

16 May 2023

File Ref: EXTR-

Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe e te Minita

Invitation to visit: Proposed Wainuiomata Fenced EcoSanctuary

Many thanks for your letter of 17 April, regarding the submission of our proposal for consideration through the Emerging Priorities Fund. We look forward to hearing of the outcome of that process.

In the meantime, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) and Taranaki Whānui warmly invite you to visit the site of the proposed fenced EcoSanctuary “Puketāhā” at Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt.

The land under consideration is a key part of the Wellington water supply network and has been protected as a water source since the late 19th century. Over the last two years GW and Taranaki Whānui have worked with the Department of Conservation, Ngāi Tahu representatives and independent experts to explore the feasibility of a fenced sanctuary, with habitat suitable for Aotearoa’s most threatened taonga species. A study has confirmed that the proposal is feasible for the 3,313-ha site (15 times the size of Zealandia), and that the abundance of rimu makes it especially suitable for kākāpo.

GW is offering the land for this use, as a natural complement to its water supply function, and Taranaki Whānui is highly supportive of this proposal. We would welcome the opportunity to share this visionary initiative with you, and to host you and your officials on a 4WD tour of the site.

Naku nā



Daran Ponter
Chair, Greater Wellington



Kara Puketapu-Dentice
Chair, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

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