

By email

22 March 2021

File Ref: EXTR-9-1111

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister for Land Information
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Hon Michael Wood
Minister of Transport
Parliament Buildings
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Tēnā kōrua Ministers

Request to defer disposal of land at Paekākāriki

As you may be aware, Waka Kotahi owns around 550ha of farmland east of Paekākāriki on the Kāpiti Coast, purchased to enable construction of the Transmission Gully Motorway. Following completion of the motorway late in 2021, we expect that most of this land lying outside the motorway corridor will eventually be declared surplus under the Public Works Act and arrangements made for sale. (A map is attached, giving more detail of the site).

Mindful of this disposal process, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Kāpiti Coast District Council and the Wainuiwhenua Community Group have come together in a forum of interest, to investigate how we may secure its future for the public good.

Prior to the NZTA purchase, this block was a marginally sustainable farming proposition. With a substantial portion cleaved away for the motorway and associated facilities, the parties agree that the highest priority for the surplus land is now environmental protection and enhancement.

Because of the nature of this land, and its proximity to Paekākāriki, other opportunities also present themselves. Re-establishing wetlands could mitigate the risks of flooding and enhance cultural connections. There is some land appropriate for community housing and small scale wind energy generation. There are numerous opportunities for recreational connections within this land and the adjacent public open space.

Neither Greater Wellington Regional Council nor Kāpiti Coast District Council seek to own this land. However, all the parties seek to ensure the land is owned and managed in ways that enhance the public goods described above, and we are exploring a range of options to achieve these ends. These include the possibility of iwi ownership, and a shared governance and management collaboration. We see the potential to grow local employment, capability and capacity, with benefits reverberating through the Wellington region and beyond.

We would welcome a discussion about how these outcomes that we seek may intersect with the Public Works Act and with your processes. In the interim we request that you defer commencement of any planned disposal of the surplus land, until the alternatives have been fully explored.

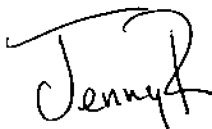
Ngā mihi



Daran Ponter
Chair
Greater Wellington Regional Council



Helmut Modlik
Chief Executive
Ngāti Toa Rangatira

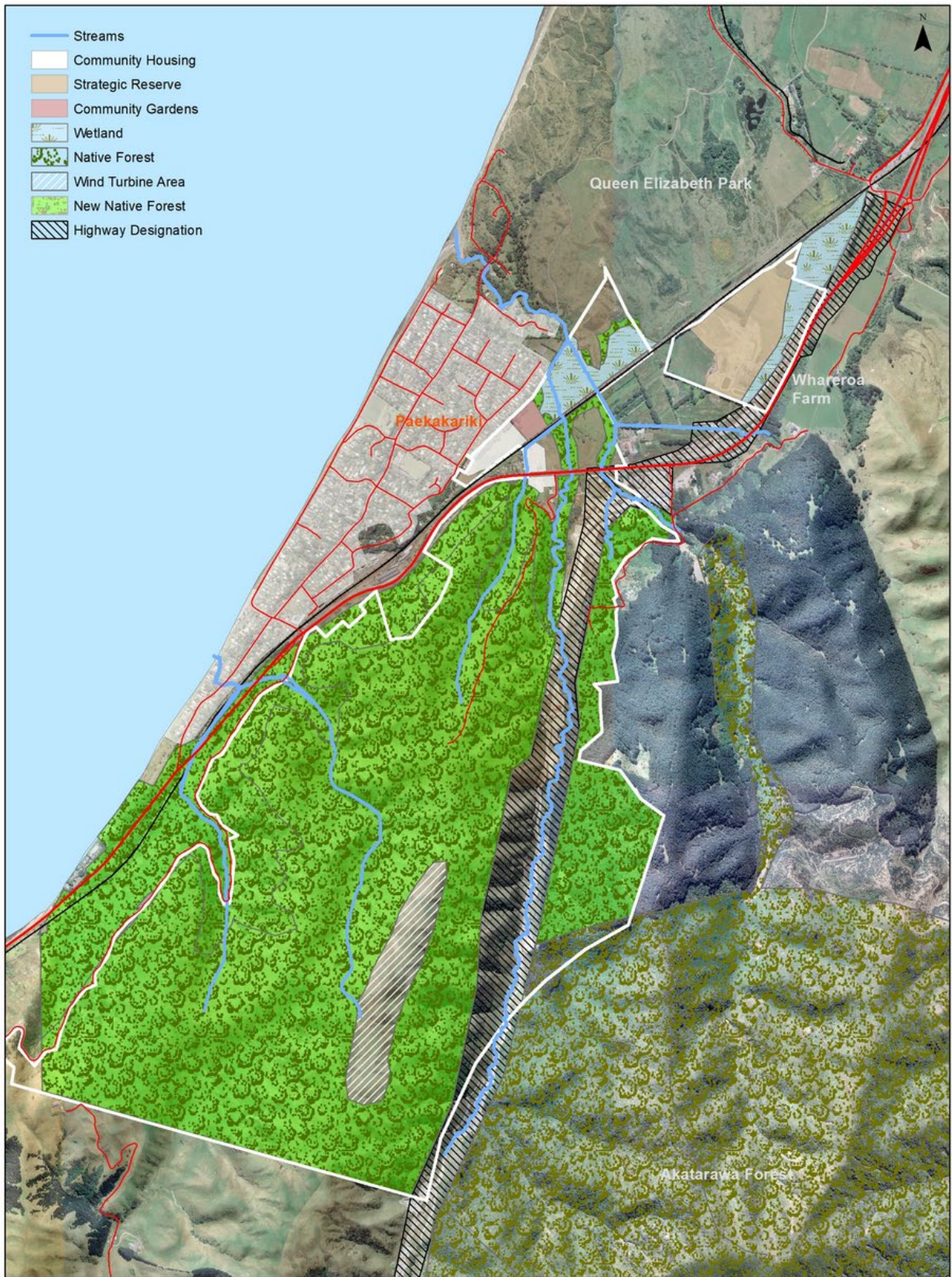


Jenny Rowan
Co-Chair
Wainuiwhenua Community Group



K Gurunathan
Mayor
Kāpiti Coast District Council
Co-Chair
Wainuiwhenua Community Group

Cc: Gaye Searancke, Chief Executive, Land Information New Zealand



Wainuiwhenua Future Concept
(Proposed areas indicative only)

