



24 January 2014

Ministry for the Environment
Community Environment Fund
cef@mfe.govt.nz

Supporting Letter for the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group Application to CEF

Tena koe,

Te Wai Maori Trust was established under the Maori Fisheries Act 2004, which implements the agreements made in the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Maori in regard to Maori claims to fisheries. The purpose of Te Wai Maori is to advance the interests of Maori in freshwater fisheries. Te Wai Maori considers a crucial part of advancing Maori interests in freshwater fisheries is promoting the protection of habitat to ensure quality water and abundant species.

The Trust established a funding round, the Wai Ora Fund in 2012 to support iwi and hapu aspirations of advancing Maori interests in Freshwater, and how they sought fit to achieve that. The Whangawehi group were one of the first applicants to the fund, and were one of five successful groups to receive funding that year.

The quality of the application gave us confidence that they would achieve the milestones they had set out. We were impressed with the collaborative nature of the project (i.e regional council and Iwi/hapu), and that the majority of the decisions and work being undertaken were driven from the Whangawehi Community, and prominent leaders within the Rongomaiwahine Iwi alongside regional council advice and decision makers. We were also impressed with the project team, and that they were critical to the success of the project.

Wai Maori view this project as a model for other small iwi/hapu and communities around the country on the best way to approach freshwater management, and achieve their aspirations alongside local and regional councils. We also thought that the project would act as a catalyst for more collaboration with the remaining community, particularly the neighboring land owners and farming properties.

We fully support the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group in their application to the Community Environment Fund, and look forward to them leading the way in managing their resources, ki uta ki tai (from the land to the sea), to benefit their customary, commercial, environment and community aspirations.

Naku noa, na

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Te Wai Maori Trust and Te Ohu Kaimoana Trustee Limited