

## 21 August 2023

It's my pleasure to write in support of Whale Song, a project with enormous potential for enhancing the Kāpiti District in many ways. This is a great opportunity for our region, and will position us as world-leaders in eco-cultural marine tourism.

This project enjoys significant support in the community, and it was a positive step to formally endorse the project as a Council in December 2022.

Kāpiti is a creative district with a strong environmental focus, so this project is a natural fit for our area and our people.

While Kāpiti has long been a loved destination, with Kāpiti Island as the major draw-card, the district lacks an iconic attraction which actively responds to and reflects its identity.

The benefits of the Kapiti region for the tourism sector are currently under-realised. We're close to an international transport hub in Wellington, new roading has given better access to the surrounding regions and our temperate climate make it an ideal tourism location.

The natural wonder of Kapiti with its nature reserve, safe family beaches and cycle trails are ready and waiting. What we lack is the global exposure, and this is what Whale Song can bring.

Whale Song will have a ripple effect across our region. Hospitality, retailers and accommodation providers will see an instant benefit.

Please join the Kāpiti Coast District Council in supporting this important and exciting project.

**Janet Holborow** 

Mayor, Kāpiti Coast District