

To whom it may concern

I write in support of Marco Zeeman's proposal for the "Whale Song" sculptural installation, proposed for Paraparaumu.

Artist Mike Fuller's pod of seven life size whales is an incredible opportunity for Kāpiti, reflecting its whaling past, Kāpiti Island, the marine reserve and the whale population on this very coast.

The ability for the children of the region to get up close to a full-size whale is not something many achieve, except maybe for the occasional dead whale washed up onto the coast. This large sculpture will allow them (and the general public) to get close, wander beneath and around the whales, gaining an understanding for their huge size, their features and the feeling of being amongst a family pod.

Evidence from other large sculptural installations, both here in New Zealand and offshore, show clear indicators that they achieve several benefits to their regions through attracting visitors to the area.

Being visible from the Kāpiti Expressway, "Whale Song" will give passing travellers an excellent reason to stop in the district, providing an obvious economic benefit as they purchase goods and services and visit other attractions whilst here.

Our local schools will also have the opportunity to engage with these whales, through the exciting "cans to whales" programme outlined in the Trust's project plan. Allowing local schools to play a part in the making of the whales is an excellent idea, from a recycling perspective, as well as inspiring arts, marine conservation and education.

The proposed location is also central to the new cycleways created as a result of the expressway. Whale Song will certainly add a significant feature for those enjoying a ride through the massive plantings that have been made.

We also would like to congratulate the Trust on obtaining the land for this wonderful installation.

I fully support the Trust's goals in making "Whale Song" a reality.



Mayor K Gurunathan JP, MA
MAYOR, KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT
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