Kaiuku Marae Trustees
P.O Box 8, Wairoa
HAWKES BAY

The Marae strongly supports the vision and goals of the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group. We as Tangata Whenua have been actively working as part of the stakeholder group over the past couple of years and now envision the commitment from in particular our local and regional statutory bodies who as partners understand our need to improve the environmental outcomes for the Whangawehi catchment so that it remains a Taonga for future generations.

From our perspective this is a valuable project because:

- It will lead to tangible and measureable improvements in water quality and habitat for native biodiversity in the Whangawehi catchment as it is community driven and led with strong engagement from various stake holder groups not only from Tangata Whenua, but Land Owners and Recreational Users.
- 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 Peninsular 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 our vision of a restored catchment with better environmental, social and cultural outcomes is project funding. An important part of this is funding for the catchment coordinator position. While the Kaiuku Marae Trustees can only provide in-kind support this is not at a level that will allow the project to make meaningful progress, we will need to find additional funding support.

I am happy to discuss any aspect of the Kaiuku Marae Trustees perspective of this project at any time.

Yours Sincerely

SIGNED:

Pera Edwards
(Kaiuku Marae Trustee Chairperson)