

12 April 2023

Damien Wood

Project Engineer

Rangitikei District Council

Marton

Cc Paula Neilson Planner WSP

Tena koe Damien

**Letter of Support for the RDC resource consent application for Ratana WWTP Upgrade**

On behalf of Te Runanga o Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa it is important for us to clarify that we have had extensive involvement in the co – design of the Ratana Wastewater upgrade along with our hapu of Nga Ariki and Ngati Rangiwahakaturia as well as the Ratana community. I would also like to acknowledge the participation of the Rakautaua No. 9 trustees, namely Casey Paki and Albert Thompson who have been part of project for a large part of its duration.

The primary objective of our support which tracks back to a letter of support to the application for funds from government for the project over 5 years ago, was to get the wastewater disposal removed from Lake Waipu. We have huge task ahead of us to pull the lake condition back from the brink of disaster. However, the waste disposal process was the first aspect that needed addressing and that appears to now be in sight.

The project did have some periods of inertia which have been overcome and now we wish to endorse consent being granted. We will also look to work in a partnering way with the council in terms of opportunities around restoration planting at the disposal site and being involved in data and monitoring of the effects of the effluent disposal moving forward. We also seek to work in a similar way with Horizons regarding the restoration of Lake Waipu.

In conclusion, we endorse this consent being granted so that our lake can be improved as soon as possible and the Ratana community can have a sustainable sewage disposal system now and into the future.

Heoi ano



Chris Shenton

Kaitiaki Taiao / GM Lands & Environment