



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Letter of support for the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group**

The Hawke's Bay Area Office of the Department of Conservation supports this application for funding from the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group. The Department of Conservation strongly supports the group and has been actively working with them for over 2 years.

The Department believes the collaborative approach between the catchment group, district and regional councils and the Department of Conservation will lead to tangible and measureable improvements in water quality and habitat for native biodiversity in the Whangawehi catchment.

The Whangawehi Stream is a significant catchment within Mahia Peninsula and contains the Mahia Peninsula Scenic Reserve which is the largest lowland reserve in the Hawke's Bay and contains exceptional botanical conservation value.

The catchment group has a high level of commitment from the community particularly the three local marae who are signatories to the MOU and it will serve as a role model for how other catchment groups could operate throughout the Hawke's Bay region.

Its support from land users and the community is growing and they are now an incorporated society which further shows the groups resolve to achieve their goals over the timeframe required to make a tangible difference.

In addition to the environmental benefits I would also like to highlight that there will be strong social and cultural benefits to the community and I recommend that you consider and grant their request for funding.

I am happy to discuss any aspect of the Department of Conservation's perspective of this project at any time.

Kind regards

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