

19 July 2017



Rereata Rogers
Chair,
Te Urewera Board,
PO Box 56,
Tāneatua, 3163

Dear Sir/Madam Chair

Submission on Te Kawa o Te Urewera Draft

First and foremost, I wish to extend a huge thank you to the people of Te Urewera for the blessing and welcome that you have made for other users of this precious land to make submissions on Te Kawa as you forge a path and new life of togetherness for your people, the land and the privileged use of it.

As you say in the draft this is a new voyage into the future together and with that will come so many treasured lessons for us all – especially when shared in harmony and happiness.

It is extremely heartening to us as a group of people who consider it of immense privilege to be able to enjoy our recreation in Te Urewera, that one of your key priorities as noted on page 11 is:

- (c) *provide for Te Urewera as a place for public use and enjoyment, for recreation, learning and spiritual reflection, and as an inspiration for all.*

As a hunting club whose members have long been privileged to hunt and been welcomed into the 'arms of Te Urewera', this is extremely appreciated and with that comes our heartfelt gratitude.

The other two key notations under 1.1.1 are also of huge significance to us as visitors to this special place, and as we respectfully support Tuhoe in every way possible to;

- (a) *Strengthen and maintain the connection between Tuhoe and Te Urewera; and*
- (b) *Preserve as far as possible the natural features and beauty of Te Urewera, the integrity of its indigenous ecological systems and biodiversity, and its historical and cultural heritage.*

Given the generosity and willingness for Tuhoe to so kindly extend such a welcome to other respectful visitors, it is only right that we in turn make every effort to understand the traditions, beliefs and customs of Tuhoe to make the experiences for all concerned, are filled with respect, happiness and enjoyment.

To accompany these sentiments above, and our respect that is only rightfully accorded to Tuhoe and Te Urewera, it is up to us as visitor to ensure that we take no more than is rightfully on offer to us as recreational hunters and visitors, that our visits to your 'home' only enhance the experiences for us all and that we too make sure that we contribute to the wellbeing and future of the Mauri. This is the least that we can do as guests to your 'home'.

So many of our members have such treasured memories from time spent in Te Urewera – be those from walking the tracks around Waikaremoana, visiting whanau and friends throughout Te Urewera's expanse, hunting the mist clad hills and valleys for deer, enjoying time spent in tranquillity with youngsters teaching them the values of the bush, waterways and traditions or just enjoying the peace and quiet that abounds.

Of special significance for us as a club, is the wonderful opportunity to take our HUNTS course (hunter training course for people of all ages) participants into various areas of Te Urewera and to be able to share with them, the knowledge and experiences that we have and continue to learn of in the area; pass on the highly valued customs and traditions as well as the treasured history that benefits us all so much. Visiting Te Urewera is not a destination for us, it is a treasured experience and one that always enriches us so much.

For each of us there is always a very special feeling of being 'connected' to the warmth that abounds from the land and the people, so hence our appreciation once again for the privilege of your continued welcome, for us to enjoy our recreational pursuits throughout Te Urewera.

I do not wish to be heard in support of this submission at the Hearing however, we would be most grateful if this submission and our feedback could be made available to those who wish to see it. We will also most definitely be extending these thoughts in person to Tuhoe on future visits to Te Urewera.

Best wishes to you all for the bright and promising voyage as we all get to know and understand the greater identity of Te Urewera.

Yours faithfully



Maureen Coleman
President
Thames Valley Deerstalkers Assn