



MEDIA RELEASE

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ENERGY TRUST SUPPORTS COUNCIL PROJECTS

Whakatane and Opotiki District Councils were the big winners in the latest round of funding approved by the Eastern Bay Energy Trust.

In Whakatane, the Trust approved \$50,000 for lighting and electricity supply for the new riverbank Warren Cole Walkway, and \$18,071 to supply electricity to Mataatua Reserve and Mitchell Park. A further \$16,584 was approved for under verandah lighting in Commerce Street, with \$28,286 for Christmas lighting upgrade, installation and removal.

Opotiki District Council will upgrade Christmas lighting with a grant of \$4,000, and install lighting and a pump in the new toilet block at the Ohiwa boat ramp with \$5,000 of funding approved for the project.

Other funding approved included \$41,594 to upgrade heating at Peria House, and \$48,850 to install air conditioning at the Opotiki Community Health Centre. Edgecumbe Volunteer Fire Brigade will be able to upgrade lighting, install heating and purchase a dehumidifier to dry fire fighting gear with a grant of \$13,337. Opotiki Golf Club received \$28,785 to upgrade irrigation.

The trustees also approved funding to cover the cost of sound and lighting hire at two free community events, with Ohope Lions Pohutukawa Branch receiving \$3,852 for the Ohope Beach Concert, and Opotiki Christmas in the Park receiving \$4,585.

A total of \$262,944 was approved for energy related projects, at the October and November Trust meetings.

Announcing the distributions, Trust Chairman David Bulley said "The Trust's focus is on building, strengthening and enhancing the community. The district councils are carrying out major community projects which will have direct benefit to residents, who are also the Trust's beneficiaries. The trustees are very aware that any contribution we can make to this important community development will ultimately make a significant difference to good community outcomes.'

Background:

Most of the Eastern Bay Energy Trust's income comes from a 77.3% shareholding in Horizon Energy, which owns the local electricity network. Approximately 60% of the net income is returned to the Eastern Bay community for energy related purposes. The Trust has approved a total of **\$23.8 million** for energy related projects over the past 13 years.

For further information contact

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