

From: McGregor Bay [<mailto:mcgregorbaywetland@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, 11 May 2018 2:36 p.m.
To: Allan Tiplady; Margaret Harrison
Cc: carol sutherland; Neville Cameron
Subject: Request for Letter of Support for Boardwalk

Hi Allan and Bubbles,

As discussed at our meeting on Wednesday, the McGregor Bay Wetland Society seeks the support (in principle only at this stage) of TCDC and the local community board for the construction of a boardwalk and bird hide into McGregor Bay wetland. This support is required relatively urgently as the Society wishes to apply for funding for geotechnical and engineering support for the project via the current round of Environmental Initiative Funding (EIF) from Waikato Regional Council.

The Society has set aside funds for the construction of a boardwalk (\$23,000) but at this stage can likely afford only a short amount of boardwalk, with a vision of slowly adding to the boardwalk as funding allows (this may be via fundraising events; public funding a metre or plank etc.), and eventually providing an extensive boardwalk across different habitats within the wetland. Funding for the bird hide is sufficient (\$10,000) and will be a community engaged project that focuses on providing an artistic, educational and beautiful space to observe species in the wetland. This bird hide will be dedicated to the late Pete Buddle, a great local supporter of education and the environment.

A letter of support from TCDC and the local community board would show the funders that the project has the ability to proceed and can then be considered for funding. This additional EIF funding would allow for us to come up with a plan for where the boardwalk should go and how this should be constructed. Ecological support for the boardwalk location is provided by myself as an ecologist and Coordinator of the McGregor Bay Wetland Society. This plan can then be presented to the Council for discussion and agreement as to where the boardwalk should be located.

If you are able to get back to us as soon as possible that would be much appreciated as the funding round for EIF opens on May 14th and is only open for a month.

Kind regards,
Vanessa Wood on behalf of the McGregor Bay Wetland Society.