NAPIER CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

05/06/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Napier City Council, I am pleased to confirm our strong support for the Wharewaka and Waka Hub, led by the Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust.

As Sir Hekenukumai Busby reminded us,

"He herenga waka, ka whitiwhiti whakaaro, ka whitiwhiti kōrero, ka tū mai te māramatanga"
When waka are tied together, knowledge and understanding grow.

This principle underpins the kaupapa of the Waka Hub we are looking to create in Ahuriri, Napier.

Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust has shown leadership in protecting and sharing mātauranga Māori and Pacific navigation traditions through the Ātea a Rangi Star Compass and associated educational programmes. The new Wharewaka and Waka Hub will build on this legacy by providing:

- A safe and accessible home for Te Matau a Māui and other voyaging waka.
- A world-class learning and visitor centre.
- A base to host Pacific voyaging crews.
- Environmental enhancements that restore the mauri of Te Whanganui o Orotū.

This kaupapa will be the first of it's kind - establishing the first purpose-built waka mooring for ocean-going waka in New Zealand's North Island, and providing a world class public space that showcases celestial navigation and its cultural significance to Aotearoa. The Waka Hub is envisaged as an international destination for waka voyagers from around Moana nui-a-kiwa

Council has demonstrated its commitment to this kaupapa through confirmed funding contributions of $2.2 million from the Government's Better Off Fund and $1.1 million through our Long Term Plan, ensuring the fundamental components of the Waka Hub can be delivered. Further external support is now sought to complete the cultural, educational, and environmental elements that will further transform the Waka Hub into a nationally significant facility.

Napier City Council strongly endorses this project and encourages funding partners to join us in supporting a place of learning, connection, and celebration that will benefit our community and future generations.

Ngā mihi nui

Signed by: Rachael Bailey
Executive Director Strategy & Urban Development
Napier City Council

215 Hastings Street, Napier 4110
Private Bag 6010, Napier 4142
www.napier.govt.nz

t +64 **6 835 7579**
e info@napier.govt.nz