



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Ataubai

31 October 2008

To whom it may concern

Rimutaka Forest Park Trust Community Conservation Fund Application

I am writing in support of the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust (the Trust) Community Conservation Fund application. The application is for the Trust to carry out restoration work in areas of the Rimutaka Forest Park (the Park) managed by the Department of Conservation Wellington Conservancy (the Department).

The Trust has been operating for 20 years and has been highly successful with a range of projects that have enhanced the Park. As a result of the Trust's Dawn Chorus Project, for example, bird species have increased in numbers and their Kiwi Project has seen eight North Island brown kiwi released. Other projects include extensive pest control programmes, interpretation and development of education resources. The Department has maintained a strong working relationship with the Trust and will continue to provide support.

The Park is seen by the Wainuiomata and wider Hutt Valley and Wellington communities as being integral to social and recreational wellbeing and has consequently driven demand for more community involvement in its conservation management. This Trust's proposed restoration project will provide ongoing opportunities for not only the local community but also enable the wider community to contribute.

The aims of the Trust's restoration project closely align with those of the Department:

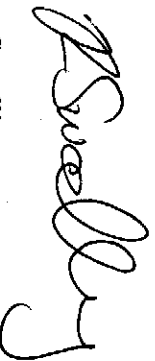
- The proposed project is an extension of the Trust's mission to protect and restore the natural and historic resources of the Park which contributes to the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical well-being of the wider community.
- To restore natural ecosystems with emphasis on sustaining clean water and healthy soil.
- To provide greater opportunity for networks of groups and individuals to take part in the ongoing planting maintenance, thus increasing their sense of ownership.
- The natural habitats resulting enhance recreational opportunities for various communities.

Poneke Area Office

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I fully support funding for this project and we look forward to assisting in the development of the programme through our continued partnership with the Trust. Please contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Swadling', written in a cursive style.

Kerry Swadling
Acting Area Manager
Poneke Area Office