

äventuur

Auckland Surf Park Community Letters of Support

—
PREPARED FOR THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AW HOLDINGS 2021 LTD
NOVEMBER 2022

1. Letters of Support

- New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
- Tataki Auckland Unlimited
- Spark NZ
- Surfing New Zealand
- Skateboarding New Zealand
- Surf Lifesaving New Zealand
- Water Safety New Zealand
- Paralympics New Zealand
- Disabled Surfers Association New Zealand
- Scholastics Surfing Auckland
- SurfAid New Zealand
- Micro Surf Academy
- New Zealand High Performance Surfers
 - Paige Hareb
 - Billy Stairmand
 - Ricardo Christie
 - Saffi Vette



Richard Duff
Aventuur Inc
6 October 2022

Re: Support for Aventuur Wave Park In North Auckland

I am writing to outline Tātaki Auckland Unlimited's support for the development of the Aventuur Wave Park in the north Auckland region. Tātaki Auckland Unlimited is Auckland's economic and cultural agency and is responsible for attracting investment into the Auckland region. Our organisation's statement of intent outlines economic transformation, new business and investment attraction, visitor economy development and a requirement to help reduce carbon emissions in the region.

We understand that you are looking to develop an inland wave park, combined with a short stay accommodation offering, surf academy, solar farm, retail offering and farm to table restaurant as part of this development. You have also identified other commercial activity that may be developed on the intended site.

Tātaki Auckland Unlimited and our Investment team are well positioned to directly support Aventuur Inc in this instance for the following reasons:

- A significant financial investment to be made in this unique new tourism offering for both domestic and international visitors.
- A tourism attraction in the north of Auckland helping spread the distribution of visitors within the Auckland region.
- More visitor accommodation in the north of Auckland where there is additional need for short stay accommodation.
- The creation of quality jobs.
- Planned Iwi involvement.
- Creative use of solar to assist with a more sustainable outcome.
- Encouraging another form of sports participation to increase mental and physical wellbeing of Aucklanders and visitors from outside Auckland.
- Planned use of resource to educate school children re the ocean and the physical environment.

Once again, Auckland Unlimited is pleased to support Aventuur's plans to establish an Auckland wave park, and we look forward to continuing to work together to support its development and growth.

Ngā mihi nui,
Kind regards,

Pam Ford
Director
Investment & Industry

20/07/2022

To whom it may concern,

Aventuur Auckland Wave Park Development

Surfing New Zealand is the governing body for all surfing disciplines in New Zealand and the recognised national body by Sport New Zealand.

Our Vision - Enriching Kiwi lives through the enjoyment of surfing.

To achieve our vision, we manage national initiatives from entry level learn to surf and surf safety programs through to national events and New Zealand Surfing Teams including our Olympic athletes. We facilitate several community focused initiatives such as the popular Surfers Rescue 24/7 program which educates the surfing community on how to save lives outside the flags.

We have a network of over 35 boardrider clubs around the country that deliver vital community projects and a further 30 accredited surf schools who deliver upward of 30,000 surf lessons annually.

The surfing community spans the length of the country with 340,000 participants (Sport NZ Active Survey 2020). A further 215,000 adults are interested in surfing and 17,000 youth state they would like to try the sport.

We confirm our full support for a wave park in Auckland.

We have followed the success of UrbnSurf Wave Park in Melbourne and the opportunities it has provided. It has been interesting to see the number of Kiwi's that have frequented the facility or intend too soon.

The impact UrbnSurf has had on Surfing Victoria programs is evident both for their elite and developing athletes as well as first timers that are learning new activities and having new experiences.



PO Box 233,
Whangamata 3620



s 9(2)(a)



www.surfingnz.co.nz



@surfingnz



s 9(2)(a)

As a sport, of particular interest to us are pathway opportunities and the ability to develop our athletes in a controlled environment.

At an entry level, breaking down barriers to entry for the sport is important and there are two key factors, particularly for rangatahi:

1. Geographical location of the Auckland population and distance to surfable coastlines
2. Perceived ocean dangers – rip currents, large waves, and sea life

A wave park breaks down the above barriers and will foster an active community.

We are confident that the experienced Aventura team can deliver an exceptional wave park for New Zealand given their background with existing and proposed parks in Australia.

