

THE FRIENDS OF TE UREWERA ASSOCIATION

19 July 2017

Chair
Te Urewera Board
P.O.Box 56
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Re –Draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera (Te Kawa).

The Friends of Te Urewera (The Friends) was formed in 1964 and the original aims and objects of the association were to “encourage interest and assist the Urewera National Park administrators in any measures directed towards the preservation of the park and the development of amenities for making the delights of the park more readily accessible to the public”

Since its inception The Friends have contributed significant labour and resources towards these aims and objectives.

With the dissolution of the Te Urewera National Park Board and the taking over of administration of the then Te Urewera National Park by the Department of Conservation (DOC), The Friends continued to provide support and assistance to DOC in regard to these aims and objects.

Policy changes by DOC particularly around Health and Safety and Risk Management combined with the changing capacity and capability of our membership has seen The Friends contribution and assistance become less active and more passive orientated.

The Friends have always been motivated in their activities by their deep respect and admiration for Te Urewera and the value placed on Te Urewera as a place for recreation, learning, spiritual reflection and connection with nature.

The Friends have embraced the changes associated with the establishment of the Te Urewera Act and are supportive of Te Urewera becoming its own legal entity.

We are committed to supporting the Te Urewera Board as the voice and servant of Te Urewera and in particular their obligations in regard to delivering the purpose of the Te Urewera Act.

The Friends acknowledge and support that Te Kawa is not intended to operate in the same manner as a usual management plan and that Te Kawa is about management of people and their impacts, for the benefit of the land, not land management.

We acknowledge and agree that implementing the Te Urewera Act and Te Kawa will involve a process of unlearning, rediscovery and relearning for all.

We fully support and respect the principles, values and beliefs which Te Kawa is based on and the context and framework this provides for policy development and decision making.

The Friends are confident that this framework and decision making context should ensure that future development and activities within Te Urewera will be in harmony with the unique, character and values of Te Urewera and the purpose of the Te Urewera Act.

In the absence of an Operational Plan it is unclear in Te Kawa what is an issue or matter, requiring a Board decision or what is an Operational matter.

We suggest that Te Kawa be made clearer as to what operational plans will broadly cover, what operational management will be doing and are responsible and accountable for, and what are the delegated authorities at an operational level.

Te Kawa is very aspirational and inspiring, we agree it will serve to disrupt the norm and will challenge all of us to grow in ourselves a trust for one another and the raising of an age of better ethics, instincts, practices and performance.

The Friends offer our friendship and support to the Board on this new voyage and will work with our members and wider networks to foster trust and delivery of Te Urewera Values and our personal responsibilities as manuhiri.

Nga mihi

Hendrik Metz, on behalf of The Friends