

Our Ref DOIA 25-117

10 December 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

**Response to your official information request**

Thank you for your official information request received on 17 November 2024 requesting responses to several questions relating to the former Napier Prison and the involvement of Mana Ahuriri Trust.

The questions provided in your request and the corresponding responses are set out below.

**Question 1:** *"What is Mana Ahuriri claiming on this hillside, and why should this property be handed to the Iwi? I would like specific historic details related to this corner of Coote Road and Marine Parade (1.6 hectares). What is the Iwi's history on the hillside? Other than the explanation provided here: [https://issuu.com/herit.../docs/heritagenz\\_162/s/13168447...](https://issuu.com/herit.../docs/heritagenz_162/s/13168447...), I have not identified specific Māori activity on this particular property. I would like specific claim details of this area."*

The property is managed by Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) in the Treaty Settlement Landbank to potentially be used as redress in a Treaty Settlement.

This property entered the Landbank in June 2000 and was transferred to LINZ from the Ministry of Justice in July 2016. LINZ currently has no timeframe on when the Mana Ahuriri Trust may trigger the right to purchase process.

You can read more about the Landbank here: <https://www.linz.govt.nz/guidance/crown-property/treaty-settlements/treaty-settlements-landbank-and-maori-protection-mechanism>.

In regard to the history of iwi in the area, LINZ has found one report published by Heritage New Zealand – Napier Prison (Former), NAPIER (List No.181, Category 1). This report has been released in full to you. Please see this attached.

Further information on iwi history in the area, and claim details, are not held by LINZ. To support your research on specific claim details, we are providing a links to two publicly available sources of information:

- The Ahuriri Hapū Deed of Settlement and supporting documentation. These can be publicly accessed via the following Te Arawhiti: The Office for Māori Crown Relations webpage: <https://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz/te-kahui-whakatau-treaty-settlements/find-a-treaty-settlement/ahuriri-hapu/>
- The Heritage New Zealand listing. This can be publicly accessed via the Heritage New Zealand webpage: <https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/181/Napier-Prison-Former>.

**Question 2:** "How much money has been spent on maintaining the Old Napier Prison in the last five years? Please provide a breakdown of all running and maintenance costs to determine the average yearly expenditure on the prison's maintenance over the last 25 years."

The following figures for planned and reactive maintenance costs are available in our Financial System. The table below contains actual spend per financial year (1 July – 30 June). Please note actual spend is not yet available for 2024/25.

Project	Ledger 1 2019/20	Ledger 2 2020/21	Ledger 3 2021/22	Ledger 4 2022/23	Ledger 5 2023/24
103829 - NonDept PF1224 Napier Prison, 55 Coote Road, Bluff Hill 4110	0	0	15,780	97,330	148,211
104236 - L/B PF1224 55-57 Coote Rd/Marine Pde, former prison, Napier	0	0	0	29,231	30,455
	0	0	1,310	148,664	201,712

**Question 3:** "I understand that LINZ is addressing repairs to the inner prison retaining wall. What other damages to the property or buildings will be fixed before the transfer to the Iwi? Please list these repairs that need to be completed. What are the projected costs and timelines for these repairs? Are you intending to remove these trees and repair the limestone wall on Marine Parade as well as the historic track up that hillside?"

LINZ currently plans to remediate four retaining walls (RW12, RW11, RW10 and RW17 on the map below) prior to potential transfer to iwi. Works are still in the early consent and planning phase and are estimated to cost up to \$2,000,000.

These are currently the only major works planned.



Figure 1: Map of Napier Prison Retaining Wall Overall Risk Ratings. Source: Retaining Wall Concept Design Report May 2023 - <https://www.lin.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-05/Retaining%20wall%20concept%20design%20report%20-%20May%202023%20May.pdf>

**Question 4:** "What is the Iwi's future management plan for this prison, and how do they intend to maintain it if they acquire the property?"

This information is not held by LINZ and we have no reason to believe that it is held by another agency. Therefore, we are refusing your request under 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

**Question 5:** "How does Mana Ahuriri plan to utilise this heritage property, and will it be open or accessible to the public? If not, why?"

This information is not held by LINZ and we have no reason to believe that it is held by another agency. Therefore, we are refusing your request under 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

**Question 6:** "Please supply a valuation or asking price for this property or what the offer to the Iwi would include when it is made."

LINZ does not have a valuation or current asking price for this property. The property is recorded as a Right of First Refusal (RFR) property in Āhūriri Hapū Deed of settlement. The RFR process requires LINZ to offer the property to Āhūriri Hapū based on a market valuation.

**Question 7:** *"Does Mana Ahuriri believe they can better care for the prison? Why is it important for the Iwi to be involved in the fate and preservation of this unique colonial and prison/maritime history in Napier?"*

This information is not held by LINZ and we have no reason to believe that it is held by another agency. Therefore, we are refusing your request under 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz](mailto:ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

As advised in our acknowledgement on 20 November 2024, the response to your request, **with any personal details withheld**, will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 31 January 2025.

Nāku noa, nā



Sonya Wikitera  
Head of Crown Property