

*Ko Taumatapatiti te paemaunga,
Ko Kahuitara te maunga,
Ko Waiputaputa te awa,
Ko Waiputaputa te Marae,
Ko Ngati Awhia te hapu,
Ko Ngati Ira te iwi!*

TOKOMARU K5B
Hikuwai Farm
2577 Waiapu Road,
Te Whaanga,
HIKUWAI

22 February 2023

Ma Parata,
General Manager
Kuru Contracting
TOLAGA BAY

Resource Consent for Hikuwai SH35 Deviation Roding Project

Tena koe Ma,

We write to support the building of the Hikuwai SH35 Deviation Roding Project (Hikuwai Bypass) between Hikuwai No 1 and No 3 bridges. Wed like to take this opportunity to thank Pourou Incorporation Chair Phillip Hope for providing leadership at a critical time to ensure the Hikuwai Bypass is built to maintain socio-economic wellbeing for the East Coast region. E te Rangatira, e Piripi, tenei te mihi nui kia koe me te Komiti Whakahaere o Pourou mo tenei koha nui whakaharahara, he whenua hei tuhono ai nga Whanau o te wa kainga ki te ao whanui. No reira, ka nui te koa me te mihi nui kia koutou katoa.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the Tokomaru K5B Incorporation support the building of the Hikuwai SH35 deviation roading project (Hikuwai Bypass) between Hikuwai Bridge No 1 & 3 to connect light and heavy vehicles travelling north and south from Hikuwai Valley.

We consider the Hikuwai Bypass critical to the economic recovery of the East Coast region and very important to the wellbeing of Whanau on the East Coast because the Bypass will provide a lifeline to social, health and education services. This is a humanitarian issue! So the sooner the Hikuwai Bypass is built, the sooner the East Coast region can start to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

The Tokomaru K5B farm at Te Whaanga, Hikuwai valley is the fattening unit for the Marotiri Farm Partnership. When the Hikuwai No 1 Bridge was washed out by Cyclone Gabrielle, we like many primary producers on the East Coast have been unable to transport our product to market. Therefore the business sector of the East Coast region need the Hikuwai Bypass to transport our product to Gisborne to process for regional, national and international markets.

The Tauwharepare lands that the Hikuwai Bypass is being built on are the traditional lands of the Ngati Ira people. The Pewhairangi Whanau and many other Whanau of Ngati Ira have lived in the Hikuwai Valley since the Raupekanui Battle around 1650. As the customary owners of the Taumatapatiti Paemaunga and Tokomaru K5B Farm at Te Whaanga, Hikuwai Valley, we whole heartedly support the building of the Hikuwai Bypass.

We also support Kuru Contracting to lead the Hikuwai Bypass roading project and ask the Gisborne District Council to provide necessary support to get this project over the line for the reasons stated in this letter.

In closing, I'd like to share two proverbs that capture our thinking;

“Me mahitahi tatau mo te oranga o te katoa.”

We should work together for the wellbeing of everyone

“He waka eke noa,”

We are all in this together

Naku noa

Na Maua

Nikki Searancke,

Chair Hikuwai Committee of Management

Karen Pewhairangi

Secretary Hikuwai Committee of Management