent Environment Court decision showed significant flaws in New Zealand's heritage legislation that did not allow the Court to consider the values of whole cultural heritage landscape when reviewing Heritage NZ's decision to grant the company the authority to modify or destroy Maori archaeological and other heritage sites on the land. Gaining that authority doesn't make the decision right, it simply puts it within the narrow terms of the existing law and allows the developer to proceed.

SOUL has now exhausted every legal means to stop the development. We need the Government and Auckland Council to step in. We are fast approaching a confrontation on the land, but will keep doing everything we can to prevent that from happening. We need collective action and innovative thinking to resolve this mounting crisis.





# Protect Ihumatao

Some of our needs to address this crisis effectively and strategically are:

## Logistics

- Assistance with trailers to assist in mobilizing people within designated areas of area.
- Awhi with fuel costs

## Legal Costs

- Kaitiaki Arrest costs. Release, bonds/bails etc
- Lawyers Koha

## Infrastructure

- Shelters to accommodate, should a mass occupation
- Clothing
- Light options, Solar panels etc

Yours sincerely,





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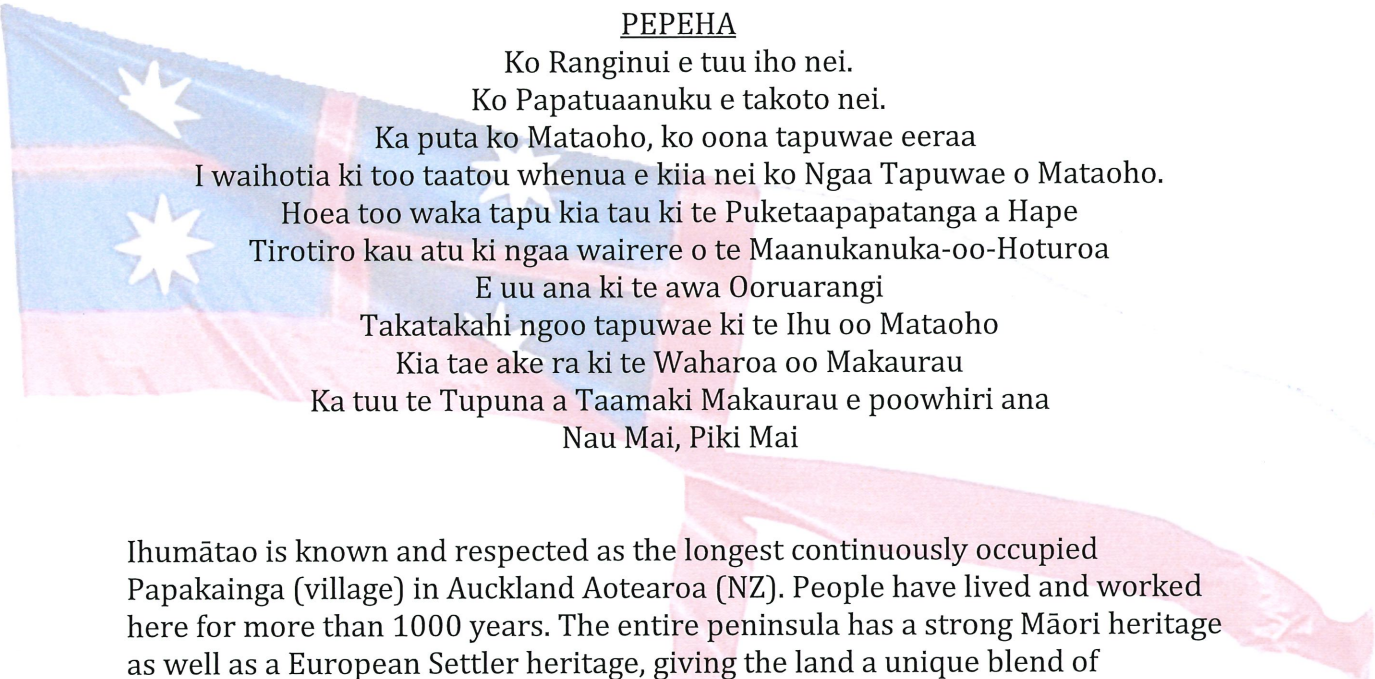
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## PEPEHA



Ko Ranginui e tuu iho nei.  
Ko Papatuaanuku e takoto nei.  
Ka puta ko Mataoho, ko oona tapuwae eeraa  
I waihotia ki too taatou whenua e kiia nei ko Ngaa Tapuwae o Mataoho.  
Hoea too waka tapu kia tau ki te Puketaapapatanga a Hape  
Tiro tiro kau atu ki ngaa wairere o te Maanukanuka-oo-Hoturoa  
E uu ana ki te awa Ooruarangi  
Takatakahi ngoo tapuwae ki te Ihu oo Mataoho  
Kia tae ake ra ki te Waharoa oo Makaurau  
Ka tuu te Tupuna a Taamaki Makaurau e poowhiri ana  
Nau Mai, Piki Mai

Ihumātao is known and respected as the longest continuously occupied Papakainga (village) in Auckland Aotearoa (NZ). People have lived and worked here for more than 1000 years. The entire peninsula has a strong Māori heritage as well as a European Settler heritage, giving the land a unique blend of historical, cultural, archaeological, geological and farming significance. This land is the birthplace of Manukau and, only a stone's throw from Auckland International Airport the gateway to Aotearoa, New Zealand.

With rich volcanic soils it was some of the best growing space in the country. The Ōruarangi Awa (river) was once a plentiful food bowl and the Manukau Harbour had the best fishing grounds. However, over the years, the landscape has changed dramatically. With urban encroachment and unjust destruction for corporate and city gain. Ihumatao is only a fraction of its once self-sustaining existence. Numerous maunga (mountains) have been completely quarried to build roads. The river and harbour were destroyed to make way for Auckland's wastewater treatment plant, the surrounding land was desecrated for Auckland's factories and second airport runway and despite decades of action by numerous dedicated whanau and Maori groups, the destruction continues. Ihumatao has sacrificed enough for the building of Auckland.





# Protect Ihumatao

SOUL (Save Our Unique Landscape) is a mana-whenua led, community- driven campaign group working to protect what little land is left in Ihumatao. As kaitiaki (guardians) we have a responsibility to ensure the protection of Wahi Tapu (sacred burial grounds and historical sites), the Otuatua Stonefields Historic Reserve, lava caves used to bury our ancestors, our river, harbour and wider Ihumatao area. After everything Ihumatao has already suffered, it is still **"UNDER DIRE THREAT"**.

Fletcher Building are preparing a 480-high density housing development in Ihumatao on confiscated land adjacent to the Otuatua Stonefields History Reserve (our Stonehenge). With insufficient infrastructure and amenities, the high-priced houses will not serve the homeless or needy. Instead, this modern day colonization threatens the existing Papakainga (tribal dwelling areas) threatens the Wahi Tapu sites that are part of the continuous landscape of Otuatua, threatens unique plant, lizard and bird life species, threatens the health of the local waterways and threatens the opportunity for the space to be protected and celebrated by all, for generations to come.

This is an impassioned plea for all of our remaining lands, historical sites, and also the return of other confiscated lands. This land belongs to Ihumatao and we are requesting all international assistance so this, ongoing theft and confiscation must stop, **NOW**.

Yours sincerely,

