



Dear Sir/Madam,

Whangawehi Catchment Management Group support

The Poutiri Ao o Tane project is fully supportive of Whangawehi Catchment Management Group's vision. As an organization that provides financial and technical support for habitat restoration work throughout Hawkes Bay we had no hesitation providing financial assistance to the project.

The lower reach of the Whangawehi stream is a priority area in terms of habitat protection for fresh water and estuarine species.

The concept of catchment wide conservation enhancement engaging; not only the landowners but also the wider community through a school and a water monitoring programme is one of the real strengths of this project. The support of the Regional and District Councils as well as the Department of Conservation is indicative of the wider commitment.

With the three Marae of the peninsula actively engaged in the partnership this project becomes a model that other groups should and will seek to emulate. The integration of Tangata Whenua concepts and values into a "whole of catchment" restoration programme adds another strength to the project.

The Poutiri Ao o Tane projects has contributed to the cost of stream protection fencing previously and has every intention of continuing our involvement and have no hesitation in recommending others do likewise.

Ken Hunt

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