We have an MOU with Aventura to collaborate on opportunities associated with a wave park. This includes elements of becoming an active nation, health and wellness promotion, engagement with schools, engagement with priority populations such as Maori, Pacific Islanders and Asians plus people of all abilities.

We believe a wave park will be an important piece of sports infrastructure not only for Auckland but the entire country not to mention international visitors that will see the development as a key attraction.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further details.

Regards,



Ben Kennings
Chief Executive
Surfing New Zealand

04/11/2022

To Whom it May Concern.

Subject: Aventura Auckland Wave Park Development.

This is a letter of endorsement for Aventura Wave Park development, supporting their application to build a new purpose built wave pool facility including a skatepark and pump track.

We are excited at the opportunities facilities like this will bring to Auckland and the whole of New Zealand for surfing, skateboarding and the overall active recreation community.

Skate parks are a place where unstructured play flourishes, allowing users to engage organically and most importantly on their own terms. Surfing and Skateboarding are all-inclusive communities and by providing facilities they provide an outlet for youth to participate in an accessible form of active recreation.

As the governing body of skateboarding within New Zealand we applaud and support groups striving to provide facilities for all active recreation within their community.

Facilities like this allow New Zealand to raise our ceiling and be present on an international level. We are now both Olympic sports and by bringing world class facilities to Aotearoa, we not only strengthen our local talent, but foster international competitors to travel here and inspire the next generation.

Any enquiries related to this can be directed to Chris Curran s 9(2)(a)
information.

Yours Sincerely.



.....
Chris Curran
President — Skateboarding.NZ



2 August 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Aventuur Auckland Wave Park Development

Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) is the national body for surf life saving in New Zealand, supporting 74 surf life saving clubs around the country with a total membership of 19,000 people.

Our vision is “no one drowns at our beaches”, and to do that we engage in community education programmes, proactive beach patrols over the summer period and reactive Search & Rescue activities all year round. Last summer we saved over 700 lives, but sadly there were still 18 preventable drownings at beaches to remind us that there is still more to be done!

It is in this context that we are strong advocates for a wave park in Auckland, for a number of reasons:

- Being able to provide people with ‘beach –like’ experiences (i.e. waves and strong currents) in a controlled and supervised environment, where they can learn safely about the conditions they would face in the real world. Far too often we see people turning up at the beach totally unprepared for the conditions. This exposure could be through formal learning opportunities (e.g. lessons targeted at low decile communities) or informally, just through enjoying the park experience.
- Accessibility and availability – within close proximity to a large population and not impacted by the weather and tidal factors, nor seasons or daylight hours. A wave park will remove some significant ‘barriers to entry’ for many people. This is particularly relevant to the Maori, Pasifika and Asian communities who are over-represented in our drowning statistics.
- The opportunity for surf lifeguard training in a convenient location, all year round again without the vagaries of weather, tides and daylight hours. Nationally SLSNZ trains around 1,000 new lifeguards a year plus we have some 4,000 that return each year and need to keep fit, refresh and upskill, of which a significant proportion are in the Auckland area. Access to a wave park will assist with their training and development in way we have never had before. And for a few it will also help with employment opportunities at the park itself!
- The opportunity to hold our form of sporting events in a unique setting will help our sport develop new formats and engagement with our membership, and potentially grow it in the wider community. Again accessibility comes to the fore here.
- Being able to easily engage with the wider surfing community, to grow the Surfer Rescue 24/7 programme which is run in conjunction with Surfing NZ.
- Increasing the exposure of the community to the enjoyment of the waves will ultimately help us recruit our volunteer workforce, as more people are comfortable in that environment and

In it for life



FINANCIAL SERVICES



experience the thrill of it. As above, the wave park will remove some barriers to entry into our organisation.

- Increasing the exposure of the community to the enjoyment of the waves will ultimately help us recruit our volunteer workforce, as more people are comfortable in that environment and experience the thrill of it. As above, the wave park will remove some barriers to entry into our organisation.

We are delighted the Aventura team are bringing this opportunity to Auckland, and indeed the whole country, as it will be a very significant piece of aquatic infrastructure for New Zealand.

We look forward to working with them to bring the opportunities we have mentioned above to life, and have been impressed by their focus on the wider community benefits such a project will bring.


Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Dalton', with a horizontal line underneath.

Paul Dalton
Chief Executive
Surf Life Saving New Zealand

s 9(2)(a)

A large grey rectangular redaction box covering the bottom portion of the page.

24th August 2022

To whom it may concern,

Re: Letter of Support for Aventura Auckland Wave Park Development

We are an island nation with some of the most magnificent waterways in the world. Our ocean, coasts, beaches, lakes, and rivers help define us and reflect the people we have become. Water is life and in New Zealand, it's our way of life. Experiences in, on or around the water are part of what we do and what makes us Kiwi. But sadly, drownings and non-fatal drowning incidents are all too common.

Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) is the leader in educating New Zealanders around Water Safety, by modifying behaviour, knowledge, risk awareness and decision making. WSNZ, and its partners are working towards achieving zero drownings.

In this context we are strong advocates for a Wave Park in Auckland. Environments that are controlled and supervised provide the ideal environment for experiential Water Safety education. Having a facility which is easily accessible to Kiwis all year round can only be positive.

With our ambitious goal of better behaving New Zealand's around Water, we look forward to the opportunity to work with the Wave Park to further educate the public.

Nga mihi



Daniel Gerrard
Chief Executive
Water Safety New Zealand

A 2015 study [Benefits of Surfing for Children with Disabilities: A Pilot Study](#) from the University of Rhode Island highlights the physical, social and personal benefits of surfing for disabled people. Some key findings include:

- **Surfing improved the physical wellbeing of the disabled participants.** Surfing is widely acknowledged as an intense form of exercise which involves healthy levels of aerobic activity. Surfing encourages participants to move their bodies in new ways, practising movements that are different from everyday activities. Core body strength, aerobic capacity, increased grip strength and flexibility were all recorded as being improved after the surf programme study.
- **Surfing Cultivates an Environment of Support.** Surfing can be an unforgettable experience, especially when participants are surrounded by an environment of encouragement and support. Whether surfers are given lessons as a group or as an individual, they have the opportunity to form a trusting relationship with the instructor while also being encouraged to strive for feelings of independence and achievement.
- **Surfing is an inclusive sport** that promotes a supportive environment for participants to encourage each other and share one another's successes. Taking part in surfing activities can help boost an individual's sense of self, helping to improve confidence, self-esteem and a feeling of belonging.
- **Surfing is fun.** It is a unique sport that pushes individuals to learn numerous new skills, including balance and furthering water knowledge, all while being in a safe and supportive environment where individuals are primarily encouraged to be themselves and have fun.

The International Surfing Association is developing Para surfing globally and we would look forward to working collaboratively with Surfing NZ and Disabled Surfing NZ to identify the opportunities for participation by disabled New Zealanders and the pipeline of Para athletes into competitive Para surfing. Classification in Para sport is a process where certified Para Surfing Classifiers assess the strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination of competitive adaptive surfers to group the athletes with permanent impairments into one of the nine Para Surfing Sports Classes (7 Physical Para Surfing Classes and 2 Visual Sports Classes).

The development of a purpose-built world-class wave park facility will enable New Zealand to seek to promote and attract international Para surfing events, including New Zealand's potential to be included in a future "event series".

Paralympics New Zealand has been briefed by Andy Ross and Aventura and we believe that the team will create a unique facility that will benefit many sectors of the community and considerable thought will be given to ensuring the full inclusion of disabled people.

We look forward to working with Andy Ross and the team at Aventura on this exciting addition in Auckland and in New Zealand.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on s 9(2)(a) or at s 9(2)(a)

Kind Regards,



Fiona Allan
Chief Executive
Paralympics New Zealand



To whom it may concern,

Set up in 2010, The Disabled Surfers Association of New Zealand (DSANZ) is a registered “not for profit” incorporated society providing anyone of any disability a fun, safe surfing and beach experience.

Our “Have A Go” days are held at Auckland’s Piha Beach 3 to 4 times per year. Each event attracts up to 40 volunteers and 60 participants. Having a surfing experience at an event can not only change the lives of these participants but also those volunteering.

For our events to run smoothly, we need non-dumping waves in the 2-4 foot range. With Piha being a west coast beach, we often have to cancel events because the waves are too big, creating strong undertows and rips. This is hugely disappointing to everyone involved as many participants come from all over New Zealand to Have A Go.

