Notice of Meeting:
I hereby give notice that an ordinary Meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on:

Date: 21 February 2018
Time: 10.00am
Meeting Room: Council Chamber
Venue: Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East

VRJ Payne
Chief Executive Officer

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Finance Committee
Open Agenda

Chairperson  Cr J Hennebry
Deputy Chair  Cr H Vercoe
Members  Cr D Minogue
          Cr S Kneebone
          Cr B Quayle

Ex officio  Cr A Livingston; or
            Cr T Mahuta

Quorum  4

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Dominique Thurlow
Democracy Advisor

Telephone: 0800 800 401
Dominique.thurlow@waikatoregion.govt.nz
Website: www.waikatoregion.govt.nz
Finance Committee

REPORTING TO: Council.

CONSTITUTION: Five (5) Councillors, The Council Chair or Deputy Chair (ex-officio with full voting rights).

QUORUM: Four (4) members.

MEETING FREQUENCY: Five times per year (to align with key financial reporting periods) or as required.

OBJECTIVE: To monitor Council’s financial and non-financial activities against its LTP and Annual Plan.

To monitor the performance of Council’s Investment Fund against the Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives and compliance with the Treasury Policy.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITY:

1. To oversee the implementation of Council’s funding and financial policies.

2. To monitor performance of the Treasury management function.

3. To approve the Statements of Intent and to monitor the performance of all Council Controlled Organisations and Council Organisations in which Council has a significant financial involvement.

4. To receive quarterly details of remuneration and reimbursement of expenses paid to each individual councillor.

5. To consider quarterly (for information only) a schedule of contracts/tenders let by the Tenders Board.

6. To review Council’s financial and non-financial performance and make recommendations on any forecast variances against the Annual Plan.

7. To consider and make recommendations on the adoption of the Annual Report

8. To consider and make recommendations on delegation of authority to the Chief Executive and/or staff.

9. To consider and make recommendations on changes to fees and charges.

10. To monitor the performance of Council’s Investment Fund and make recommendations on any changes to the Portfolio construction and management appointees after consideration of advice and recommendations from Council’s investment advisor.
POWER TO ACT:

1. To write-off outstanding debtor (including rates) accounts where necessary.

2. To provide financial parameters as input to the preparation of Council’s Long Term Plan and Annual Plans by Standing Committees.

3. To approve Draft Statements of Intent\(^1\) for Council Controlled Organisations and review the financial performance and activities of all relevant Council Controlled Organisations.

4. To receive and approve/decline Environmental Initiative Fund and Natural Heritage Programme applications.

5. To approve unbudgeted requests for sponsorship, up to the value of $25,000.

6. To receive reports relative to the Investment Fund and Treasury Management financial performance of Council and non-financial performance measures including quarterly reports from Council’s Strategic Investment fund advisor and updates from fund managers as appropriate.

POWER TO RECOMMEND:

1. To undertake quarterly reviews of progress on Council’s Long Term Plan and Annual Plans, consider progress reports and make recommendations to Council where appropriate of forecast variances.

2. To report on significant matters with respect to financial procedures that affect or alter Council’s Annual or Long Term Plan and make recommendations to Council.

3. To consider the funding of capital projects, including the raising, redemption and repayment of loans and make recommendations to Council.

4. To consider fees and charges for all goods and services provided to other authorities, organisations and private individuals and make recommendations to Council.

5. To monitor Council’s investments and make recommendations to the Strategy and Policy Committee on investment and liability management policies.

NOTE:

The draft Statement of Intent for the Lake Taupō Protection Trust is reported to/through the Lake Taupō Protection Project Joint Committee as stated in/required by the Project Agreement and Deed.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Apologies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Confirmation of Agenda</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Application to the Natural Heritage Fund – Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust</td>
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This report presents a proposal for a Natural Heritage Fund grant from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust for the Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari project for consideration.
Report to Finance Committee

Date: 1 February 2018

Author: Judy van Rossem, Project Manager Biodiversity and Funding

Authoriser: Clare Crickett, Director Integrated Catchment Management

Subject: Application to the Natural Heritage Fund – Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust

Section: A (Committee has delegated authority to make decision)

Purpose

1. To present the proposal for a Natural Heritage Fund grant from the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust for the Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari project, for consideration and decision by the Finance Committee.

Executive Summary

2. A proposal for a Natural Heritage Fund grant for $1,400,000 over four years has been received from Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (MEIT), to be applied specifically to:
   - Maintaining the 47km predator proof fence around Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari as an effective barrier to pest incursions
   - Ongoing pest surveillance activities within the fenced enclosure
   - Rapidly and effectively responding to any pest incursions
   - Contributing to ecological restoration programmes, including the preparation of an updated restoration plan.

Staff Recommendation:

1. That the report “Application to the Natural Heritage Fund – Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust” (Doc #11764966 dated 1 February 2018) be received.

2. That the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust’s October to December Quarterly Financial Report (Appendix 3) be received.

3. That the Finance Committee approve a Natural Heritage Fund grant of $1,400,000 over four years to Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust as a contribution to the maintenance of the predator proof fence, undertaking pest surveillance and pest incursion responses, and contributing to ecological restoration programmes, subject to the following:
   a) the preparation of a funding deed approved by the Finance Committee; and
   b) the grant to be paid in four instalments ($350,000 for each of 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22). Each instalment will be conditional upon satisfactory evaluation of annual progress reports by staff and council.

Background

3. The purpose of the Natural Heritage Fund is to help implement council’s commitment to preserving the natural heritage of the region – native plants and animals, threatened ecosystems, outstanding
landscapes and the natural character of waterways and the coast. Natural heritage projects are designed to secure permanent ecological assets for the people of the region. The fund may be used to:

- protect special significant natural heritage places (especially on private land) in perpetuity and in partnership with others (this may involve the purchase of land)
- support large, well-established community groups with an excellent track record of managing significant natural areas
- assist iwi Māori who are mana whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga at place; and/or
- enhance the ecological value of existing public lands where there is demonstrable regional benefit.

4. The Natural Heritage Fund has been in place since 2005 and is derived from the natural heritage targeted rate of $5.80 per property. The total amount allocated per year to the fund varies as can be seen in Table 1 (budget line). The current forecasted balance for the year ending 30 June 2018 of the Natural Heritage Fund is $1,180,000 (taking account of current commitments). Any unallocated funds are carried forward to the next financial year (see Table 1).

5. The types of projects considered for funding should meet the following general principles:
   a) achievement of landscape-scale outcomes, via well-integrated and connected areas of ecological significance
   b) multi-stakeholder and collaborative in nature with funding contributions from other partners
   c) demonstrate potential for growth in both area under management and capacity
   d) complement council’s work and that of other organisations; and
   e) maximise collaboration between iwi Māori and other partners.

   Figure 1 shows the location of projects funded through the Natural Heritage Fund (NHF) since 2014.

6. Council has a current commitment to the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust to fund fence maintenance, on-going pest surveillance and responding to any pest incursions at $300,000 per year for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

7. This proposal from MEIT has been submitted using the Natural Heritage Fund’s 16 criteria as a framework (see Appendix Two). Additional information has been supplied for including details of key project personnel, letters of support and maps/photos relevant to the application. A summary of the key elements of the application is presented below in this covering report.

8. In essence this proposal is a continuation of council’s existing support, focused on maintaining the perimeter fence as an effective barrier to pest incursions, to on-going pest surveillance activities within the fenced enclosure, and to rapidly and effectively responding to any pest incursions. These core activities will continue to be supported, with some provision for increased costs. Based on the effective programmes MEIT has in place, this proposal extends council support from the existing three year term to four years, and from $300,000 per annum to $350,000 per annum. In recognising emerging ecological restoration opportunities this new proposal also includes provision for council support in implementing a refreshed restoration plan.

9. The Quarterly Accountability Report from MEIT for the period October to December 2017 (prepared in accordance with the MoU between the Trust and the Council) is also attached in Appendix Three.
Table 1: Natural Heritage Fund Forecast for ten years from 2017/18 to 2020/21, showing the impact of further funding of $350,000 per year from 2018/19 to 2020/21 for Maungatautari.

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Figure 1: Natural Heritage Fund projects – grants made 2014 to present.
Natural Heritage Fund Application from Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust for fence maintenance, pest surveillance, incursion response and advancing ecological restoration

**Significance of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari as an ecological site**

10. The Maungatautari project began with the formation of the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (MEIT) in 2001. MEIT is a private, non-profit registered charitable trust bringing together landowners, iwi and community members with the aim of restoring and protecting the 3,363 hectare Maungatautari sanctuary at Pukeatua in the Waipa District. MEIT proposed the creation of an “ecological island”, where people could experience the full richness of New Zealand’s indigenous biodiversity. This would be achieved by removing all mammalian pests, preventing re-invasion by erecting a predator-proof fence and re-introducing indigenous species lost over past decades to browsing and predation pressures.

11. Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari (SMM) is the largest remaining area of original forest in the Waikato basin and represents 46% of the remaining native forest in the Waipa District. The 47km predator proof fence (completed in 2006 at a cost of $15 million) encloses the entire forest area, with two enclosures of 30 hectares and 70 hectares respectively. Three-quarters of the area is a scenic reserve vested in the community of Maungatautari and is administered by Waipa District Council, and the remainder is owned by local farmers and multiple Maori owners. The maunga also forms the headwaters of a number of priority catchments and rivers identified in the Waipa Catchment Plan. Specifically the plan states as a priority implementation action to “maintain existing large-scale biodiversity restoration programmes at large ecologically intact indigenous terrestrial habitats” of which Maungatautari is an example.

12. SMM is a conservation project of regional, national and international significance and is the largest, pest-free site on New Zealand’s mainland. The current vision is “share the mauri (life force) and mana of the maunga”. This vision has largely been achieved and Maungatautari has become a significant asset to the Waikato region. Research and monitoring confirms substantial progress in restoring the ecological health of the forest with plant, animal and insect populations responding rapidly to an environment free of browsers and predators. The spill over of species like tui, kereru and kaka into the surrounding rural and urban communities is noticeable.

13. With secure habitat now present, SMM’s programmes have featured re-introductions of the following species that once lived there:
- Western North Island Brown Kiwi
- Hihi/Stitchbird
- Tieke/North Island Saddleback
- Takahe
- North Island Kaka
- North Island Robin
- Whitehead
- Kakariki/Yellow-crowned parakeet
- North Island Kokako
- Tuatara
- Banded Kokopu
- Giant Kokopu
- Giant Weta

More are proposed including short-tailed bat (pekapeka) along with the *Dactylanthus* plant which it pollinates, kakapo and rifleman. Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari has also been identified by the Kakapo Recovery Group as the only site on the New Zealand mainland for kakapo re-introductions. As such it is a nationally (and internationally) important site for kakapo recovery.

13 A summary of the past, present and future of SMM’s ecological restoration written by Chris Smuts-Kennedy, MEIT’s Acting Species Manager, is presented in Appendix One. The Trust has prioritised the preparation of a ‘refreshed’ restoration plan to inform and guide decisions about future translocations...
and habitat restoration activities. Provision is made in this proposal for council inputs to developing and implementing a refreshed SMM Restoration Plan.

**Pest management and the fence**

14. MEIT employs a natural heritage team of staff to deal with breaches of the fence, undertaken pest surveillance and to respond to incursions. Animal pest incursions into the sanctuary typically occur five to 15 times per year (an incursion being one or more pests getting in through one point). All incursions to date have been successfully dealt with and no new pests have become established within the fence. Most breaches are associated with flooding and culverts under the fence, or treefalls on the fence. Annual expenditure on a fence and pest response team is around $500,000.

15. Core components of the 47km fence (the post and wire mesh panels) are performing well and have an expected life of 40-50 years. Some non-core components will need replacement earlier (e.g. screws, bolts, wire). The fence system is unlikely to ever be impregnable 100% of the time. However, MEIT has several initiatives to proactively reduce breaches such as a fence audit (commissioned last year), removing risky trees, replacement of culverts and water gates and a pest control programme outside the fence around high-risk breach areas - working with adjoining willing landowners.

16. One risk for the site is the lack of comprehensive legal protection for the fence where it stands on private land. Original arrangements were informal and dependent on goodwill. There have since been instances of landowners refusing access to the fence, however neighbour support for casual access has now returned to 100%. Formal fence agreements have now been secured with most, but not all, neighbours. A process to secure remaining agreements is underway.

