

PF 17 Roberts 30305

Indigenous Youth

Tena Koutou Katoa

Delwyn Roberts written statement on behalf of Save Our Unique Landscape.

Madam Chair we submit our statement for your consideration.

As a District Nurse working in Ihumatao I see the true reality and price Indigenous Youth pay due to the intergenerational impacts of colonisation.

The loss of cultural knowledge, language, customs and practices impact on physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

Contemporary urbanization reinforce barriers disconnecting indigenous youth from their own peoples. Socio-economic disparities deepen the resentment between those who have and those who have not.

Drugs, alcohol, teen pregnancy, physical and mental abuse are all too common. New Zealand Youth suicide rates are the highest among OECD countries with Maori youth suicide 2.8 times higher than Non-Maori ¹. Crime from Maori youth has now risen to make up 64% of youth prosecutions. ²

These challenges and pitfalls face Maori Youth in navigating their journey through to mature adulthood.

Countering this, there are home-grown advantages for Maori youth connected to their tribal lands, as maybe said for the Wai-o-hua tribe.

There is a saying that "it takes a village to raise a child". This couldn't be more true in the tribal home-grounds at Ihumatao where the community is largely made up of families who are connected by familial and tribal heritage, and share in 800 years of continuous occupation.

There is inherent safety and security provided by a bounded and definable community. However, the proposed housing development would consume the village into a wider urban continuum and severely affect the tribal dynamics there.

We are particularly concerned about the health effects on youth from the waste water treatment plant, airport, and commercial/Industrial runoff which continues to be released into our Moana (sea) and Awa (river). To date no known studies or research have been implemented in relation to the possible current and future health effects on Ihumatao village.

Ancestral lands, burial places and the benefits that natural open spaces offer visually and physically enhance young lives. The Fletcher Residential Ltd development will destroy these and leave only struggle.

Recommendations:

We request that the Permanent Forum ask the New Zealand Government to recognise the nature and locus of tribal family structure and the impacts of hauora (well-being) on Maori in particular Youth who reside at Ihumatao.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena ra tatou katoa

References:

1. Ministry of Health :
<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/suicide-facts-deaths-and-intentional-self-harm-hospitalisations-2012>
2. Ministry of Justice:
<https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Trends-in-child-and-youth-prosecution-Dec-2016.pdf>