Having Auckland Wavegarden in Auckland would benefit DSA NZ immensely, as we could control the size and frequency of the wave in a safe environment. This, in turn, would attract more disabled people to Have A Go, and ultimately we could grow the number of events we run each year.

DSA NZ fully supports Auckland Wavegarden’s pursuit of setting up a much-needed wave pool in Auckland.

Kind regards,

Dirk Jansen

Treasurer

The Disabled Surfers Association of New Zealand

SCHOLASTICS SURFING AUCKLAND

schoolsurfingauckland@gmail.com



RE: Surfing Wave Pool in Auckland

To Whom It May Concern:

Scholastics Surfing Auckland acts as an agent to Auckland schools to facilitate surfing as a recreational activity and competitive sport for all schools in the greater Auckland area. Our vision is to lift the profile of surfing in schools to ensure it is an accessible and recognised sporting option for all that wish to pursue and try it. We strongly believe that surfing is a powerful outlet for young people, promoting healthy life choices and positively impacting mental health.

We want to declare our unconditional support for the concept of developing a surfing wave pool in Auckland. We believe having such a facility accessible to our young people will be invaluable on many levels, including enabling first-time surfers to experience the sport in a safe and controlled environment and as the pathway of progression and skill development for competitive-level surfers.

One of our biggest challenges as an organisation is holding school ages surfing events on the wild west coast of Auckland. Safety is paramount for us, and it is not unusual to postpone a single event twice before getting an acceptable and contestable window to run. This makes it very difficult for newcomers and sets them at a disadvantage to those with some experience in the challenging conditions of our west coast beaches.

Surfing as a sport is rapidly gaining popularity, and keeping numbers manageable and safe in open ocean conditions is a growing concern for us. A wave pool would allow us to open events up to a broader range of abilities raising our level of inclusivity whilst improving water safety. These benefits cannot be understated.

Regards,

Bryan Thompson
CHAIR – Scholastics Surfing Auckland
28.06.2022

SURFAID

November 1, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

SurfAid is an international charitable organisation. SurfAid's mission is to improve the health, well-being and resilience of families living in isolated regions connected to us through surfing. This includes remote areas of Indonesia, Solomon Islands and Baja Sur, Mexico.

We were founded by New Zealander Dr. Dave Jenkins in 1999 after he was on a surfing trip in the Mentawai Islands off Sumatra and witnessed the health problems of the local people.

Our early efforts focused on providing health education and mosquito nets to prevent the spread of malaria.

We now look to empower and support local communities to enrich their own lives, and increase their choices and possibilities for realising their own potential. We strive for lasting improvement in the health, well-being and resilience of remote communities by implementing community-led development programs that are clear in their goals, effective in their implementation and subject to continuous monitoring and evaluation.

SurfAid has received several international awards and receives donations of about \$3 million annually from private and corporate donors, most involved in the sport of surfing.

We are very proud of the Kiwi origins of SurfAid International and the New Zealand chapter is extremely active and committed to our cause.

SurfAid New Zealand supports Aventura's proposal to bring a surf park to Auckland, utilising the Wavegarden Cove technology.

We consider the advent of surf park technology as a massive boost for not only the sport but also the ability of organisations such as ourselves to work alongside operators in raising awareness and funds for our philanthropic work.

SurfAid has already run several charity events at surf parks including the SurfAid Cup at Melbourne's URBNSURF which utilises Wavegarden technology and a similar event at the Kelly Slater Surf Ranch in California.

A Wavegarden in Auckland would allow SurfAid New Zealand to establish a meaningful New Zealand SurfAid Cup annual fundraising event and draw attention to our important work.

It is difficult to assemble the surfing community in one area within Aotearoa and the Auckland park would remedy this for many sections within the sport, but importantly for charitable organisations such as ourselves.

Another tangible benefit would be greater Auckland participation in our annual global Make A Wave challenge which is our biggest fundraiser. It requires a sponsored pledge to surf the 30 days of September which is challenging for city-based surfers in our biggest city.

SURFAID

We are enthusiastic about future opportunities with the Auckland park.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ross Corbett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Ross" and "Corbett" being capitalized and prominent.