**Governance and structure**

17. The current Trust Deed allows for nine trustees (currently there are eight trustees), representing three mana whenua, three ‘adjoining landowners’, and three from the broader community. According to a recent review, the Trust’s co-chair arrangements and consensus approach to decision-making appear to be working well. Distinct from the Trust, the scenic reserve land (the bulk of the land in the project) has a co-governance arrangement (Ngati Koroki Kahukura – Waipa District Council).

18. MEIT has a strategic plan, business plan and budget operating to achieve the financial sustainability of the Trust and success of Sanctuary Mountain. The Trust has external, professional, financial advisors to who are members of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee.

19. MEIT recently decided to establish a panel of specialists to provide robust scientific and technical advice to the Trust to underpin its decisions in relation to the Sanctuary Mountain project. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will complement the wider information transfer roles of the existing Natural Heritage Committee. An early task for the STAP is the preparation of a restoration plan to guide the Trust and project partners in its activities going forward in progressing the vision and goals of the Maungatautari Strategic Plan. A process for consultation will also be proposed to ensure partners and stakeholders are able to contribute to the preparation and implementation of this new plan.

20. MEIT employs a dedicated team of 19 staff/contractors and has an active base of over 400 volunteers. The CEO provides the staff oversight, deploying strategy and ensuring the management, staff, contractors and volunteers are aligned to achieving it.

**Current reporting and accountability framework**

21. The current MOU and associated funding deed between council and MEIT covers the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018, cementing council’s commitment of $300,000 per year for three years sourced from the Natural Heritage Fund. The funding contribution has been applied specifically to:
- maintaining the perimeter fence as an effective barrier to pest incursions
- ongoing pest surveillance activities within the fenced enclosure; and
- rapidly and effectively responding to any pest incursions.

Additional support from council is provided for in the MOU including:
- advice and support to a strategic planning process
- provision of technical advice about pest animal and weed control and ecological restoration
- facilitating the engagement of additional partners and assisting with securing further funds; and
- representation from council on the Waipa District Council Maungatautari Reserve Committee.

Quarterly activity progress reports (describing performance in relation to the three funded activities listed above) and annual reports (summarising activities and progress towards SMM goals) have been provided to the Finance Committee by MEIT. In addition, MEIT also reports regularly to Waipa District Council and to the Maungatautari Reserve Committee as well as to other funders as required.

22. At the Finance Committee meeting in December, it was suggested that council look at the option of the committee receiving annual reports from the Trust and six-monthly reports from staff. Given the size of this funding request, Finance staff also recommend that MEIT provide quarterly financial reports to be evaluated by staff but not brought to the committee.

23. By way of comparison, other NHF grantees are required to report annually on their grant expenditure and KPI progress as a condition of their funding agreement, with the option of a visit/audit by staff at any other time.

24. The recommendation for MEIT accountability reporting is therefore to provide:
- quarterly financial reports to staff
- a six-monthly report in December/January to staff, who will present this to the Finance Committee; and
- an annual report in June/July to be presented directly to the committee from the Trust.

The six-monthly and annual reports will incorporate the quarterly report for that period.

25. Staff recommend that the main elements of the MoU (including the suggested reporting framework above) be incorporated into a new Funding Deed for any future NHF grant to MEIT, and that the deed becomes the main accountability document. This will avoid duplication of clauses and will bring it into line with other NHF grants.

Financial Management

26. A recent review of MEIT addressed the financial sustainability of the project, acknowledging that this is a genuine challenge as it is for most charities. Trust operating expenditure is typically around $1.4 million plus $400,000 volunteer contribution per annum. Large funding sources have been inconsistent over the years – only the Department of Conservation (DoC), Waipa District Council and the Waikato Regional Council have been regular contributors. These three funders have typically contributed $700-$900,000 per annum. Few other projects can claim this level of multi-year support from national, regional and local government agencies. Other non-government funders such as DV Bryant Trust, Lion Foundation, Trust Waikato, WEL Energy Trust and iwi have been frequent funders on a less regular basis as their grants have most commonly been for capital projects.

27. Maungatautari sits halfway between two major tourist attractions – Waitomo and Rotorua. A report on potential tourism options was produced for SMM in 2016. At this time visitor use numbers were around 11,000 visitors per year. Currently, public access to the over the mountain tracks is free, whilst value-added visitor experiences to the two enclosures are charged. Direct income from visitor services and education is currently around $200,000 per year. The report recommends that the short term (three to five years) focus should be on improving current activities and doing the basics well, an approach that could see visitors exceed 50,000 per year.
28. Despite this mosaic of funding, the Trust has made an operating loss in only two of the last nine years. This, together with a large grant from Trust Waikato in 2016, has allowed repayment of debt which stood at over $1 million only five years ago.

29. The Trust’s Intention is to secure long term financial commitments from DoC, Waipa District Council, and the Waikato Regional Council as core funders, with the remainder of revenue coming from one-off grants and visitor income. MEIT is requesting $1,400,000 over four years the Waikato Regional Council ($350,000 per year from 2018/19 to 2021/22) to help fund the maintenance of the 47km predator proof fence, pest surveillance, pest incursion response and implementation of the refreshed restoration plan.

Summary
30. This funding application from MEIT is well aligned with the long term outcomes in council’s Strategic Direction 2016-2019 and contributes to several priority actions in the document:
   - increased focus on community engagement and partnerships
   - working in partnership with community groups, allowing them to become more empowered and to achieve their aims
   - strengthening partnerships with iwi Maori, community and business organisations
   - helping deliver on the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River
   - managing pests in a more integrated way
   - entering into partnerships to buy land so land use can be changed to better suit the land’s long term sustainability; and
   - working with landowners and others to improve land use and water practices.

31. The opportunities that SMM presents to protect and restore indigenous biodiversity in the central Waikato area are significant, and unequalled. It has already contributed to the recovery of a range of threatened species such as kiwi, hihi, tieke and karearea and, more recently, kokako. Re-introductions of further species including snipe, wrens and a variety of seabirds, as well as the prospect of free-ranging kakapo being returned to the maunga are exciting prospects. As the health of forest and streams in the sanctuary continues to improve prospects for new restoration opportunities also increase.

32. Wider ecosystem-related goals are now being considered as part of the preparation of a refreshed restoration plan. The potential of the pest-free maunga to act as a regional source site as part of a Predator Free Waikato initiative has recently been identified. Maungatautari is strategically located between Pirongia, Pureora and Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Parks where pest control programmes are in place, and is already a hub for conservation volunteers and visitors.

33. This project meets the Natural Heritage Fund’s objectives, reflects our RPS biodiversity policies and supports Council’s pest management responsibilities. A sound governance and staff structure, committed and supportive partners and donors, a large community base and voluntary labour component are key features of the SMM project, along with well-established ecological restoration expertise.

33 The purpose of council’s Natural Heritage Fund is to help implement council’s commitment to preserving the natural heritage of the region. The funding criteria enable organisations such as MEIT to seek multi-year funding arrangements to assist planning and security of community investment. MEIT has been a significant beneficiary of this fund to date and has made creditable progress with achieving its ambitious vision as a key site in the recovery of New Zealand’s threatened species, and the restoration of functioning ecosystems. Council has also benefited financially from the Sanctuary Mountain project in that ongoing council investments in pest control, especially possums, have been considerably reduced following the creation of a predator-free site. Maintaining the infrastructure for this mainland island requires ongoing financial input.
In light of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari’s contributions to the protection of the region’s biodiversity, including species recovery and ecosystem restoration, coupled with emerging wider benefits including improved understanding, wider public awareness, refined management approaches and the potential to contribute to wider conservation initiatives—staff consider that the Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari project, and MEIT, is worthy of continued support from the NHF.

Melissa Sinton, MEIT’s Sanctuary Manager will be present at the meeting to answer questions from Committee members.

**Assessment of significance**

In accordance with council’s Significance Policy, the significance of these decisions is judged to be low. Normal Local Government Act decision-making principles apply.

**Legislative Context**

These decisions are not subject to any decision making requirements other than the Local Government Act.

**Preferred Option**

The preferred option is to grant the funding as recommended.

**Policy Considerations**

To the best of the writer’s knowledge, these decisions are not significantly inconsistent with nor anticipated to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with any policy adopted by this local authority or any plan required by the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment.

**Attachments**

- **Appendix 1** Maungatautari: Ecological collapse, and restoration – by Chris Smuts-Kennedy
- **Appendix 2** Application to the Waikato Regional Council Natural Heritage Fund by Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust
- **Appendix 3** Quarterly Accountability Report from MEIT for the period October 2017 to December 2017
Figure 2: Predator-proof fence at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari
Appendix 1  Maungatautari: Ecological collapse, and restoration – by Chris Smuts-Kennedy

Maungatautari: ecological collapse, and restoration
By Chris Smuts-Kennedy (Updated 24.11.2016)

A thousand years ago, Maungatautari had:
- Luxuriant forest.
- Probably about 50 forest bird species.
- About 4 frog species.
- At least 8 species of skinks, and half a dozen species of geckos.
- Many thousands of tuatara (possibly tens or even hundreds of thousands).
- 3 species of bats.
- Many large invertebrate species.
- Several species of native fish in the streams.
- So Maungatautari had maybe about 75 species of vertebrates, in total.

By the year 2000, after 2 waves of human invasion:
- More than a dozen species of introduced mammals were present.
- The forest structure was quite different, but the species composition was still much the same. If pest mammals had remained uncontrolled, the forest structure would become significantly affected in the longer term (mostly from selective browsing and seed predation).
- The birds were reduced to a dozen native forest species.
- Frogs were reduced to a small (and yet to be discovered) relict population of just one species.
- Lizards were reduced to 4 known species (a 5th was discovered in 2010).
- Tuatara were long gone.
- Bats were reduced to probably one species (short tails are probably not present).
- Many of the large invertebrates were gone, and the general terrestrial invertebrate abundance was much reduced.
- Fish had disappeared from the mountain’s waterways, apart from probably one eel species.
- Less than 20 native vertebrate species were left – only a quarter of the original number. Ecosystem collapse!

In 2016 – 10 years after the restoration programme started:
- All introduced mammals have now been effectively eradicated, except for mice.
- There has been significant forest regeneration.
- The number of native forest bird species has increased to 21 – a 75% increase already!
- There has been a significant increase in the general abundance of native birds.
- The Hochstetter’s frog population is breeding, and appears to be increasing.
- A Duvaucel’s gecko has been found, probably representing a relict population.
- Mahoenui giant weta and tuatara have been reintroduced.
- Terrestrial invertebrate populations have increased significantly in the mouse-free areas.
- Two species of kokopu have been reintroduced to ponds & streams.
The future:

- The sub-enclosures will be kept mouse-free, and eradication will still be the ultimate goal for the main-mountain block.
- After all of the reintroductions have been completed, Maungatautari will have around 30 native forest bird species (12 survivors plus around 18 re-introductions).
- At least one other native frog species will be considered for reintroduction.
- We will be able to reintroduce nearly all of the missing species of lizards (some may still be present but so far undiscovered) – which might total up to 17 spp.
- Short tailed bats will be reintroduced (if not revealed as already present by current survey work).
- Some missing invertebrates will be reintroduced.
- The pre-human vertebrate nectivore guild will be almost entirely re-established (a unique restoration for mainland NZ).
- The revitalised bio-diverse forest will reach a new dynamic ‘balance’.
- We will end up with about 50 native vertebrate species on the mountain – about 2/3 of the pre-human total.

What will be Maungatautari’s ‘points of difference’?

- It will certainly be the best site on mainland NZ for native forest biodiversity, and perhaps even the best in the country.
- It will be a safe home for more than 40 rare and endangered wildlife species, both plants and animals.
- The size of this high-quality habitat block will allow all those species to interact and be part of a reconstructed functioning ecosystem.
- Such an ecosystem reconstruction to this level, and on this scale, is absolutely unprecedented.
- It will become one of the best wildlife-experience tourism destinations in the world – and it will be both readily accessible, and in a spectacular natural setting.
Application to the Waikato Regional Council Natural Heritage Fund

By

Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust

Fence maintenance, pest surveillance, incursion response and ecological restoration at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari

February 2018
# SECTION ONE: Project Information

## 1. Project summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Protection and restoration of the indigenous flora and fauna within the ecosystems found on Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant name</td>
<td>Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact person(s)</td>
<td>Melissa Sinton – Sanctuary Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project description**

**Our Vision:** Share the mauri (“life force”) and the mana of the maunga.

**Our Purpose:** Protect and enhance the mauri of Maungatautari.

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari began with a dream to protect the plant and animal species living on Maungatautari. As early as 1912, it was proposed that Mt Maungatautari be set aside as a reserve due to its value for climatic and water conservation. Nearly 100 years later the community came together to restore and further protect this precious environment with a pest-proof fence. By removing all exotic mammals from Maungatautari it has provided a safe environment to reintroduce some of New Zealand’s most endangered species back to their natural habitat. It has also created an environment free of the impacts of exotic browsers and predators in which biotic communities have been restored, and ecosystem processes revived.

