

28 October 2022

Hon. David Parker  
Minister for the Environment  
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**WELLINGTON 6160**

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Tēnā koe Minister

**COVID 19 RECOVERY FAST TRACK PLANNING APPLICATION; HERETAUNGA TAMATEA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – FLAXMERE, HAWKE’S BAY**

I am pleased to be writing, on behalf of the Hawkes Bay Regional Council (**HBRC**), in support of the application for referral into the fast-track programme noted above.

The applicant, the Heretaunga Tamatea Settlement Trust (**HTST**), is the Post Settlement Governance Entity for Heretaunga Tamatea, recognised as an Iwi Authority by HBRC. HTST has engaged with HBRC in respect of its application for referral over some months, and HBRC has a good understanding of the Project, and the positive environmental, social, and cultural outcomes that it wished to achieve. The site is identified under the Heretaunga Plains Urban Development Strategy (**HPUDS**) for future development, which has been a collaborative initiative between HBRC, Hastings District Council, and Napier City Council. HBRC supports the provision of additional housing on this site, of the density proposed, as being broadly consistent with HPUDS, as well as the wider national policy direction for the provision of well needed housing.

HBRC also has a particular interest in development of the site in respect of stormwater. In addition to its general functions to ensure integrated management of resources, part of the Wellwood Drain is currently vested in HBRC for stormwater management purposes. This arose from certain land dealings in 2013 when land was divested from the Crown for State Highway widening purposes. It is somewhat anomalous that the Irongate Stream which also now falls within HTST’s development site has no formal protections, although HBRC considers that it is responsible still for stormwater management of that part of the Irongate Stream, as part of its wider management of the Irongate Stream catchment.

HBRC understands that HTST wishes, as part of its development, to extend the piping of stormwater from Flaxmere, into its site, and then realign the balance of the Wellwood Drain. In “return” it wishes to exchange the bed of the Wellwood Stream into HBRC ownership and formal control. HTST also wishes to commit to significant ecological planting and stormwater management measures, so as to improve the situation in both regards as a consequence of its development.

HBRC supports these outcomes, subject to completion of the relevant statutory processes, which it is willing to work with HTST to advance in due course. The final mechanism for facilitating the exchange is likely to be under the Reserves Act, but this is a detail that is still being resolved.

In short, the potential exchange of ownership areas withing the development site is not seen by HBRC as an impediment to this development and is a process that HBRC are committed to working with HTST to conclude.

HBRC is happy to engage further through this process, as appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JP', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**James Palmer**  
**Chief Executive**

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