

**Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Maru Trust**

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16 July 2018

**Taranaki Regional Council and New Plymouth District Council – Mt Messenger Bypass Project  
Mt Messenger Road Realignment**

Kia ora

I am writing in support of the submission of Ngati Tama Runanga in relation to the above project.

The Mt Messenger – Te Ara o te Ata project sits entirely in the Ngati Tama rohe. We fully support the Transport Agency engagement directly with Te Runanga o Ngati Tama as the representative body for Ngati Tama members. The Runanga has kept us informed of their discussions with the Transport Agency.

We are aware that a group calling itself Poutama has claimed a separate customary interest in the project. Ngati Maru does not recognise the Poutama group as an iwi or hapu in its own right. To the best of our knowledge Ngati Tama has had no active hapu for more than a century.

Noho ora mai



Holden Hohaia

Chair – Te Runanga o Ngati Maru