

MEDIA STATEMENT

5 August 2019

HLC Board confirms that Te Onekiritea (Bomb Point) is to permanently remain a reserve

HLC (formerly Hobsonville Land Company) has restated its commitment for Te Onekiritea (Bomb Point) to remain a public reserve for the community.

HLC Chief Executive Chris Aiken said the HLC Board was concerned that there was incorrect information circulating, and had asked Mr Aiken to speak on behalf of the Board to put the matter to rest. “Given the recent concerns expressed by residents and community representatives, we acknowledge that while the discussions with Auckland Council have been protracted, we encourage the community to remain patient.” Mr Aiken added that there was the residual issue of fair payment for the land, but that it will be resolved through the process with Government and Council, and the community does not need to concern itself with this.

Mr Aiken said this commitment was part of a wider agreement with the then-Waitakere City Council and the Government more than a decade ago, which also included the restoration of heritage sites, as well as the Coastal Walkway, landscaping, streetscapes, cycleways and a marine recreational facility.

“Retaining Bomb Point as a reserve is a non-negotiable, and HLC intends to honour the original and current agreed joint masterplan,” he said. “Rest assured that the HLC Board, as agents of the Crown, can confirm the 10.7 hectares of land will remain a reserve, as planned.”

HLC also rejected the claim that Bomb Point being rezoned as residential was in order to leverage value or allow for housing development. “Residential zoning was only ever a technical requirement of the process, and once Auckland Council acquires Bomb Point, it will be rezoned as a reserve,” Mr Aiken said.

Mr Aiken also acknowledged the support of the Upper Harbour Local Board in sharing a commitment for Bomb Point to remain a reserve, and asked for the matter to now be left in the hands of the Crown and Auckland Council to discuss options for acquisition and finalise the transfer.

HLC also expects to undertake remedial work at Bomb Point to prepare the land for transfer, and initial investigations are now underway to identify and determine further land remediation activity that may need to occur. Once the scope of this work is known and planned, it will be communicated in advance to the community and park users.

Mr Aiken said residents could take comfort in the reassurance that HLC intends to meet all its masterplan obligations, and is sure Auckland Council will do the same, as discussions for the transfer of Bomb Point to Auckland Council continue.

Concerned residents are welcome to contact him directly on email: chris.aiken@hlc.co.nz.

ENDS