



MEDIA RELEASE

5 MARCH 2009

ENERGY TRUST SUPPORTS NEW CREMATORIUM

Three community organisations received good news this week. The Eastern Bay Energy Trust approved a total of \$306,292 funding for energy related projects at its monthly meeting last week.

In response to an application from Whakatane District Council, the Trust approved \$100,000 for the electrical wiring, lighting, heating and electricity supply to the new crematorium currently being built at the Hillcrest cemetery. Announcing the distribution, Trust Chairman Kevin Hennessy said "The new crematorium will mean that Eastern Bay residents will no longer need to travel to Tauranga or Rotorua during a very stressful and emotional time. By contributing to the costs of the new facility, the Trust is reducing the level of debt funding that will be carried by ratepayers, who are also the Trust's beneficiaries."

The Trust also approved \$56,297 for a much-needed upgrade of the electricity supply and an electricity upgrade at Ruatoki's historic Te Rewarewa Marae, which has been closed for safety reasons following a fire in the switchboard.

Mr Hennessy said: "Te Rewarewa Marae is one of the largest marae in the Ruatoki valley and has the ability to cater for over 1,000 people at any time. Significant annual events have occurred over the past 50 years, and it is important that the marae is reopened as soon as possible. The electricity supply upgrade will allow the marae to accommodate visitors to the upcoming Tuhoe Ahurei festival at Easter."

The third allocation of funding was to the Ohope Chartered Club which will install a new air conditioning and ventilation system, with a grant of \$149,995.

Mr Hennessy said the Trustees were impressed with the high level work that has already been completed by Club members. "The facilities have been significantly upgraded over the past 12 months. Because the hall next door does not have the meeting facilities that are needed in a community such as this, the Club supports many community organisations by providing free meeting facilities. The Trustees are looking for organisations that are helping themselves, and this is an excellent example."

Background:

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has approved a total of **\$1.6 million** for energy related projects in the 11 months to the end of February, and more than **\$22.5 million** over the past 12 years.

For further information contact

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