Ross Corbett

SurfAid New Zealand Board Chair



Micro Surfing Academy Pty Ltd
25 Gill Avenue
AVOCA BEACH NSW 2251
AUSTRALIA

To Whom It May Concern

Micro Surf Academy (MSA) is a mentoring and coaching academy for beginner to elite/professional surfers. MSA is headed up by retired professional surfer, Glenn “Micro” Hall.

MSA and the deep values of our staff have created a holistic approach in our coaching & mentoring philosophies as we prioritise the health and wellbeing of our clients. We see the hugely positive impact the art of riding a wave has on people at all levels and want to offer this healthy active experience to as many people as possible. We see surfing as the gateway to building happier and healthier people.

A Wave Park in Auckland would create the opportunity to offer surfing to a broader New Zealand (NZ) population which could lead to creating a lifelong healthy active lifestyle for many. The Wave Park will allow the ability to teach the essential safety skills to the guests in a safe and positive environment; teaching swimming, how to spot rips, rescue techniques, ocean safety etc. This will equate to more NZ beach enthusiasts being equipped with greater skills to practice safe surfing and swimming in general.

NZ is currently a highly respected surfing country with multiple world class surfers representing the country. These surfers create an incredible amount of inspiration to aspiring competitive surfers. In our experience the Wave Garden technology is proven to be the best training tool in the world to fast track the development of an elite surfer. A Wave Park in Auckland would no doubt assist in developing the next generation of NZ surfers to represent the country on the professional surfing World Tour and the Olympic / Paralympic stage.

Additionally, the Wave Park will have the ability to hold events from community board-rider events right through to elite events or possibly a future Olympic / Paralympic event. Adaptive surfing and surf therapy programs are gaining momentum in the world’s wave parks. The slow-moving knee-high waves in the Bay areas of the Wavegarden Cove have seen thousands of beginners catch their first rides, plenty of which have been adaptive surfers. Wave Parks are already getting people with adaptive challenges back into the water or into surfing for the first time. Wave Park’s help at the surf-entry level. People feel safe in a controlled environment. The benefits are endless and could be extended to at risk youth, autistic surfers and other sections of the community that could all benefit from surf therapy programs.

The beginner to intermediate surf population has exploded exponentially through recent covid times as surfers have found the time to reunite with their active hobbies. The Melbourne, Australia based Wave Park has proven that beginner to intermediate surfers



have gravitated to the Wave Park sessions to sharpen their skills to be more capable when surfing in the ocean not just from Melbourne, but from all over Australia and abroad as a destination Wave Park. We believe a Wave Park in Auckland will have a similar positive impact not just for NZ surfers but for NZ tourism as a destination Wave Park.

Overall, the opportunities a Wave Park in Auckland would create for the whole NZ population is incredibly exciting. From integrating school programs to safely introducing kids and adults to surfing in a controlled environment and at the same time offering programs to intermediate and elite surfers to potentially go on to represent their country in the sport of surfing. Most of all, a Wave Park will introduce more people of NZ to a healthy activity that they can share with their families and friends for the rest of their lives. It creates a space where children, adults, elderly, disabled, special needs and people of all backgrounds and cultures can experience and share together which is community building.

Glenn Hall
Founder & Head Coach
Micro Surf Academy

Dear Minister,

My name is Paige Hareb and I am a professional surfer of 14+ years, representing New Zealand on the World Surf League circuit. I am currently competing in World Surf League events internationally and I aspire to represent our country at the 2024 Olympic Games.

I would like to indicate my unqualified support for the development of a Wavegarden Cove surf park in Auckland as presented by the team at Aventura.

I was fortunate to try the first Wavegarden prototype in Spain about 10 years ago and have been a strong advocate of surf parks ever since. I have been lucky enough to train and/or compete in various wave pools around the world including the Waco wave park in Texas, Kelly Slater's Surf Ranch in California, and also UrbnSurf in Melbourne which operates with Wavegarden Cove technology.

Having this experience, I can confidently say that the Wavegarden Cove is the best all round wave technology. It produces the widest variety of wave types that suit beginners through to professionals and everyone in between. I also believe Wavegarden's sustainability story to be very impressive which matters to me as a person conscious of the environment.

