

Letter of support for the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group

Council strongly supports the vision of the Whangawehi catchment management group. Council has been actively working with the group now for 4 years and sees the commitment from the community and in particular the three local marae who are signatories to the MOU as a catalyst to real improvement in the environmental outcomes for the catchment.

From Councils perspective this is a valuable project because:

- It is community driven and led with strong engagement from three local marae.
- It will lead to tangible and measureable improvements in water quality and habitat for native biodiversity in the Whangawehi catchment
- It is going from strength to strength with community and land user support for the project building all the time. This coupled with the recent incorporation of a society to better manage the financial and project logistical support means it is highly likely to be an enduring project over the timeframe needed to make a difference.
- This project is potentially a template for how very successful catchment management groups can operate both within the wider Mahia Peninsula and the Hawkes bay region.

I would also acknowledge that in addition to significant improvement to the environment there will be strong social and cultural outcomes from the catchment management project.

The key issue now facing the ability of the community to achieve their vision of a restored catchment with better environmental, social and cultural outcomes is project funding. While the Hawkes Bay Regional Council will continue to provide a level of financial support both directly and in-kind this is not at a level that will allow the project to make meaningful progress. The community will need to find additional sources of funding support.

I am happy to discuss any aspect of the Hawkes Bay Regional Councils perspective of this project at any time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Campbell Leckie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Campbell Leckie
Land Services Manager
Hawkes Bay Regional Council**