Many of our community, including landowners, local iwi and local residents, came together with an aim to restore and protect this precious ecosystem, and in 2001 the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (MEIT) was formed. MEIT is a private, non-profit making registered charitable Trust.

MEIT governs the Sanctuary, which is vested in a unique iwi/community arrangement and co-governed. The Sanctuary consists of a mixture of scenic reserve, council, private and iwi owned land, surrounded by a pest-proof fence that was completed in 2006.

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari (SMM), which is fondly known by locals as ‘the maunga’, is a very special place to visit due to the sheer size of the project at 3,363 hectares. This extraordinary pest-proof fence is 47km long, making SMM the largest pest-proof fenced project in the world.

Our project aims to maintain the pest-excluding fence around SMM to support the establishment and protection of a 3,363 hectare of virtually pest free ecosystems, where the recovery and restoration of indigenous flora and fauna can progress for the benefit of future generations.

| Project location | The project is located at 99 Tari Rd, Pukeatua 3880. Maungatautari is situated within the Maungatautari Ecological District (ED), in the southeast of the middle Waikato Basin. Maungatautari is a native forest-covered andesitic volcano located in the Waipa District. Maungatautari is 797 metres in height at its highest point and has three peaks – Te Akatarere (727 metres), Pukeatua (753 metres) and Maungatautari (797 |
Maungatautari and its forested slopes are a visual feature of the landscape of the central Waikato basin.

The topography of Maungatautari ranges from rolling slopes at the base of the mountain, to very steep slopes near the peaks and in the gullies.

NZTM Coordinates: STH-38.055923 x 175.560281, NTH 38.000974 x 175.577670

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of funding</th>
<th>June 2018 to June 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total project cost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,700,000</td>
<td>$1,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRC Natural Heritage Fund contribution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Details of the project

What is the environmental opportunity or problem that you plan to address with the project?

The environmental opportunity that we plan to address is to continue to protect and restore the indigenous flora and fauna within the ecosystems found on Sanctuary Mountain, Maungatautari.

Environmental opportunities:

- As a result of removing herbivorous and carnivorous exotic mammals from a large forested area Sanctuary Mountain provides a unique opportunity to recover threatened species, to restore damaged biotic communities, and to revitalise essentially indigenous ecosystems. Maintaining an effective barrier (the perimeter) fence has created an opportunity to achieve “island type” responses on the New Zealand mainland, and at a relatively large scale.

- Environmental monitoring has shown significant population increases in a number of species. Virtually all species translocated to the maunga to date have established breeding populations, indicating the potential of the sanctuary as a refuge and source site in a regional context. It is likely the maunga will soon be a source for translocations of threatened species to other restoration sites.

- The accessibility and established infrastructure in the sanctuary means there are important opportunities to study species and habitats, and to monitor ecological changes. Technical reports and scientific publications from the sanctuary can be expected to be increasingly important in informing decisions here, and elsewhere.

- The growing number of species within the Sanctuary allows local and international visitors to view, enjoy and learn about our fauna and flora, and how we manage it, within the extensive, natural setting of Maungatautari.

- An opportunity to view threatened species within such a setting not readily available elsewhere within the Waikato region.

- The current restoration plan for Maungatautari involves an ongoing programme of translocations, monitoring and the recovery of threatened iconic species. This
work delivers on the purpose statement of SMM - ‘to restore the mauri and the mana of the maunga’.

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari offers a habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna, including many nationally threatened and/or regionally uncommon species. It is a sanctuary for these species, and is one of the most biodiverse forest areas on mainland New Zealand and the largest pest-proof fenced project in the world, right here in the heart of the Waikato.

### What is the solution or action you will implement?

**SOLUTION:**
We are a world leading ecological restoration business, pulling together strands of knowledge from renowned ecologists and scientists, integrating Mātauranga Maaori, kawa values and tikanga to provide a uniqueness we must all be proud of.

Our solution involves the continued collaborative action between our community, volunteers, iwi, local farmers, Waikato Regional Council, Waipa District Council, Department of Conservation, Landcare Research; Hamilton and Auckland Zoo, Waikato, Victoria, and Massey Universities; the Ministry of Education and Waikato Tourism.

**ACTION:**

**Our Strategic Plan 2016-2026**

1. **Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari is widely recognised as a world class conservation project.**

   By 2026 we will have:
   - Improved our ability to keep the fenced reserve free of pest mammals.
   - Re-established breeding populations of native species – kiwi, kokako, kakariki, kakapo, rifleman, petrels, snipe, frogs, geckos and bats.
   - Consistently monitored changes and facilitated research and improved our understanding of the maunga.
   - Shared the ‘lessons from the maunga’ so others may benefit from our experiences.
   - Contributed to the ‘halo’ of inter-connected habitats across the Waikato landscape.
   - Maintained a motivated and diversely skilled group of volunteers.

2. **Maungatautari is a Top 20 NZ recognised ecotourism destination.**

   By 2026 we will have:
   - Reached 50,000 visitors by 2021.
   - Developed a set of guided and interpreted tours that evocatively weave mana whenua’s story, the cultural perspectives and Tikanga into the visitor experiences offered.
   - Encouraged and supported our hosts and guides in telling Maungatautari stories to consistently high standards so that they will be enjoyed and remembered long after visitors have departed.
• Facilitated and contributed to a Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari education programme to influence our tamariki/children to be aware of their Kaitiaki role in conservation and ecological restoration.

• Encouraged and facilitated regular visitation by local residents, ensuring their continued engagement in, and support for our project.

• Created necessary infrastructure and maintained it at a very high standard so that visitors would have had the best possible experiences, were safe, and left having been entertained and well informed.

• Promoted Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari as a premier destination in the itineraries of in-bound tourism operators.

3. **Productive partnerships are a feature of our success.**

   By 2026 we will have:

   • Consolidated Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari as a model of effective co-governance in which kawa and tikanga of mana whenua was reflected in all that we did.

   • Maintained strong relationships with our neighbouring landowners, based on mutual understandings of shared interests.

   • Nurtured skills and confidence of our volunteers as conservation professionals, recognising they are the lifeblood of our organisation and underpin the on-going success of Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari.

   • Continued to encourage and facilitate inputs and support from our partners, ensuring that their interests are appropriately reflected in our directions and activities. Our family of partners and donors will have grown, reflecting recognition of the opportunities provided by Sanctuary Mountain® Maungatautari, and the perceived value in partnering.

4. **Sound financial management by the Trust and continued donor support, underpins increasing economic viability of the Sanctuary® Mountain Maungatautari project.**

   By 2026 we will have:

   • Increased visitor numbers, donors, grants and supporters contributions to meet the Trust costs.

   • Improved the financial viability of the project through continuing to meet the requirements of our current donors and encouraging further organisations to join our family of donors, contributing to our strategic goals.

   • Grown the diversity of our revenue streams to support our sustainable, viable enterprise.

   • Secured additional funds for key capital investments and maintenance, visitor facility development, education facility development, upgrading of tracks and other vital infrastructure.

   • Consistently applied appropriate business practices and demonstrated transparency and accountability to our partners and stakeholders.
What is the ecological significance of the project? Does it involve protection or restoration of habitats that are regionally under-represented?

**ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Maungatautari Ecological District covers an area of 87,300 ha, with about half (39,539 ha) of that lying within the eastern side of the Waipa District. In 1840, the Maungatautari ED was about 57% indigenous forest, 42% scrub and 1% wetland and other habitats.

In 1995, indigenous forest cover decreased to only 9% cover, with scrub and wetlands at less than 1% cover. The total loss in indigenous vegetation was calculated at 89.5% or 77,886 ha within the ED. The most significant areas of vegetation remaining within the Waipa ED boundary include Maungatautari Reserve in the south and the southern half of the Te Miro Scenic Reserve in the north.

Approximately 3,363 hectares of the mountain is currently lying under either forest or regenerating native bush. A very large area of bush land is set aside as Scenic Reserve. The Maungatautari Mountain Scenic Reserve covers an area of 2530.2669 hectares. The rest is private or Maori land.

**Flora:**

With all grazing and browsing mammals eradicated, the forest of Maungatautari is now flourishing. A thick and lush understorey can be seen like very few other native forests in New Zealand, where visitors can step through the gates into an ancient ecosystem and view an array of native trees, ferns, shrubs, vines, mosses and fungi.

In the lower reaches of the mountain, scattered rimu and rata emerge over a canopy of tawa, mangeao, kamahi, hinau, miro, rewarewa and pukatea. Magnificent stands of mamaku are a feature while dense tangles of kiekie, supplejack and toropapa, silver fern and hen and chicken fern form much of the understorey. A range of native orchids may also be observed.

The higher altitude forest comprises distinct changes in plant composition and abundance. This is due to decreasing temperature, increasing rainfall and associated soil and climate changes as you climb higher. The increased altitude sees tawari, kamahi, tawheowheo, broadleaf and Halls totara become more abundant. In this upland forest the understorey consists of soft tree ferns, coprosma, toro, five-finger, raukawa and horopito as well as toropapa. Tawari is particularly noticeable in December and January with its mass of large white blooms (whakou). Epiphytes are more abundant in this cloudy humid environment, especially filmy ferns and kidney fern.

Ground cover consists of crown fern, bush rice grass and hook-seeded sedges.

On rocky spurs, low-growing tawheowheo, mingimingi and small shrubs, sedges, orchids, herbs and mosses are present.

**Fauna:**

It is estimated that 50 forest bird species existed on Maungatautari in pre-human times. Over 15 species are now extinct, 12 survived on Maungatautari and over 20 species can probably be re-introduced.

Since the establishment of the predator-proof fence in 2006, a variety of species have been translocated back to the mountain. Bird species now present include:

- North Island kaka (At Risk – Recovering)
- New Zealand falcon (At Risk – Recovering)
- Long-tailed cuckoo (Naturally Uncommon)
- Hihititchbird (Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable)
- Tieke/North Island saddleback (At Risk – Recovering)
- Kakariki/yellow-crowned parakeet (Not Threatened)
- Takahe (Threatened – Nationally Endangered)
- North Island brown kiwi (At Risk – Declining)
- North Island robin (At Risk – Declining)
- Whitehead (At Risk – Declining)
- North Island tomtit (Not Threatened)
- Spotless crake (Declining)
- North Island kokako (At Risk – Recovering).

Other fauna species include:
- Long-tailed bats (Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable)
- Tuatara (At Risk)
- Forest gecko (At Risk – Declining)
- Auckland green gecko (At Risk – Declining)
- Duvaucel’s gecko (At Risk – Relict)
- Pacific gecko (Not Threatened)
- Copper skink (Not Threatened)
- Mahoenui giant weta (At Risk - Declining)
- Hochstetter’s frog (At Risk – Declining).

Given the range of terrestrial fauna species present, SMM is considered to be one of the most biodiverse forest areas on mainland New Zealand in terms of the indigenous fauna groups it contains.

The sheer size of the protected area and quality of habitat increases its viability for self-sustaining populations of these rare species. Introduced species, such as the hihi and tuatara once inhabited large tracts of land on offshore islands, with the sea protecting them from the threat of mainland pests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To what degree is the purpose of the project consistent with the RPS, Regional Plan, RCP, LTP and other planning and policy documents?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WRC STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2016 – 2019</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari as a project aligns with WRC’s mission (Working together to build a Waikato region that has a healthy environment, a strong economy and vibrant communities) and is consistent with the majority of WRC’s strategic priorities for 2016-2019, specifically:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Land use is sustainable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- The Waikato has become predator free, in line with the New Zealand 2050 target, without compromising indigenous biodiversity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- The full range of ecosystem types, including land, water and coastal and marine ecosystems, is in a healthy and functional state.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- All soil quality indicators are trending positive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Our diverse communities feel like a valued part of the Waikato and take pride in the region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Communities are empowered and supported to take action on agreed outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- People and communities are well connected to each other, to services (including health and other essential services), and to opportunities including recreation, education and jobs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- There is increased benefit from the use and protection of our amenity and recreational features and values.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- We support all parts of the Waikato to be as successful as they can be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Co-governance with iwi is meaningful and effective.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The central focus of the project is to support the biodiversity of the flora and fauna and to provide a safe translocation hub for endangered species. The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for the broad Waikato district is supportive of, and actively promotes the aspirations of the project. As the overarching document for multiple councils it sets the drivers for the main objectives and thus implementation of the key planning instruments. Key messages from the RPS, which are relevant to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari.

