

**Before Independent Hearings Commissioners
Rotorua Lakes Council**

**In the matter of 13 applications for resource consent for
contracted emergency housing by Te Tūāpapa
Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban
Development**

Statement of evidence by Raj Naruka

10 October 2022



Counsel
Nick Whittington
Hawkestone Chambers
PO Box 12091, Thorndon,
Wellington 6144
+64 21 861 814
nick.whittington@hawkestone.co.nz

Statement of evidence by Raj Naruka

1 Introduction

1.1 I am Raj Naruka, property manager of the Lake Rotorua Hotel.

2 Lake Rotorua hotel

2.1 Lake Rotorua hotel has been operating as a successful motel in Rotorua for more than 10 years now.

2.2 Pre- covid we were very busy with international tourism as well as domestic tourists. We had an occupancy of 84.90 % and 82.70 % during the year ending 2018 and 2019 respectively,

3 Contracted Emergency Housing

3.1 We entered emergency housing in July 2021, initially our contract was for one year only.

3.2 We wanted to help MHUD with the housing crisis Rotorua was facing and work with them to provide short term housing for people in need till MHUD can find them more permanent housing.

3.3 During Covid-19, year ending 2020 we had an occupancy of 51%. Before we entered EH in July 2021, our occupancy from Jan 2021 to June 2021 was 61.10%. We would have continued as a motel as you can see with the stats the country was recovering from Covid-19 impact and there was a boom in domestic tourism.

Date:10/10/22

..Raj Naruka.....

[Name]