

16 September 2022

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Taitā hotel urupa

Tēnā koutou kato,

We have received a request from Cr Dyer as follows:

It's been claimed that Hutt City Council approved the Taitā hotel development without reading the archaeological report that stated there used to be an urupa on the site and approved the new townhouses to be built over the top.

Is there any truth to this?

The officer's response follows:

*A search of the Council files does not find any evidence to support this claim.*

*The Council planner contacted Heritage NZ to seek advice about the development prior to any resource consent being issued on the site.*

*The resource consent report makes reference to Heritage New Zealand's requirement for an archaeological authority and contains conditions to deal with accidental discovery of suspected archaeological material.*

*Council's file includes a letter from Heritage New Zealand stating that an archaeological authority was been granted for the works on the site.*

*There were some bones found during works on the site, Heritage New Zealand was informed and stated the bones appeared to be animal bones with butchers' cuts, and part of a rubbish pit. The iwi were also notified at the time the bones were discovered.*

Ngā mihi nui,

**Democratic Services Team**