



MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNCILS SIGN PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has formalized a relationship protocol with the Kawerau, Opotiki and Whakatane District Councils. All three Councils are recipients of major allocations of Trust funding, and the new relationship protocol will ensure a coordinated approach to the provision of community facilities and projects throughout the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

With the three District Councils and the Trust jointly exploring options that will benefit and enhance the Eastern Bay, they will not only be able to avoid duplication of significant community facilities, thus spreading limited funding even further, but also undertake regional economic development initiatives, for the greater benefit of the beneficiaries of the Eastern Bay Energy Trust, and the ratepayers of the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

The Protocol agreement will not only allow Trustees to undertake long-term planning for the utilization of Trust funds, thereby ensuring fairness of allocation across the Eastern Bay, but will also recognise the three local authorities as key stakeholders in the development of the region. With the protocol agreement in place, the three Councils will be consulted about future Trust activities. Trustees met with the Kawerau Mayor and chief executive in July, and will meet with the Opotiki Mayor and chief executive next week. A meeting with the Whakatane Mayor and chief executive will take place during September.

As well as the three local District Councils, relationship agreements are also in place with other key Trust stakeholders, including Horizon Energy Distribution Limited, Energy Options, Environment Bay of Plenty and the Eastern Bay Power Society.

Trust Chairman Toni Owen said "The Trustees are excited about this new protocol which will provide the mechanism for the Trust and the three District Councils to work together for the optimization of the Trust Fund, and for the greater benefit of electricity consumers in our common district".

For further information contact

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