This project aligns with a number of RPS policies:

- **Heritage** (Part B Policy 10);
- **Indigenous Biodiversity** (Policy 11); the maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity (Policy 11.1) and the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna (Policy 11.2), Collaborative management (11.3);
- **Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes of regional significance** (Part B Policy 12);
- **Protecting outstanding natural features and landscapes**: It is important to identify the values and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes (including seascapes) and make sure they are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use or development. The RPS identifies 12 regionally outstanding landscapes, and relies on territorial authorities to undertake district wide assessments;
- **Preserving natural character**: The RPS focuses on ensuring that activities in the coastal environment, wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins are appropriate in relation to the level of natural character. Activities must consider their impacts on natural character and avoid damaging pristine and outstanding areas. Natural character should be enhanced or restored where possible. This will be given effect largely through mapping and rules in regional and district plans, and through enhancement opportunities when undertaking policy and strategy development work and undertaking works and services; and
- **Public Access**: Maintaining and enhancing public access to water bodies and their margins assists our communities in enjoying public spaces.

**Amenity**: Some areas are particularly valued by communities for their amenity. The RPS requires areas of amenity value to be identified, and the values of amenity areas to be maintained and enhanced. This is to largely be achieved through regional and district plans recognising the value of amenity areas and managing subdivision, use and development in these areas. It will also be achieved through **enhancement of public amenity values** when undertaking works and services, and reviewing strategies and plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is the project area part of a collection of features that is cumulatively valuable (such as natural and cultural landscapes)?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The project area is part of a collection of cumulatively valuable cultural landscapes. Within Ngati Koroki Kahukura, Maungatautari, te tupuna maunga and Waikato, te awa tupuna; are recognised for their inextricable bond. Kaitiakitanga over the tupuna maunga is also kaitiakitanga over the tupuna awa. The two natural environments are inseparable. Raukawa recognise Wharepuhunga and Maungatautari as their tupuna maunga. Maungatautari is not just a physical feature on the landscape to iwi, but it holds strong whakapapa ties, stories, histories, cultural access to rongoa, for hapu of Ngati</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Koroki kahukura, Ngati Haua, Raukawa, Ngati Waiwera, Ngati Mahuta and Ngati Mahanga.

Maungatautari is a natural forest clad feature, rising above the cultivated farm lands of the Waipa Basin. It stands as a last bastion to the advances of land clearing for agriculture and forestry. It shares the natural landscape with Kakepuku, Pirongia and Wharepuhunga, prominent landmarks for people who call this area home.

The location of the project (is it in a priority catchment or does it connect several SNAs or is it convenient to population centres?)

**MAUNGATAUTARI WITHIN THE CATCHMENT**

The streams on the southern, eastern and northern slopes of Maungatautari flow into the Waikato River. Those on the western slopes flow into the Waipa River, before joining the Waikato approximately 200 kilometres further downstream. Water quality in the streams on the mountain are high.

Maungatautari is a significant ‘influencer’ within the overall catchment with respect to water flows and soil stability. In our opinion, and perhaps because the project is fenced, the relevance is often overlooked because it is not a high priority in managing or controlling the catchment. The priority however can/is offset by the amount of (and regular commitment to) financial investment that the Regional Council is able to commit on behalf of the ratepayers.

Issue Statements which fall out of 3.2.2 Soil stability and river management, reflect the importance of prudent pest control to promote healthy forests as this may help to reduce risks of erosion, run off and downstream flooding. An Objective from this is “a net reduction in the numbers of vertebrate animal pests in vegetated areas because this is likely to improve water quality, reduce sedimentation and lower flood risks in priority catchments.”

The key statements that arise from 3.2.3 Biodiversity, and natural and cultural heritage are;

“In a wider sense, the council is also concerned with protecting and promoting the natural environment itself (our ‘natural heritage’), to restore air, water and soil quality through ecological balance; preserve access to waterways and the coast; and to preserve and value heritage sites and landscapes of significance to whānau, hapū and iwi, and to the wider community. It is these things that comprise our natural and cultural heritage”.

- **habitat quantity** – the Waikato region has lost most of the original habitat used by native species
- **habitat quality** – almost all of the limited remaining habitat is badly degraded by weeds, animal pests and changes such as drainage or excessive nutrients.

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari achieves and goes beyond these targets but it requires financial assistance to continue to deliver these goals.

**CLOSE TO POPULATION CENTRES**

Manu Tioriori Visitor Centre is located at 99 Tari Road, Pukeatua. This location is 57 kilometers from Hamilton, the closest city and 28 kilometers southeast of Te Awamutu. By road it is accessible on State Highway 3 and Arapuni Road, which is on the main tourist route between the Waitomo Caves and Rotorua.

To what degree will the regional community potentially benefit from

**SANCTUARY MOUNTAIN MAUNGATAUTARI – A COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION PROJECT**
access to and protection of the values on the site?

The regional community stands to benefit greatly from access to, and the protection of the values of this site.

SMM aims to be recognised as a world-class sanctuary; an outstanding example of restoration and indigenous biodiversity, and a sustainable, self-funding community project. Significant progress towards these goals has been achieved. An increasing number of international and national visitors to SMM benefits the region by growing tourist dollars for the Waikato and potential business for other Waikato tourism destinations.

Maungatautari provides our community with an opportunity to see up close, some of New Zealand’s rare, biodiversity in their own backyard. This experience may be the catalyst for locals to become involved in SMM or other ecological projects operating throughout the Waikato.

We capture the hearts of our community regionally, nationally and internationally. We engage with our communities through events, media and social media multiple platforms.

Another benefit offered to the community through our project is education. Our local children can learn about their environment within the natural environment of SMM; a seamless, practical, approach to learning. SMM provides some curriculum-based learning, but also delivers programmes which share differing cultural and social perspectives on environmental awareness. University students use mountain sites for under graduate and post graduate research MEIT is fortunate to receive copies of their thesis or report or employ them in different areas of biodiversity.

The target number of schools for 2017/18 is 50 (45 primary schools and 5 secondary schools) - a total of 3,500 students.

What type of proposed partnership is associated with the project and what is the level of funding and support provided by other agencies?

The proposed partnership associated with the project is a collaborative partnership, involving several partners. Our major funders are Waikato Regional Council, Waipa District Council and Department of Conservation and the level of funding from these partners and other income generating information is outlined below:

**WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL (WDC)**

Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust has a contract for services with the Waipa District Council to manage the Maungatautari Scenic Reserve. MEIT receives $300,000 per year to provide services as follows:

- Manage and ensure the efficacy of the pest proof fence;
- Maintain pest fence surveillance systems;
- Monitor mammalian and weed pests and respond to incursions/invasions of pests;
- Maintain assets and recreational infrastructure; and
- Engage the communities of Maungatautari.

**WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL (WRC)**

MEIT has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Waikato Regional Council and receives funding of $300,000 which is reviewed every three years (next review 2018). Council has determined that this funding will be applied specifically to:

- Maintaining the perimeter fence as an effective barrier to pest incursions;
- Ongoing pest surveillance activities within the enclosure; and
- Rapidly respond to any pest incursions.
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (DOC)

Funding from DOC is through a contestable pool. MEIT applies for this through the Community Fund and have previously applied for funding for tagged purposes including species work (translocations, monitoring and surveys) and various restoration work. MEIT have been granted $150,000 for 2018/2019.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

We apply for both operational and capital project grants. We seek and receive extra support and funding from WEL Energy, Rodmore Trust, DV Bryant Trust, Trust Waikato and the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and continue to follow leads for new funding sources and ongoing partnerships through grant applications and sponsorship.

LOCAL IWI SUPPORT

We have been extremely fortunate that our local iwi Ngati Koroki Kahukura, Ngati Haua and Raukawa have also contributed to tagged operational or capital projects over the years.

The Trust also has self-generating income steams through visitor numbers, donations, fundraising and our education centre creating revenue of over $200,000 annually. Our Education programme is supported and partially funded by the Ministry of Education. We have an annual community funding plan in place generating support of $400,000 per year.

SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL (STAP)

MEIT recently decided to establish a panel of specialists to provide scientific and technical advice to the Trust to underpin its decisions in relation to the Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari project.

STAP members are currently contributing to a review of the projects Restoration plan, a key plan that guides the Trust and project partners in its activities going forward.

Membership of the STAP includes Catherine Kirby, Kiri Wallace and Professor Bruce Clarkson, University of Waikato; Dr Corinne Watts and John Innes, Landcare Research; Chris Smuts-Kennedy, independent consultant; Dr Kate Richardson, Wildlands Consultants; Dr John Quinn, NIWA; Dr Bruce Burns, University of Auckland; Dr Shelley Myers, Eco-Quest; Cheridan Mathers, Hamilton Zoo; Andrew Styche, Department of Conservation; Tony Roxburgh, Waipa District Council and Dave Byers & Alan Saunders (Chair of STAP), Waikato Regional Council.

Other specialists may be co-opted to the Panel to address specific issues. Robyn Nightingale represents the views of mana whenua on the panel and is also an MEIT trustee. Trust delegates will attend STAP meetings to ensure effective information flow between the Panel and the Trust, to ensure the Trust’s priorities are identified and that scientific and technical recommendations are appropriately interpreted.

| Does the proposal involve protection of significant landscapes, waahi tapu, places of cultural significance to Maori, or other physical features? | Maungatautari is the tupuna maunga or ancestral mountain of local iwi - Ngati Koroki Kahukura, Ngati Haua and Raukawa. Waahi tapu and sites of cultural significance have been identified by local iwi and throughout the development of track building on Maungatautari, local iwi have been deeply involved and ensured the protection and preservation of locally known waahi |
tapu sites. Since the project’s inception, there has only been one family who has challenged MEIT about the presence of a waahi tapu. Local iwi investigated this claim and in the absence of any history or evidence, the claim has been left open to conjecture and the family has not sought any further action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the project facilitate meaningful and effective participation with Maori and recognise their cultural values, interests and associations, the effect on Maori historic heritage or the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga including fauna and flora?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KAITIAKITANGA IN ACTION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The meaningful and effective participation of iwi in this project has been facilitated by the co-governance and management structure of MEIT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maori cultural values, interests, and associations are reflected in our governance policies and management practices. Historical issues around the presence of waahi tapu have been addressed by mana whenua representatives on the trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iwi relationships continue to develop within the project with a deeper appreciation of issues ahead that will require addressing. Harvesting rongoa or titi from the maunga may arise if there is an abundance in the future, working through further private Maori Land Reforms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the level of mana whenua support and public support expressed for this project?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The level of Mana Whenua support is strong, despite opposition from the odd individual from time to time. Whanau, wananga and kohanga reo groups visit the maunga regularly. Mana whenua trustees and marae committees involved with the project have been issued with fobs to allow whanau direct access on to their tupuna maunga.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Will the project complement previous or existing initiatives and if so, how?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMPARISON TO OTHER SIMILAR PROJECTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are only two such projects in New Zealand that:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• have Maungatautari’s size;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• have Maungatautari’s quality of forest habitat;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• have Maungatautari’s level of mammalian pest management; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• are ecologically restorable to the same extent as Maungatautari.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those two sites are Raoul Island and Little Barrier Island. These two island projects are relatively difficult for the public to get to – but Maungatautari is on the mainland and very accessible to the general public – which brings many social, economic and environmental advantages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All three projects are likely to have fairly similar running costs. The two islands have permanent staffing and infrastructure that need servicing and maintaining by resident island staff and machinery, as well as mainland island support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 2 real islands have a smaller invasion risk, being offshore. But if an invasion does happen, it is likely to be some time before it is detected. There is a high risk of a breeding population establishing before detection – e.g. as on Ulva Island with Norway rats recently (where a whole new eradication campaign was required).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maungatautari on the other hand has a higher risk of breach, and in fact they can be quite regular. But the detection and response system is well-oiled, almost instantaneous, highly efficient, very effective, and it has never failed in the 12 years of operation so far. And it can only get better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It can be said that three sites are the absolute jewels in the crown of forest ecological restoration and management in this country. Maungatautari’s points of difference are that it is a mainland project, it is primarily a regional and district community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
project (the other two being central government), with buy-in from a range of local stakeholders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has the applicant demonstrated that they have the required capacity to deliver the ecological outcomes of their proposed project?</th>
<th>Sanctuary Mountain has demonstrated that they have the required capacity to deliver the ecological outcomes of the proposed project with the following achievements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Construction of a $15 million fence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The eradication of pests:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- August 2006 - Xcluder® team completed the fence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- September 2006 – helicopters dispersed poison bait.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 2007- deer, pigs, cats, ferrets, stoats, weasels and possums eliminated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 2008 – hedgehogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 2009 – goats, ship and Norway rats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 2014 – rabbits and hares.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Of the 14 species of introduced pest mammals on the mountain before the fence, only mice remain on the main mountain. Mice are not present in the Northern and Southern enclosures, some QEII blocks within the fence and the Tautari wetland enclosure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Translocations of numerous threatened species:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Takahe (2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Galaxiid fish species - banded &amp; giant kokopu (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Kaka (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Hihi (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Whitehead (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Yellow crowned kakariki (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Robins (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Giant weta (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tuatara (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Saddleback (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Kokako (2015/2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Takahe (2017).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Nature of translocation programmes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Some of our programmes yield lots of detail because species are intensively managed and monitored. Kiwi, takaha, hihi and saddleback are probably the most intensively understood species at Maungatautari at present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other animals are less intensively monitored but still surveyed annually. Tuatara, Mahoenui giant weta and kaka fall into this group where basic permit requirements ensure MEIT monitors on a basic level each year or within each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A third group has been translocated but is currently not monitored at all, except via sampling done as part of routine counts such as 5 minute bird counts conducted by Landcare Research LTD. Robin, yellow-crowned kakariki and whitehead fall into this group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One final group with one frog species in it, Hochstetter’s frog is subject to informal but time-bound monitoring by EcoQuest Education Foundation. This frog was present on the mountain and was rediscovered there by a team led by Dr Matthew Baber in 2004.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Invertebrates are selectively monitored but mainly to class, order, family and genus, but not so far, to species level, except in the case of the Orthoptera (wetas) and to a lesser extent some families in Coleoptera (beetles).

