**2 MAY 2024 – MBKRA PRESENTATION TO AUCKLAND COUNCIL GOVERNING BODY**

Good morning, my name is Wanda Mountfort, and I am here representing the Mission Bay Kohimarama Residents Association.

I would like to briefly put forward the community’s view that there is a genuine need for Tagalad Reserve to be returned to the Orakei Local Board’s governance, so that it can once again be used as a much-needed public recreational reserve and community hub.

I cannot overstate the community support for this issue, the community’s need for these facilities and the community’s frustration that these public facilities have been locked up and unusable for the past eight years.

Because of the strength of community feeling about the retention of Tagalad Reserve, our association has undergone a very thorough consultation process over the past five years.  To accurately gauge the community stance on this reserve, we have held numerous large public meetings and we have conducted a community survey and petition.  We have also engaged an independent consultant to host an open day on this reserve, where they were tasked with amassing independent public feedback on this issue.  Our community has made it clearly known, that they were always of the view this green space and its buildings were required, and they are very unhappy it made its way onto Schedule B without community consultation.  Numerous needs for these facilities have been identified and detailed in a report we submitted to Auckland Council in 2022.

To highlight just two of these needs – firstly the need for green space.  The only reserve in Mission Bay that caters for ‘all abilities’ is Selwyn Reserve on Mission Bay beach.  This reserve is used by people from all over Auckland and tourists, and it suffers from gross overcrowding in summer months, in weekends and during organized Auckland-wide events.  While our residents welcome the diverse cultures and diverse range of activities that give Selwyn Reserve its character, they are also frustrated that this regular over-crowding precludes them from using their ONLY all abilities reserve for a large part of the year.

Whilst Tagalad Reserve could be considered only a pocket park in size, it would provide an easily accessible, central, green space for the local community to use.  Bearing in mind, Mission Bay, and its neighboring suburbs are zoned for, and are undergoing, high densification, the community sees the provision of this green space as very necessary for community use and wellbeing, both now and in the future.

Tagalad Reserve is flat, it has ample parking provided, it has park toilets provided and it is within a 15minute walk or cycle for residents.  This makes it very suitable to cater for all ages and all abilities, including those with mobility challenges.

The buildings on this reserve are also needed for multiple reasons.  As both Kohimarama and Mission Bay do not have a community centre, our residents are required to use neighboring community centres. However, suitable times and facilities are often not available for our residents.

Another important need for the buildings would is to provide a community hub for essential community services.  For example, our area has one of the highest proportions of older residents across Auckland.  These older residents are not immune to the challenges faced by other older people across Auckland, and currently about 10% will be experiencing abuse and/or neglect, and about 20% will be living with loneliness and isolation at a level that is seriously detrimental.  We need a service in our area like that of Age Concern, and one of the buildings on this reserve could provide a much-needed Eastern hub for a service like that, and other community services.

From a financial perspective, we are very aware that community facilities can no longer be a burden for Auckland Council.  We have identified many organisations that are keen to lease or rent both the buildings and green space on a regular basis,

and this income could cover ongoing running costs. We also believe that our current local board members have the ability, expertise and drive to ensure the successful provision of public recreational and service facilities at this site.

A last point that is worth highlighting is that Healthy Waters are not in favour of development on this site due to its location in a very active flood plain.  We have been advised that this reserve has been identified as a site for a potential stormwater management function in the wider Hobson Bay area catchment.

To conclude, we would like to thank our local board for their resolution to take on this site as a local service property.

And we urge the Governing Body to remove the non-service status for Tagalad Reserve, to remove this property from Schedule B so it is no longer considered for sale, and to return it to the capable governance of the Orakei Local Board.

Our community are determined to support this reserve.