

Department of Conservation
Tāmaki Makaurau
Bledisloe House
24 Wellesley Street West,
Auckland CBD,
Auckland 1010

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: Letter of Support for the Motutapu Outdoor Education Trust (MOET) Concession
Reapplication to operate the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp (MOEC)**

It is both an enormous pleasure, and privilege, to write this letter of support for the MOET's Concession Reapplication to operate the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp.

In writing this letter, it is from the vantage point of being both a long-standing client of MOEC and a past employee – and with that I have been afforded an incredibly unique perspective and insight.

As a client, organising and leading Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School's (BBI) camps for 25 years, we have seen many changes. The most significant change being when the MOET took over the running and administration of the facility. I say significant, because as one of the founding support schools from the mid 1980's we were ready to walk away and find a different camp venue due to the run-down state of the accommodation and equipment, and the lack of comprehensive safety considerations for an outdoors facility such as it is.

Upon the Motutapu Outdoor Education Trust being formed in 2008 and securing the Concession to Operate the Camp in 1999, BBI decided to give the campsite one more shot for our end-of-year camps in the November of the following year – literally!

Best decision ever.

The significant changes that had taken place even in the 12 months since our impending decision, gave the school confidence and peace of mind that the facility was in great hands.

We never looked back.

Whilst being blessed with a stunning outdoor location right on the front doorstep of Tāmaki Makaurau, the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp is enhanced by what the MOET brings to it – its operation at an extremely high level of professionalism.

The standard of maintenance for the grounds and buildings is of a consistently high standard and the commitment to whenua, moana, conservation, education and sustainability is beyond reproach.

The activities offered are incredible, providing many new and fun opportunities for a wide and inclusive range of clientele to be involved in. The learning opportunities this provides to our rangatahi is without doubt what this entity does and does extremely well. The students, parents and staff of BBI's camps have been afforded amazing experiential learning opportunities – and continue to do so due to MOET's commitment to all who attend and the programmes and learning outcomes sought.

MOET's focus on safety and compliance is of the utmost highest standard – one of the single greatest factors that drives decision making in mitigating risks in all environments for schools, EOTC being one of them.

As a past employee of the MOEC, I have seen first-hand the MOET's business skills, resources and the passion to continue to successfully operate this facility well beyond the current concession for the benefit of our rangatahi and the wider community. This commitment has been long-standing and the mindset to sow into future generations by caring for, building depth into, and providing a resource for all to enjoy is to be commended.

I congratulate MOET, the Trustees, the Management and their Staff on their commitment to not only the BBI school community, but the community of people challenged, stretched and changed by such a stunning site and its operation.

My hope is to return to MOEC for many years to come and experience this wonderful, well operated facility operating to this same high standard.

Please accept my support for the continuation of the MOET concession.

Nga mihi

Lindsay McPherson

Teacher, Deputy Principal, past employee and grateful ongoing visitor.