- **Kiwis for kiwi strategy**
Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari has been selected as a prominent site to make a significant contribution long-term to the population of New Zealand’s national bird, North Island western brown kiwi. **Kiwis for kiwi**’s strategy is to accelerate what would have happened naturally, by releasing 500 kiwi chicks into the Sanctuary by 2022. These chicks will be hatched from eggs lifted through Operation Nest Egg from wild kiwi across Taranaki, Tongariro and Whanganui, the natural range of this kiwi species. Released into predator-free SMM, they will grow up and within approximately three years, find a mate and start breeding. They will remain on the maunga as a permanent breeding population.

- **NZI Sustainable Business Awards and Qualmark Status:**
Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari was a finalist in the 2017 National Restoring Nature Category, for the NZI Sustainable Business Awards. Sponsored by the Department of Conservation. Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari is leading the way in sustainable tourism, with the news that it has recently achieved a Qualmark Silver Award under the new Sustainable Tourism Business criteria.

- **Developing a volunteer army:**
With over 400 registered volunteers our restoration project is strongly supported by community and in turn inspiring the local community to get involved in environmental conservation. Secondary Schools and Corporate volunteer groups contribute also to volunteer tasks and projects at the maunga.

- **Visitor numbers:**
Last year we had 16,000 visitors and 3,800 students visit Maungatautari. This does not include the over-the-mountain visitors that have free access on these tracks.

- **Education and Facility Centre and Capital Developments:**
Trust Waikato, DV Bryant, Mazda Foundation grant recipient towards building a new multipurpose education facility to host school groups, run community events, and promote ecological restoration, science and technology to the community. The facility will also have a purpose-built biodiversity laboratory for hands-on science experiments. Additional capital developments include a purpose built depo for the Natural Heritage team and volunteers to utilise and on site Nursery construction to grow the projects own eco sourced seed for revegetation projects at the maunga.

- **Research:**
The Maunga provides a wonderful site for research into restoration processes, pest control impacts, and recovery processes. MEIT strongly supports environmental research, monitoring and reporting on indigenous biodiversity and ecological Issues. New Zealand’s indigenous biodiversity is of great importance to New Zealand’s environmental, economic, cultural and spiritual health and our identity as a country.
Collectively this track-record proves our capability. MEIT has an outstanding record of achievement. We created NZ’s most ambitious conservation project, built the world’s largest pest proof fence, eradicated virtually all pests from a 3,363ha mountain,
developed a huge volunteer pool, successfully translocated a suite of New Zealand’s rarest creatures, and developed a rapidly growing education programme.

| Does the applicant have the ongoing resources necessary to maintain the project? | MEIT has a strategic plan, business plan and budget operating to achieve the financial sustainability of the Trust and success of Sanctuary Mountain. We have external, professional, financial advisors to the Trust who are members of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee. Our partner funders continue to contribute support annually, while our visitor numbers continue to rise and community funding support continues to grow.

MEIT is a bona fide community organisation well supported by ratepayers, over 400 corporate and community volunteers, increasing visitor numbers, supportive mana whenua and landowners, and financial supporters. |

| Will the project and/or area be adequately protected by way of covenant, management agreements and/or legislation, policies and rules? | Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari has 21 adjoining land owners, some with land inside the fence and outside of the fence. Adjoining landowners land inside the fence is either QEII covenanted, WDC covenanted, in the process of negotiations to be covenanted or leased by WDC. Access agreements are in place with many of our adjoining landowners so Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari volunteers, staff and contractors have access to the fence if needed. Greg Martin (Ex- DOC Waikato Regional Conservator) has been contracted by WDC to secure all covenant and access agreements.

The reserve inside the sanctuary is vested in the community of Maungatautari as a result of the Waitangi settlement between the Crown and Ngati Koroki Kahukura and Ngati Haua. This land continues to be administered and managed by WDC as a Scenic Reserve pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977.

The Maungatautari Scenic Reserve comprises 2530.2669 hectares (6252.4263 acres). The Reserves Act 1977 (hereafter referred to as the Reserves Act) requires that, for gazetted Reserves such as Maungatautari, the administering body must prepare a Reserve Management Plan. |

| Is there any conflict of interest associated with the proposal? | To the best of our knowledge there is no conflict of interest associated with this proposal. |
### 3. Project objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives 1 of our Strategic Plan 2016-2026</th>
<th>Key performance indicators (KPIs)</th>
<th>Source of measure/how it will be measured</th>
<th>Baseline information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>By 2026 we will have:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ongoing pest surveillance activities within the fenced enclosures:</strong></td>
<td>Although multiple species at near zero levels are targeted, this needs to be maintained.</td>
<td>Current predator control monitoring techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Improved our ability to keep the fenced reserve free of pest mammals.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Implementation and ongoing review of our Biosecurity Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Rapid response:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Rapidly and effectively respond to any fence breach or pest incursions.</td>
<td>Need to respond to breaches in all, weather within 90 minutes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Sustainable Management</td>
<td>Need to monitor and bait around any breaches.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Maintaining the fence as an effective barrier to pest incursions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Using well established best practice procedures.</td>
<td>Need to repair fence breaches.</td>
<td>2017 Fence audit report recommendations be actioned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement programme of culverts and gates etc. as per recent fence audit.</td>
<td>Maintenance schedule of replacement key components of fence that need to be replaced.</td>
<td>Maintenance schedule and fence audit.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Contributed to the ‘halo’ of interconnected habitats across the Waikato landscape.</td>
<td>Pest control/monitoring around high risk potential breach areas on adjoining land outside of the fence.</td>
<td>Pest control techniques implemented around culverts/watergates on the outside of the fence. Forming an external buffer zone, contributing to a ‘halo’ of interconnected pest free habitats.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Contributed to the preparation and implementation of a refreshed restoration plan</td>
<td>A comprehensive plan is guiding MEIT decisions and management actions.</td>
<td>Progress being made towards specific restoration targets (e.g. species re-introductions).</td>
<td>Targeted monitoring.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SECTION TWO: Financial Information

#### Funding information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) WRC NHF contribution</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) External funding sources (confirmed or pending) WDC, DOC CF, Grants and Sponsorship</td>
<td>$3,220,000</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$855,000</td>
<td>$815,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Your organisation’s cash contribution to the project (excluding in kind contribution) Visitor Centre Income</td>
<td>$1,080,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$295,000</td>
<td>$335,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Value of volunteer inputs &gt;400 volunteers (10 FTE)</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) Funding still to be met Donations</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total cost of project:** $7,700,000  
**Year 1:** $1,800,000  
**Year 2:** $1,900,000  
**Year 3:** $2,000,000  
**Year 4:** $2,000,000

**WRC share of costs:** 18%  
**Year 1:** 19%  
**Year 2:** 18%  
**Year 3:** 17%  
**Year 4:** 17%

### WRC Natural Heritage Fund - Project budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated breakdown of project costs¹</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations-Infrastructure( Fence/Track/Storm water Management)</td>
<td>$117,800</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations- Infrastructure- Salaries</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations- Infrastructure-Contractors</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>$92,000</td>
<td>$92,000</td>
<td>$92,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations- Natural Heritage ( NH Consumables) (Increase due to pest monitoring outside of fence)</td>
<td>$63,500</td>
<td>$78,500</td>
<td>$79,500</td>
<td>$80,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations-Natural Heritage-Salaries</td>
<td>$170,000</td>
<td>$190,000</td>
<td>$190,000</td>
<td>$190,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations-Natural Heritage-Wages</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations – Natural Heritage Contractors</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations - Nursery</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations- Volunteer costs/Coordinator salaries</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total costs for each project year - for fence maintenance, pest surveillance, incursion response and restoration plan (exclusive of GST):** $658,800  
**Year 1:** $724,000  
**Year 2:** $725,000  
**Year 3:** $726,000  

**Total costs applied for from Natural Heritage Fund (exclusive of GST):** $1,400,000 ($350,000 per year)

¹ Costs related to project scope for this application and does not include other overall organisation costs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation name</th>
<th>Status of offer</th>
<th>Period of funding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waipa District Council</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>2017/18 - 2020/21, then reviewed every 3 years</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Conservation</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants &amp; Sponsorship</td>
<td>Confirmed and/or Pending</td>
<td>2018/19 to 2021/22</td>
<td>$1,870,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- WEL Energy Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Trust Waikato</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- DV Bryant Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rodmore Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- WCEET etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total external funding (exclusive of GST)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,220,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other external funding required still to be met (total)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$400,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description of Organisation

Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust is a Charitable Trust, trading as Sanctuary Mountain, Maungatautari.

As a world leading ecological restoration business, we pull together strands of knowledge from renowned ecologists and scientists, integrating Matauranga Maaori, Kawa values and tikanga to provide a uniqueness we are all proud of.

Our co-governance board, also unique, is inclusive of mana whenua, landowners and our community volunteers.

The Board of Trustees, employ a CEO to deploy strategy and ensure that management, staff, contractors and volunteers are aligned to achieving it.

With a dedicated, experienced and professional team of 19 staff/contractors and over 400 volunteers, day to day operations are successfully delivered via a combination of integrated systems, policies and procedures that encompass both conservation and ecotourism operations.

Land Ownership

The Sanctuary consists of a mixture of scenic reserve, council, private and iwi owned land, surrounded by pest-proof fence that was completed in 2006.

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari have 21 adjoining land owners, some with land inside the fence and outside of the fence. Adjoining landowners land inside the fence is either QEII covenanted, WDC covenanted or in the process of negotiations to be covenanted. Greg Martin -Consultant to the Waipa District Council, has been contracted to action the process get signed access agreements and covenants in place with all of our adjoining landowners.

‘The Reserve’ - means the whole of the land vested in the community of Maungatautari as a result of the Waitangi settlement between the Crown and Ngati Koroki Kahukura and Ngati Haua. This land continues to be administered and managed by WDC as a Scenic Reserve pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977. (There are other parcels of land including Council owned land and private land that have been or are to be covenanted by WDC and managed as though it is scenic reserve and part of Maungatautari Ecological Island. The management of this land is by agreement with the landowner, MEIT and WDC).