From a high performance perspective, a Wavegarden pool in Auckland would be a real asset to competitive surfers who want to represent our country at WSL level and now also in the Olympics. The repetition and quality of waves it can produce make it ideal for preparing for international competition and advancing skills. I am already seeing the benefits that non-surfing heritage nations like England, Canada and Japan are gaining in international results by having access to wave pools. For the likes of myself and aspiring kids who want to aim for the world stage, a Wavegarden Cove here in our country would be a huge asset within our professional pathway.

However, from a wider perspective, Aventura's vision and team, and the involvement of Sir John Kirwan, gives me great confidence that the Auckland surf park can set a new standard for what these types of facilities can deliver in physical and mental health benefits and the ability to include all walks of life in removing the traditional barriers to a great sport like surfing. There are so many other avenues and opportunities that a visionary facility like this can deliver for the community including teaching kids how to navigate the ocean and improve water skills, surfing with a disability and mental health and wellness education and promotional programmes just to name a few.

I can't wait to see this outstanding project come to life in Auckland, let alone New Zealand! I look forward to visiting for training, events and having fun with family and friends.

Kind regards

Paige Hareb

To Whom it may concern

My name is Billy Stairmand. I am a professional surfer, Olympian and eight times National Surfing champion. I am currently competing internationally on the World Surf League's Challenger series and am also currently in training to qualify and represent New Zealand for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

I would love to give my support in the development of Aventura's Wavegarden Cove surf park in Auckland. I have always been a fan of the idea of a wave pool and was lucky enough to surf one of the first ever Wavegarden surf pool competitions in Surf Snowdonia in Wales a few years back. It was an amazing experience with a cool stadium-type atmosphere with crowds surrounding the pool, making it like a rugby feel.

Surfing the wave itself was super fun and high performance and that was just the first of its type with Cove technology now taking the pools to new levels. These days they have adapted and evolved to be amazing waves with so much potential for so many different aspects of surfing. From a high performance perspective, I can honestly say that the Wavegarden Cove technology looks like the most all around perfect wave. Its smaller wave settings help the newer/ beginner type surfers the opportunities to stand up for the first time, learn how to turn and balance better and have a lot of fun. The bigger wave/expert level is so beneficial to the surfer who already has experience but wants to catch more waves than in the ocean and work more on technique, turns and aerial manoeuvres.

From my perspective the Wavegarden technology provides opportunity for the high performance athletes like myself and the next generation to come in and practice and perfect our skill, trying new manoeuvres, new heat strategies and techniques. On the coaching side, it gives coaches the availability to work with their athletes in a much closer, easier and secure space with options of different wave settings which aligns with different conditions in surf competitions.

It's also an amazing arena to work deeply on technique, manoeuvres and learning new things for competition. Having the likes of Wavegarden in our country is a huge asset to our future Olympians and high profile athletes.

I truly believe surfing is such an amazing and refreshing sport for the body and the mind whether you are a beginner, recreational or professional surfer. We all share the same love for the sport and I believe surfing is an amazing tool for the mental health and wellbeing of others.

This is where I believe having the Aventura Wavegarden Cove in New Zealand will benefit not only the average surfer but it will give access to kids, adults and everyone who sometimes don't have the accessibility to surfing and give them the chance to do so.

It will give us opportunities to work with schools, businesses and people who just want to try something new, spread the love and happiness of surfing and help people's wellbeing as well as helping our next generation high profile athletes at the same facility.

I'm super excited to be a part of this new adventure and cannot wait to see this amazing project by Aventura come to life in the big city of Auckland, New Zealand. I look forward to practices, trainings, coaching and surf sessions with friends and family and all other activities that Aventura and Wavegarden have to offer.

Many thanks

Billy Stairmand

To Whom it may concern..

I would like to indicate my support for Aventura in the development of a wave pool in Aotearoa. For me, surfing has given me everything and I am one of a few surfers from NZ who has had the opportunity to travel around the world as a professional surfer. Growing up in a small rural town of Mahia, I fell in love with surfing at 8 years old and it became my life from that point. Inevitably it took me down the competitive surfing route as that was the career path, yet my passion was for surfing, nature and self improvement rather than just winning. I have always used my platform to encourage people to go and surf, connect with nature and share with their community. This was my 'Why?' and still is. I competed on the World Qualifying series for over a decade, won international events and qualified for the World Championship Tour twice but more importantly had the opportunity to connect with people all around the world who shared my same passion.

