



MOUNT MAUNGANUI COLLEGE

Principal Alastair Sinton

3 May 2024

To Whom it May Concern

NZ BIODIVERSITY FINANCE ASSESSMENT

We are the Mount Maunganui College Environment Group. We are writing to express our full support for the NZ Biodiversity Finance Assessment (NZ BIOFIN Assessment) and its crucial role in preserving our environment for future generations. The group deeply understands the profound connection we have with the land, encapsulated by the proverb "Ko au te whenua ko te whenua ko au" - "I am the land, and the land is me."

Ngai Māori have always been the guardians of our whenua, or land, and we are responsible for protecting and preserving it for future generations. We call ourselves tangata whenua, meaning "people of the land," reflecting our deep-rooted connection to our environment. The land is not only our home but also our connection to everything, and we must ensure its sustainability and vitality for generations to come.

However, our environment faces numerous challenges, including deforestation, pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction. These anthropogenic factors pose significant threats to biodiversity, endangering the delicate balance of ecosystems and the survival of many species. If left unchecked, these trends could irreversibly damage our natural heritage, depriving future generations of our planet's beauty and diversity.

That is why initiatives like the NZ BIOFIN Assessment are so crucial. By investing in biodiversity conservation and supporting innovative projects, we can safeguard our environment and ensure its long-term sustainability. NZ BIOFIN Assessment can help allocate the necessary funding to support vital conservation efforts, protecting endangered species and restoring degraded habitats.

Furthermore, supporting the NZ BIOFIN Assessment aligns with New Zealand's environmental, economic, and international objectives. Preserving our unique biodiversity benefits our economy and hauora (health and well-being) and contributes to global efforts to address biodiversity loss.

As proud New Zealanders, we advocate for environmental conservation. We urge you to support the NZ Biodiversity Finance Assessment. Together, we can create a more sustainable and equitable future for all, preserving our natural heritage for generations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Ellie Johnston
MMC Environment Group

Jim Critchley
TIC Environment Group

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