Governance & Accountability

This is a partnership between multiple organisations. The following table describes the roles and responsibilities of each partner and supporter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Role/Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waipa District Council</td>
<td>WDC administers the reserve within the Sanctuary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MEIT has a contract for services with the Waipa District Council to manage the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maungatautari Scenic Reserve. MEIT receives annual funding to provide the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>following services:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Manage and ensure the efficacy of the pest proof fence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>following services:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Manage and ensure the efficacy of the pest proof fence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Maintain pest fence surveillance systems
• Monitor mammalian and weed pests and respond to incursions/invasions of pests.
• Maintain assets and recreational infrastructure
• Engage the communities of Maungatautari

Additionally, Council staff provides technical advice through the Scientific Technical Advisory Panel and Maungatautari Reserve Committees. Also support with landowners access and covenant agreements.

**Waikato Regional Council**

MEIT has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Waikato Regional Council and receives funding which Council has determined will be applied specifically to:

• Maintaining the perimeter fence as an effective barrier to pest incursions
• Ongoing pest surveillance activities within the enclosure
• Rapidly respond to any pest incursions

Additionally, Council staff provides technical advice through the Scientific Technical Advisory Panel and Maungatautari Reserve Committees.

**Department of Conservation**

The Department of Conservation provide funding via a contestable pool. Applications for funding are made through the DOC community fund.

Previously, funding has been applied to projects that include species work (translocations, monitoring and surveys) and various restoration works.

Technical advice and support is also provided by DOC through representation on the Waipa District Council’s Maungatautari Reserve and Scientific Technical Advisory Panel. DOC are also the administrators for interacting with wildlife permits.

**Key Personnel**

The following table describes the roles of key personnel in the Trust/organisation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relevant skills and experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chair (MEIT)</td>
<td>Poto Davies</td>
<td>Mana whenua- Maungatautari marae- Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Trust (NKKT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee (MEIT)</td>
<td>Robyn Nightengale</td>
<td>Mana whenua- Parawera marae, Raukawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee (MEIT)</td>
<td>Rahui Papa</td>
<td>Mana whenua- Pohara marae- Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Trust (NKKT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Co-Chair (MEIT)</td>
<td>Tim Densem</td>
<td>Community Trustee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee (MEIT)</td>
<td>Don Scarlet</td>
<td>Community Trustee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee (MEIT)</td>
<td>Maryanne Sambells</td>
<td>Community Trustee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee (MEIT)</td>
<td>Melissa Sinton</td>
<td>Land owner Trustee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Responsibilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee (MEIT)</td>
<td>John Fisher</td>
<td>Land Owner Trustee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>Phil Lyons</td>
<td>The CEO’s key responsibilities are:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Leads the organisation to ensure the delivery of agreed Trust and business outcomes;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ensures that targeted relationships with key stakeholders are grown, maintained and strengthened;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ensures that the organisation delivers outcomes consistent with the Board’s strategic business objectives and aspirations;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary Manager</td>
<td>Melissa Sinton</td>
<td>The key aspects of the Sanctuary Manager’s role are to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Manage relationships with MEIT partners particularly in relation to the fence / infrastructure maintenance and pest management; Provide key liaison with adjoining landowners and ensure completion of access agreements and covenants; Form a close working relationship with mana whenua and marae representatives from the area; Ensure relationships with funders, suppliers, contractors and ecological stakeholders will endure for medium to long term; Adopt best practice biosecurity management; Develop and maintain networks with regional, national and international environmental organisations; Provide expert services for the Trust for maintaining the integrity of the critical infrastructure and pest free status; Manage the natural heritage team to maintain the pest free status and pest and monitoring programmes; Achieve agreed milestone targets for breaches, pest monitoring, and incursions - Implement documented and systematic programmes of maintenance for all assets; Further develop MEIT HSE policies and documentation in relation to contractors compliance with Work-Safe legislation; Oversight and support for Volunteer Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Species Manager</td>
<td>Chris Smut-Kennedy</td>
<td>Provides expertise and oversight to the species work component of the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust. This includes: kiwi work; species monitoring contracts; and issues relating to DoC permits, translocation proposals, takahe care and other species related duties. The Species Manager also, assists in the development and deployment of an annual plan of species tasks and projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fence and Tracks Contractor</td>
<td>Craig Laxon</td>
<td>The Fence and Tracks Contractor: Maintains close contact with landowners on a regular basis, and attends regular liaison meetings with Trustee representatives; Takes the role of Team Leader in responding to alarms registered by the fence electronic surveillance system within the response time agreed by the Trust (90 minutes of breach alarm); Calls for assistance from Trust staff and volunteers, if necessary, to effect emergency and ultimately any permanent fence repairs required, as a result of damage suffered from breaches of the fence’s integrity; Responds to fence breach alarms in a precautionary manner when adverse weather conditions prevail, with a higher priority on human safety than repair of breaches; Maintains the breach register on a monthly basis; Undertakes fence maintenance as required in those sections of the fence contained on private and reserve land; Undertakes a regular close surveillance of the 47 kilometres of perimeter fence and all internal compartment fences to ensure all aspects of the fence is intact including electronic surveillance wire, mesh, hood, vehicle and pedestrian gates;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reforms/stabilises the access road and re-metal areas of track identified by the Trust as the highest priority track areas on private land, and in accordance with the Trust Business Plan;

Replaces culverts in areas where the land contour slopes toward the reserve, replacing the current culverts with diversions or the self-cleaning design as agreed by the Trust;

Conducts a regular check of the culvert system, including the swinging gate culverts to ensure they remain clear of debris and fully functional; and

Assists in creating an annual operation plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranger, Pest Team Leader</td>
<td>James Matthews</td>
<td>Leads, co-ordinate and oversees the Natural Heritage pest team: Preparers work and field work plans for the NH team on an annual, monthly and weekly basis; Maintains all records of pest work, including breach responses, monitoring plans and results; Initiates specialist search capability for species thought to be within sanctuary; Maintain relationships with appropriate stakeholders to ensure they are well informed on the Trust’s objectives; Provides a supporting role to the Fence Maintenance Team by assisting with breach call outs and rostering on a week per month for call-out standby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Ally Tairi</td>
<td>The Volunteer Coordinator provides oversight to the volunteering programme, with the objective of increasing recruitment and retention of volunteers and expanding the volunteer work opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger, Pest and Support</td>
<td>Geoff Churchill</td>
<td>Implement the on-going natural heritage (biodiversity and pest) work. Assist with support services to the organisation by: Co-ordinating Occupational Safety and Health in the Workplace for all aspects of the Trust operations. Providing the Organisational staff contact for digital radio system, and ensuring training and adoption of radio policy is comprehensive Mapping, reporting, writing, data collation and archiving, as may be determined by management for the natural heritage area. Guiding and interpretation as required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger, Pest and Species Support</td>
<td>Craig Montgomerie</td>
<td>Implement the on-going natural heritage (biodiversity and pest) work. Assist with support services with species management and to the organisation by Guiding and interpretation as required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Key stakeholder endorsements / Letters of support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barry Bergin</td>
<td>Waipa District Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Manager Service Delivery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Speirs</td>
<td>Department of Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karaitiana Tamatea- NKKT Co-chair and Mokoro Gillet-t NHIT Chair</td>
<td>Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust (NHIT) and the Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Trust (NKKT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren McGrath- Chair Parawera Marae Trust</td>
<td>Parawera Marae Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Bruce Clarkson MSc First Class Honours; PhD Waikato</td>
<td>Environmental Research Institute University of Waikato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Morgan, HoF Science</td>
<td>Cambridge High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Leong, Head of Outdoor Education</td>
<td>Te Awamutu College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Morley- Associate Prof Resource Management</td>
<td>Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug P. Armstrong- Professor of Conservation Biology</td>
<td>Massey University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julianne Lutz Warren Ph.D.,</td>
<td>Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Castro Ecology Group Institute of Agriculture and Environment</td>
<td>Massey University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
26 January 2018

Melissa Sinton  
Acting General Manager  
Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust  
PO Box 476  
Cambridge 3450

Dear Melissa,

SUPPORT FOR MAUNGATAUTARI ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT

This letter is in support of an application by the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (MEIT) to secure continued funding from the Waikato Regional Council.

The Maungatautari project at 3,400ha remains the largest, the most intensively managed and arguably the project with the greatest potential for restoring an intact lowland podocarp hardwood forest ecosystem on mainland New Zealand. It also has the greatest potential for the recovery (and ultimately a source for re-introductions to other mainland sites), of New Zealand’s rare and threatened forest wildlife. Already Maungatautari has thriving populations of species that are now largely confined to off-shore islands like hìhi (stich bird) and tieki (NI saddleback), tuatara and NI kokako are now well established as are Western brown kiwi. These add to the already rich fauna of insects, bats, the endemic Hochstetter’s frog, stream dwelling short jawed and banded kokopu and several species of gecko and skink. A very recent confirmed report of the endemic Pacific gecko on the southern slopes outside of the pest fence once again confirms the value of this mainland Island as a core habitat that is literally “leaking” wildlife into the surrounding landscape.

However, protecting the conservation gains already made and achieving the potential of the site requires considerable investment. It is the 47km long predator-proof fence that is the difference between Maungatautari and most other mainland Islands, and it is the fence, an in situ predator barrier, that enables these enormous conservation gains to be made. Ensuring the fence remains structurally sound, that access to it is available at all times and that it is legally secured where it crosses private land, is one of the highest priorities for MEIT. Council has been working with MEIT and good progress is being made establishing covenants on private land for both the forest enclosed by the fence and the fence and access carriageway.

The collective investment the Councils have made in Maungatautari is well justified. From an ecological and conservation view point there are few mainland sites that have delivered similar outcomes, and the future for Maungatautari becoming a major tourist attraction is very likely.
26 January 2018

What is required now is sustaining the current operational investment, but looking to increase investment in promotional material and marketing the site as a tourism destination. Hamilton Waikato Tourism sees Maungatuitari as a growing tourism offering and certainly a very worthy contribution to the Waikato Region and the Bay of Plenty offering. Increasing visitation ultimately means greater income and exposure for the Region.

The Maunga will continue to attract the interest of researchers, educators, conservationists and the general public for a broad range of reasons. It is close to Auckland and Hamilton and hence readily available to our collective ratepayers, universities and research institutes for education and research.

Waipa District Council has, and will continue to support this most worthy community restoration project and we applaud the Trust in its vision to restore the Maunga to provide the opportunity for all New Zealanders to experience what New Zealand was like prior to human colonisation. We urge the Waikato Regional Council to also recognise the achievements made and to continue to provide operational funding.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Barry Bergin
GROUP MANAGER SERVICE DELIVERY
7 February 2018

Dear Judy

Letter of support—Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust funding proposal

The Department of Conservation (DOC) wishes to support the recent application from MEIT to the Waikato Regional Council for funding to support fence maintenance, pest surveillance, and rapid response capability.

The Department’s support for the project is underpinned by DOC’s strategic direction and DOC’s vision—New Zealand is the greatest living space on earth.

This community-based project is one of the largest community-driven conservation projects in New Zealand and is certainly the largest project of this nature in the Waikato District and in the Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki Region.

As you are aware, this project has its genesis from within the community and this community commitment over many years has achieved 47 km of predator-proof fencing and substantial restoration of the mountain through the removal of all mammalian pests and the reintroduction of species that have been absent in most cases for more than 100 years.

Through the Trust’s extensive management involving hundreds of volunteers from the community, the reintroduced species have been flourishing to the extent that the progeny of kiwi and takahē have been translocated to other conservation projects elsewhere in the country. While there remains much to be done in the years ahead to grow the Maunga and the diversity of species it supports, it is critical that the maintenance and monitoring of the fence and its pest-proof status is well planned and supported. I understand that this is the primary purpose of the funding being sought by MEIT from the WRC in this application.

As a principal funder and contributor of both financial, staff and technical resources to this project since its inception, the Department fully supports the work of the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust. Through the Community Conservation Fund the Department has committed funding of $150,000 to MEIT in the coming financial year. This funding is principally directed to supporting the kiwi conservation work being undertaken by MEIT. The Department is also committed to ongoing in-kind support to the Trust.

I hope this letter of support assists with the funding application from MEIT and I am happy to discuss the Department’s support and commitment for this project further should the need arise.

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
Kirikiriroa/Hamilton Office
Private Bag 5072, Hamilton 3240
www.doc.govt.nz
Kind regards

David Speirs
Director Operations Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
027 839 6334 | dspeirs@doc.govt.nz
Waikato Regional Council
401 Grey Street
Hamilton 3216

Letter of Support for the Application submitted by the
Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust

This is a joint letter of support by the Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust (NHIT) and the Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Trust (NKKT) for the attached application, by the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (MEIT), to the Waikato Regional Council.

