

15 February 2023

File Ref: EXTR -9- 1406

Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe e te Minita

Funding proposal: Establishment and design of Puketahā EcoSanctuary at Wainuiomata

On behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) and Taranaki Whānui, we are pleased to present you with this proposal for consideration by the Prime Minister's Emerging Priorities Fund.

This visionary initiative proposes to pest-exclusion fence the 3,313 ha Wainuiomata Water Catchment, reintroduce critically endangered species such as kākāpo, rowi, and hīhī and establish the area as a biodiversity, social and economic hub. It will transform the surrounding Remutaka Range and local communities and pioneer an alternative national strategy to insure against further forest species extinction.

Funding will enable us to complete all the establishment, design, permissions, and pre-construction steps required to obtain resource and building consents and be ready to move to the main funding application and development phase of the project. We are submitting the proposal following a meeting with the Hon Grant Robertson MP for Wellington Central and the Rt Hon Trevor Mallard, former MP for Hutt South.

We seek your endorsement of this proposal and ask that your office forwards it to the Prime Minister's office for their consideration.

Naku nā



Daran Ponter
Chair, Greater Wellington



Kara Puketapu-Dentice
Chair, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

CC: Hon Grant Robertson, MP Wellington Central; Hon Ginny Andersen MP Hutt South

Attached: Proposal for Establishment and Design funding for Wainuiomata/Puketahā ecosanctuary