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Dear Sir

### Hill Country Erosion Fund

As Chairman of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee, a committee made up of six farmers representing the hill country of the Wairarapa and having an interest in managing erosion prone hill country, I would like to make the following comments in support of Greater Wellington's application for funding from the Hill Country Erosion Fund.

This committee was formed after a public meeting in September 2006, and was mandated to increase the effort being put into managing erosion in the hill country. The newly formed WHCAC vision statement supports the management of Wairarapa hill country according to its optimum long-term capability while generating sustainable economic returns and incorporating the principles of sustainable land management.

The WHCAC unanimously supports the application to the Hill Country Erosion Fund. The extra funding will enable the task of securing erosion prone hills to be sped up. We are satisfied the methods being used to manage hill country erosion are working well and have no hesitation in backing a greater effort to securing our valuable hill country.

The climatic extremes that have occurred in recent years starting with the 2004 storm through to the most recent drought which has been ongoing since January 2007 have demonstrated that those properties that are well planted for soil erosion have managed much better in comparison to properties that have not had the tree planting programmes going for the same length of time.

In high rainfall events trees hold the hillsides, maintain pasture cover and protect valuable assets like fences, tracks, bridges and water supplies. In times of drought the willow and poplar become a valuable food source keeping the cost down for farmers trying to maintain live stock condition.

Yours faithfully



**Peter Gawith**  
Chairman, Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee  
Greater Wellington Regional Council

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