From my time on tour, I have close friendships with some of the best surfers in the world, thus I believe I have a good insight into what is going on in the surf world.

It is an obvious fact that wave pools will be essential in helping young surfers train and improve to be the best they can be. I have watched kids living in close proximity to wave pools around the world showing a much faster rate of improvement which is obvious when comparing against the original ocean-dwellers at the same age.

For New Zealand surfers to keep up with the play, having a wavepool facility access will be vital in our budding professional surfer's of the future and their potential to compete at the highest level on the world stage.

The benefits of being active outdoors is essential in the overall mental wellbeing of us humans and the wave pool will also provide an amazing opportunity for people who haven't surfed, to learn the ropes in a controlled environment so when they head back out to the ocean, they will be much better prepared, and ready to add an incredible tool to help them stay fit, healthy and enjoy life.

Outside of the wave pool, the opportunity to create a world class space for Active Recreation such as skateboarding and riding bikes offers the same benefits and will be accessible to all from the sounds of the planning.

This will be an opportunity to teach some amazing tools that can be adopted by anyone, no matter what walk of life they come from. I sit on the Tairāwhiti Adventure Trust with some fellow die-hard Active Recreation enthusiasts who all share a love for the things we do, surfing, skateboarding, bmx, cycling, adventuring, climbing etc etc. We are aware of the benefits of Active Recreation in the mental health space as well as the obvious physical benefits but most of all, community. We have all experienced for ourselves what active recreation can bring to the table in our lives, therefore we know just how strong the positive impact can be if more people implemented it in their daily lives. We have redeveloped the Gisborne Skatepark, creating one of the best skateparks in the country, as well as added a world class Pump Track. We support our local athletes by helping them raise funds and have a big dream to help promote Active Recreation in our community. I believe this new facility has the potential to be New Zealand's central Active Recreation hub, our mascot centre which will help promote and spread the word for Active Recreation which will flow out into every community who visits. The more people that can learn these amazing skills and add to their own lives and community, the better!

Cheers,
Ricardo Christie

Dear Minister,

My name is Saffi Vette and I am an up and coming professional surfer, representing New Zealand on the World Surf League Qualifying Series. I am currently competing in events internationally and I aspire to represent our country at the 2024/2028 Olympic Games.

I would like to acknowledge my support for the development of a Wavegarden Cove surf park in Auckland as presented by the team at Aventuur.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to train in the URBNSURF wave pool in Melbourne earlier this year.

I found that it was beneficial for my improvement as a high performance surfer and competitor. The various settings of the specific pool were profoundly similar to how different waves are around the world that we have to compete in. From soft waves we have to work hard in, to waves that have a bit more wall and power. My favourite was the barrel setting as I learnt so much about different techniques and approaches I can use if I come across these types of waves in the ocean. I can really see it being a huge advantage for Kiwi surfers trying to make the world stage in competitive surfing.

Having this facility in New Zealand will be a game changer. Not only will it have the wave pool but a high performance centre for athletes to come to for training purposes. For example; gym, trampolines, foam pit, recovery clinic, the list goes on.

It will provide a safe, positive environment for all professional athletes within New Zealand. A place where athletes can meet and relate to each other. We can all get inspired by one another and really push each other to become better athletes. Having Sir John Kirwan's involvement with Aventuur's vision for the facility is huge confirmation that this zone will be open for not only athletes but anyone that needs access to it for their mental and physical well being.

This Wavegarden will cater for all recreational surfers and those wanting to learn to surf. It's a great way to spend a full day exercising and having fun.

Providing different activities within the location for Mum's that want to get a massage, Dad's that want to watch their kids surf and then go back and chill out at their nearby on property residence, kids that just want to run around doing as many fun activities as possible all within walking distance makes this arena a one stop shop destination.

I am eager to see this outstanding space come to life in Auckland, let alone New Zealand! I am looking forward to visiting for training purposes, events and having fun with family and friends.

Kind regards

Saffi Vette

äventuur

Auckland Surf Park Community Letters of Support

—
PREPARED FOR THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AW HOLDINGS 2021 LTD
NOVEMBER 2022