Ngāti Koroki Kahukura and Ngāti Hauā are strong supporters of the ecological and aspirational goals of MEIT. Paramount are the inherent tikanga Māori values that our Tupuna maunga holds for us as iwi, hapu and whanau. The maunga has always been a pātaka kai for people, for flora and fauna as well as the puna or well spring of wai Māori, thus life.

Central to our belief system is that taonga are handed down to us from our tupuna and through the creation of Papatūānuku and Ranginui. MEIT provides shelter for species such as Takahē, Kākāpō, Kāka, Hihi, Kōkopu, Mahoenui Weta as well as the native rākau. Looking after and overseeing these taonga still needs to occur with human intervention by way of monitoring, managing and surveying on a regular basis; these tasks are pivotal to maintaining a sanctuary.

Jointly we participate in the Board of Trustees and so witness the challenges of enhancing the biodiversity, providing a secure habitat for species that were dwindling in numbers and also providing a unique ‘fenced’ environment for the community and visitors. Maungatautari is a dominant feature of the natural landscape but it is woven into the landscape of who we are as tāngata whenua.

We respectfully ask that you look kindly on the MEIT application so that the wonderful project can continue to enhance the mana and mauri of Maungatautari.
Ngā mihi

Signed for and on behalf of
NGĀTI KOROKI KAHU KURA TRUST

Karaitiana Tamatea
Co-Chair Ngāti Koroki Kahukura Trust
Date: 5/02/2018

Signed for and on behalf of
NGĀTI HAUĀ IWI

Mokoro Gillett
Chair: Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust
Date: 5/02/2018
Parawera Marae  
P.O Box 29  
Te Awamutu 3840  
30 January 2018

Mai te hika ki te ure, ko Maungatautari e tuu taarewa ki paerangi 
Ko Te Ure ki Parawera te rohe e taakoto ake neki, mai Panehaakua ki Owairaka, mai 
Mangaoahi ki Peketahi  
Ko Taane-i-rangi-kapua te whare tuutu mai neki  
Ko Ruru ko Waenganui, ko Werokoko ngā hapu  
Ko Raukawa te tangata  
Ko Tainui te waka

Re: Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust Application to the Waikato Regional Council Natural Heritage Fund

I am writing on behalf of Parawera Marae in support of the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust’s application to the Waikato Regional Council Natural Heritage Fund.

Our marae has ahi kaa roa to Maungatautari; our whakapapa and mana whenua links to our tupuna maunga, consolidate our full support of the on-going ecological work undertaken by the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust.

We have worked with, and fully supported the vision and operations of the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust, from its inception.

We commend the way in which MEIT has enhanced the ability of Maungatautari to recover his habitat and protect taonga species for the enjoyment of our iwi and hapori, for now, and in the future. Their kaitiakitanga of our taonga species is not only undertaken using the available technical knowledge, but also undertaken with an understanding and sensitivity to mātauranga Māori.

Your on-going financial and technical support to Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust also assists Parawera Marae in ensuring that our hapu contributions to this project, are enduring and valued.

Nāku noa,

[Signature]

Warren McGrath  
Chair  
Parawera Marae Trust
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to indicate my strongest possible support to the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust’s application for funding from the Waikato Regional Council.

I do so as a professional ecologist with more than 35 years research experience and working on public and private conservation and restoration projects regionally and nationally.

The Maungatautari project is remarkable for a number of reasons including:

* it is the largest NZ mainland island (sanctuary) project fully protected by a predator proof fence;
* it is the flagship project for the whole of the Waikato region;
* it is a cornerstone of regional scale restoration of the region- because of the remarkable spillover effects assisting other efforts in the region;
* it was named one of the top 25 restoration projects in Australasia by the Global Restoration Network in 2009;
* over its 12 years of operation it has an impeccable record of no pest incursions resulting from a fence breach;
* it contains the best condition and most intact example of a tawari (Ixerba brexioides) submontane forest community on mainland New Zealand;
* it has undertaken 12 successful species reintroductions since 2005, most recently of tieke (saddleback) 2013 and kokako (2015).

My team and I based in the Environmental Research Institute of the University of Waikato have voluntarily contributed to the science and restoration practice since the project’s inception with our involvement in developing the original management plan and or input to various technical committees, including the recently reconstituted science and technical advisory panel. We continue to fully support the project as we know it follows best practice nationally, follows restoration principles and guidelines formulated by the International Society for Restoration Ecology and incorporates an internationally recognised adaptive management approach.

I strongly recommend that the Waikato Regional Council continue funding support for this nationally and internationally recognised restoration project.

Sincerely,

Professor Bruce Clarkson MSc First Class Honours; PhD Waikato

Awarded: Loder Cup 2006
Awarded: Royal Society of New Zealand Sir Charles Fleming Medal for environmental achievement 2016
Ambassador: New Zealand’s Biological Heritage National Science Challenge
Programme Leader: People Cities and Nature national research programme in urban ecology

Environmental Research Institute
University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton
Sanctuary Mountain
Maungatautari

Re: Level 2 Biology Trip to Sanctuary Mountain, Maungatautari

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to tell you how grateful I am to be able to bring students from Cambridge High School to Sanctuary Mountain for their NCEA Level 2 Biology internal assessment (Bio 2.6 Investigate a pattern in an ecological community) again this year. We are very lucky to have to such a wonderful ecological island within easy reach of our school. Being able to bring biology to life for these students is invaluable and game changing. Students are able to see science in action and use a technique (5-minute bird count) that experts in their field use. A number of students have never been exposed to anything like this in the past and it is a real eye opener for them.

We gain a very good success rate in this standard each year, which would not be achieved if we did not have access to Sanctuary Mountain. This year only 3% of our students did not achieve this standard compared to 13% nationally. Students who sign up for the Level 2 course have been told about the trip by previous students and they are all enthusiastic and excited by the prospect of doing "real science".

We would love to see the introduction of a biodiversity lab at Sanctuary Mountain for us to utilise for other NCEA assessments and Year 9 and 10 students. It is difficult for secondary schools to purchase and upkeep expensive equipment, such as microscopes, and enrich the student learning experience. However, if we had access to a biodiversity lab, with specialist equipment and an educator, our programmes of study would be more hands-on and relevant for students. As teachers, we see a direct correlation between the grades the students achieve and their experience out of class. It is only when science is put in context that student engagement and achievement is raised, especially when they see the link between what they are studying and how it is applied. Several of our students have had such a good experience that it has been a "lightbulb" moment for them when they finally grasp the concept or have been inspired to study ecology at a higher education institute.

Once again, thank-you to you and your volunteers for helping our students to achieve success and I look forward to being able to bring more students to Sanctuary Mountain in the future to a biodiversity lab.

Regards

Barbara Morgan
HoF Science
Cambridge High School
Private Bag 882, Cambridge 3450
Tel: 07 827 5415
Fax: 07 827 5598
LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MAUNGATAUTARI SANCTUARY MOUNTAIN

Over the past 5 years Te Awamutu College’s Year 9 Outdoor Environmental Education students have been working as volunteers for the Maungatautari Sanctuary Mountain project.

Each class volunteer’s a day’s labour and completes whatever tasks that need doing. As a large group we have completed tasks such as maintaining trapping lines, pruning the fence line, clearing of weeds and gorse, planting trees, making new pathways and tracks, collecting seeds to regenerate new bush and cleaning buildings. Our Outdoor Environmental Education classes learn about this special place as a unit of work and our students willingly work hard for the day. We feel we have made a significant difference to the Sanctuary as we are able to provide about 25 students plus 4 adults four days a year. Every time we come to work at the Mountain we can see the work that we have done previously and this adds to the pride that we place on being able to help as volunteers.

The staff and volunteers that help run our volunteer day are always very professional, welcoming and are always very safety conscious.

Our students feel an immense sense of satisfaction knowing that we have made a difference to a project that needs constant support to continue. We hope to continue this partnership for years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Brett Leong
Head of Outdoor Education,
Te Awamutu College.
5 February 2018

To whom this might concern

We wish to submit this letter of support for the Maungatautari Sanctuary educational facility.

For several years now, my students who are doing resource management and environmental studies at Toi Ohomai, have travelled to the mainland island sanctuary of Maungatautiri because it provides an excellent educational opportunity for my students to get first-hand knowledge of New Zealand’s flora and fauna and the environment they require to live in.

We have utilised the services of Tom Lynch (Education Manager) on several of our trips. Tom has been excellent in imparting a wide range of knowledge about this 3400 ha mainland island, the iconic endemic species within the sanctuary, and about New Zealand’s problems with invasive species management.

Having this sanctuary, virtually on our doorstep, is a huge asset for not only our institute as an educational resource, but also for the local people in the area, as it provides a very obvious reminder of what we have actually lost in New Zealand. To think that we now has to fence off enclaves of native bush in order to protect our natural biodiversity is a sad indictment. Thus, having an educational facility that teaches about conservation, species management, natural biodiversity, hydrology, ecological interactions, and community and iwi aspirations is critical for our future generations so they too can appreciate and value many of the species we now see within the sanctuary today.

Thus, we wholeheartedly support every endeavour to have a first class educational facility at the sanctuary to help educate, both the young and old. For if we do not provide this education service, then we will be doomed to repeat many of the same mistakes of the past. Whilst, Toi Ohomai is not in a position to provide any financial support itself, we will continue bringing our students across to the sanctuary and they will help pay for this educational experience.

Respectfully submitted in support of the sanctuary

Craig Morley
Associate Prof Resource Management
6 February 2018

Environment Waikato
Strategic Development Unit
Freepost Environment Waikato
PO Box 4010
Hamilton East 3247

Dear Councillors,

I strongly support Environment Waikato’s continuing contribution to Maungatautari Ecological Island to fund its ongoing maintenance of the predator-proof fence and management of pest incursions.

I consider Maungatautari Ecological Island to be the most important conservation initiative in New Zealand over the last 25 years, and to be a project of international as well as national significance. Maungatautari’s large area, relatively mature forest, and predator-proof fence make it unique asset for New Zealand conservation. Maungatautari has paved the way for the even-more-ambitious Predator Free New Zealand programme, but until we see success in large-scale predator eradication Maungataurui is by far the largest-scale sanctuary we have.

The Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust has done a superb job to date in developing a comprehensive restoration plan, erecting the fence, eradicating exotic species, managing the periodic incursions of those species, and reintroducing several key species. However, they continually struggle to find funding. It was therefore a brilliant decision by Environment Waikato to contribute annual funding to ensure the key management takes place, in fact probably one of the wisest investments of public money by a government body in New Zealand. I hope this support will continue for as long as possible.

Sincerely

[Signature]

Doug P. Armstrong
Professor of Conservation Biology
Dear Waikato Regional Council members,

It is such a joy to write to you as a person who has had the privilege of visiting Maungatautari from afar. After returning to my home place in the U.S., my experience at Maungatautari stands out. It is one of the greatest “hopes” I have ever entered into. I am using “hope” here in its older English meaning as an area of earth that is a sanctuary for particular kinds of life.

In this case, Maungatautari provides forest of unusually healthy qualities and size for native bird species. This predator-free area is vital for the birds. It is critical for scientific study that may help restore and support forest-bird life all the better here and elsewhere in the future. It is also crucial for visiting people in making possible deepening awareness of and relations with birds. These interrelations are crucial in supporting flourishing for present and coming generations. That is, helping heal and encourage ecological interdependencies is necessary for food and water security, not to mention for sustained economies across cultures. At the same time, this amazing sanctuary allows the possibility of overflow to happen. Some avian kinds who breed successfully inside might fly over the fencing. In some cases, they may find places where they can thrive on the outside thus extending the hope.

In a world of troubled beauty, visiting Maungatautari amazed and uplifted me. I might add that the knowledge and generosity of staff and volunteers I met, including Chris Smuts-Kennedy and Jan Salmon, also surely impressed me.

I am immensely grateful for Maungatautari, the forest and birds and people. I won’t ever forget it, and, will take every opportunity to return. I cannot say enough in support of Maungatautari’s continuation as an increasingly healthy and appreciated local sanctuary with rippling effects—all the way to the other side of the globe.

Sincerely yours,

Julianne Lutz Warren, Ph.D.,
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Biology
Author, *Aldo Leopold’s Odyssey, Tenth Anniversary Edition*
6 February 2018

Environment Waikato
Re. Funding Application from Maungatautari/Sanctuary Mountain

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of an application for continuing funding from Maungatautari/Sanctuary Mountain. I have been working with New Zealand (NZ) wildlife and its conservation since 1990, and involved with research at the mountain through the work of postgraduate students and volunteers working with hihi (*Notiomystis cineta*) an endangered endemic species.

I view Maungatautari, as an extremely important site for the conservation of our wildlife because it represents the largest tract of mostly intact forest in the NZ mainland that lacks introduced predators and browsers (with exception of mice). Maungatautari is in addition accessible to the public, making the site also important in terms of education, and the enjoyment of nature as perhaps once was in our country. Finally, Maungatautari also hosts research from various universities in NZ and overseas becoming a source of knowledge on our native species, and providing solutions and ideas for management of endangered and at risk species.

It is important that the Maunga continues to maintain its integrity to ensure the success of the species already there and those coming to it in the future. In particular, with our governments plans for a predator free NZ and 100,000 kiwi by 2030, sites like Maungatautari become essential as they will be a source of species to recolonise the mainland. Your funding is crucial in this goal and I wholeheartedly support this application.

Sincerely yours,

Isabel Castro
SECTION FOUR: Project Maps

Figure 1: The location of Maungatautari in the Waikato in the North Island of New Zealand (NZMS Topographical Maps).

Figure 2: SMM predator proof fence (shown in red) with two fenced enclosures (in blue)
Figure 3: Fenced enclosure

Figure 4: Scenic Reserve inside fence
Figure 5: Maunga Halo potential to link with other biodiversity sites

Figure 6: Maungatautari location in relation to Waikato main centres.
Appendix 3  Quarterly Accountability Report from MEIT for the period October 2017 to December 2017
5 February 2018
Committee Chair
Finance Committee
Waikato Regional Council

Dear Cdr Hennebry

Please find attached the accountability report from Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust for the period October-December 2017. This is prepared in accordance with the MOU between the Trust and Council.

General Financial Performance
The cash position improved by $106k in December. Total cash income was $247k and included Donations $110k; Doc Funding $46k on top of the regular $50k from WDC & WRC. Cash operating expenses were $126k with net non-operating cash movements of $15k, including $20k on plant and equipment. The closing cash balance improved to +$93k but with total Tagged Funds at $224k the net operating funds were negative at -$131k. The budget made at the beginning of October predicted an overall positive cash position of $30k after allowing for expected tagged funds of $184k. Tagged Funds at 31 December are $40k higher than expected and the net Operating Funds are $162k lower than expected. Reports included below are

1. Summary Financial management report for December 2017
2. Liquidity Chart
3. Balance Sheet from Management reports at end December 2017
4. Statistics for SMM.

Yours faithfully

Phil Lyons

Chief Executive Officer
MEIT - Summary Financial Management Report for December 2017

CASH MOVEMENT SUMMARY

The cash position improved by $106k in December. Total cash income was $247k and included Donations $110k, Doc Funding $46k on top of the regular $50k from WDC & WRC. Cash operating expenses were $126k with net non-operating cash movements of $15k, including $20k on plant and equipment. The closing cash balance improved to +$93k but with total Tagged Funds at $224k the net operating funds were negative at -$131k. The budget made at the beginning of October predicted an overall positive cash position of $30k after allowing for expected tagged funds of $184k. Tagged Funds at 31 December are $40k higher than expected and the net Operating Funds are $162k lower than expected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEIT Cash Movements (Monthly)</th>
<th>Dec-17</th>
<th>Nov-17</th>
<th>Oct-17</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>Predicted Position made at 1 Oct for 31 Dec 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening balance</td>
<td>($13,328)</td>
<td>$54,762</td>
<td>$80,760</td>
<td>$57,894</td>
<td>$102,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash movement</td>
<td>$105,954</td>
<td>($88,090)</td>
<td>($26,000)</td>
<td>$34,732</td>
<td>$111,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing balance</td>
<td>$92,626</td>
<td>($13,328)</td>
<td>$54,760</td>
<td>$92,626</td>
<td>$214,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which Tagged funds</td>
<td>$224,437</td>
<td>$211,026</td>
<td>$204,595</td>
<td>$224,437</td>
<td>$184,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating funds</td>
<td>($131,811)</td>
<td>($224,354)</td>
<td>($149,835)</td>
<td>($131,811)</td>
<td>$30,231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCOME

P & L Operating Income in December was $200k, including $111k of Donations (see table overleaf). YTD (after 6 months) Operating Income is $185k below budget, $488k compared with the budget of $673k.
### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dec-17</th>
<th>Nov-17</th>
<th>Oct-17</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Variance</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>56,706</td>
<td>55,006</td>
<td>99,927</td>
<td>366,604</td>
<td>233,495</td>
<td>($ 133,109)</td>
<td>Not including Trust Waikato ($300,000) for education Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>111,078</td>
<td>2,719</td>
<td>7,659</td>
<td>192,494</td>
<td>153,155</td>
<td>($ 39,339)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service &amp; merchandise sales</td>
<td>31,887</td>
<td>20,995</td>
<td>15,509</td>
<td>110,859</td>
<td>92,624</td>
<td>($ 18,235)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,998</td>
<td>8,943</td>
<td>5,945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$199,767</strong></td>
<td><strong>$78,779</strong></td>
<td><strong>$123,200</strong></td>
<td><strong>$672,955</strong></td>
<td><strong>$488,217</strong></td>
<td><strong>($ 184,738)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDING / GRANTS CAPITAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$10,305</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,004</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,478</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,074</strong></td>
<td><strong>$83,722</strong></td>
<td><strong>$69,648</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$189,462</strong></td>
<td><strong>$91,783</strong></td>
<td><strong>$126,678</strong></td>
<td><strong>$687,029</strong></td>
<td><strong>$571,939</strong></td>
<td><strong>$115,090</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENDITURE

P & L Expenditure in December was $113k compared with $130k the previous month (see table next page). A new column has been added to the Expenditure Table this month showing where $29k of Tagged Funds has been used for operating purposes. There was an operating surplus of $76k on the month after ignoring Capital Grants. YTD there is a saving on budgeted Expenditure of $85k, $690k compared with the budget of $775k.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Dec-17</th>
<th>Nov-17</th>
<th>Oct-17</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Variance</th>
<th>Grants income spent</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>25,241</td>
<td>15,325</td>
<td>20,958</td>
<td>99,544</td>
<td>133,748</td>
<td>($ 34,204 )</td>
<td>($ 3,950 )</td>
<td>OTM monitoring stockpiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Overheads</td>
<td>2,316</td>
<td>2,865</td>
<td>4,526</td>
<td>27,146</td>
<td>23,485</td>
<td>$ 3,661</td>
<td>($ 285 )</td>
<td>Maunga Manu frequent visitor pass launch, Payments and Bookings for Marketing activities in the New year including Trenz etc.. ( This needs to be paid for well in advance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>5,427</td>
<td>8,877</td>
<td>3,906</td>
<td>40,046</td>
<td>26,962</td>
<td>$ 13,084</td>
<td>($ 5,096 )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Heritage</td>
<td>2,815</td>
<td>7,211</td>
<td>6,230</td>
<td>39,252</td>
<td>42,131</td>
<td>($ 2,879 )</td>
<td>($ 12,266 )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>1,985</td>
<td>2,162</td>
<td>2,312</td>
<td>61,700</td>
<td>10,473</td>
<td>$ 51,227</td>
<td>($ 650 )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries / Wages / Contractors</td>
<td>70,131</td>
<td>90,836</td>
<td>70,105</td>
<td>494,496</td>
<td>439,637</td>
<td>$ 54,859</td>
<td></td>
<td>Additional contractor hours including concession application, for current capital projects including the construction of the alternative access and carpark, (Partial claim can be made in future from MBIE) November incurred 3 payrolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>5,298</td>
<td>2,209</td>
<td>2,623</td>
<td>13,120</td>
<td>14,012</td>
<td>($ 892 )</td>
<td>($ 6,490 )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>$113,213</td>
<td>$129,485</td>
<td>$110,660</td>
<td>$775,304</td>
<td>$690,448</td>
<td>$84,856</td>
<td>($ 28,737 )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT</strong></td>
<td>$76,249</td>
<td>-$37,702</td>
<td>$16,018</td>
<td>-$88,275</td>
<td>-$118,509</td>
<td>-$30,234</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

David Coy, 17 January 2018
## Balance Sheet

Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust  
As at 31 December 2017

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 Dec 2017</th>
<th>31 Dec 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POS Refund Account</td>
<td>(99)</td>
<td>(105)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank accounts and cash</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB - Cheque</td>
<td>(129,986)</td>
<td>22,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB - Kakapo Translocation</td>
<td>3,068</td>
<td>6,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB - Kokako Translocation</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB - Groooeo</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB - Tagged Funding</td>
<td>221,121</td>
<td>14,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB P-Card (AM)</td>
<td>(1,593)</td>
<td>(737)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB P-Card (GM)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,157)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Float - Tarl Road &amp; Cambridge Market</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bank accounts and cash</strong></td>
<td>93,037</td>
<td>42,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Debtors and Prepayments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>10,967</td>
<td>137,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Debtors and Prepayments</strong></td>
<td>10,967</td>
<td>137,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock on Hand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Material on Hand</td>
<td>13,593</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock on Hand</td>
<td>11,029</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Stock on Hand</strong></td>
<td>24,622</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>193,578</td>
<td>179,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB P-Card -(Marketing)</td>
<td>(161)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bank</strong></td>
<td>(161)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As per schedule</td>
<td>9,833,614</td>
<td>9,874,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td>9,833,614</td>
<td>9,874,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>9,941,581</td>
<td>10,054,398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please note that the Balance sheet does not include the 99 Tari Road property which currently sits with Waipa District Council in accordance with the Heads of agreement.

### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th>31 Dec 2017</th>
<th>31 Dec 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clearing Account</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income in Advance - capital</td>
<td>78,035</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Creditors and accrued expenses

| Accounts Payable                     | 132,700     | 141,840     |
| Holiday Pay Accrual                 | 22,568      | 18,448      |

**Total Creditors and accrued expenses** 155,267 150,288

#### Other current liabilities

| Current Portion Loans                | 53,251      |             |
| Gift Vouchers                        | 1,233       | 974         |

**Total Current Liabilities** 315,561 145,675

### Balance Sheet

#### GST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31 Dec 2017</th>
<th>31 Dec 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(9,200)</td>
<td>(15,583)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Other current liabilities** 82,158 (14,669)

**Total Current Liabilities** 315,561 145,675

#### Non-Current Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31 Dec 2017</th>
<th>31 Dec 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Loans</td>
<td>14,377</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Non-Current Liabilities** 14,377 130,763

**Total Liabilities** 329,877 276,441

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31 Dec 2017</th>
<th>31 Dec 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,632,163</td>
<td>9,777,956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31 Dec 2017</th>
<th>31 Dec 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Funds</td>
<td>9,596,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Year Earnings</td>
<td>35,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Funds</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Equity** 9,632,163 9,777,956

Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY15/16 (outstanding as at 01.07.2017)</th>
<th>Sought (applied for)</th>
<th>Awarded (successful)</th>
<th>Declined (unsuccessful)</th>
<th>Part portion not awarded</th>
<th>Awaiting decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$22,435</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$22,435</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY16/17 (outstanding as at 01.07.2017)</td>
<td>$983,110</td>
<td>$343,111.00</td>
<td>$162,999</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>$469,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17/18</td>
<td>$644,445</td>
<td>$17,226.00</td>
<td>$373,861</td>
<td>4371</td>
<td>$248,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,649,990</td>
<td>$360,337.00</td>
<td>$559,295</td>
<td>$12,371</td>
<td>$717,987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donations

** Spike was due to NKK, Carden and Hihi Camera donations

Volunteers
Operations

Fence Callouts per month

Natural Heritage

Breaches & Incursion Response per month
Education

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From 01.07.2017-31.12.2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying Students</td>
<td>1474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying Adults</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying Faculty</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Target FY17/18</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance to meet target</td>
<td>2357</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visitors

Total visitor revenue per month

Monthly Visitor numbers
Website

SMM Website Visitors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>FY15/16 Total # SMM Website visitors</th>
<th>FY16/17 Total # SMM Website visitors</th>
<th>FY17/18 Total # SMM Website visitors</th>
<th>FY15/16 Total of new SMM Website visitors</th>
<th>FY16/17 Total of new SMM Website visitors</th>
<th>FY17/18 Total of new SMM Website visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social Media

Social Media
Facebook Followers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>FY15/16</th>
<th>FY16/17</th>
<th>FY17/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>