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Dear Julia and team

### **Disaster Research Science Report 2019/01 – Napier Hill Study**

I am writing to congratulate you on the report “Understanding Residents’ Capacities to Support Evacuated Populations: A study of earthquake and tsunami evacuation for Napier Hill, Napier, Aotearoa New Zealand”. The Community Strategies Team here at Napier City Council appreciated having the opportunity to work with your team and Napier Hill residents on the project, and we were very pleased to read the outcomes and findings from the research.

The report provides useful direction for informing all three phases of our ‘Hill Hosts’ project, which as you know, we began implementing shortly after the discussion groups were held with Hill residents. The first phase began in September last year and was timed to link with promotion of the annual national ‘Shake Out’ campaign.

The aims of each of our project phases align closely with the findings from your research:

- **Phase One – Awareness:** This phase focuses on raising awareness amongst the wider community about the impacts of a large-scale earthquake and associated tsunami event, and awareness of evacuation routes to and around the Hill. This phase also encourages Hill residents to consider the impact of an influx of evacuees and the many options they can consider in being prepared for this.
- **Phase Two – Preparation and Planning:** This phase began by encouraging Hill residents to actively plan for the expected influx of evacuees. It will also involve working with residents to do a stocktake of existing resources and skills on the Hill (possibly through Napier Neighbourhood Support). Other activities include assessing evacuation routes (already underway with the GNS Science/Massey University/East Coast LAB/University of Canterbury study), identifying potential gathering points, and the resources that may be required at these.

- **Phase Three – Infrastructure and Services:** This phase will focus on improving those factors known to support efficient evacuation, such as evacuation corridors, signage, informing decisions about the location of potential vertical evacuation structures, and identifying provision of basic supplies on the Hill for initial event support.

We are working alongside a number of parties to progress this project, including Napier Neighbourhood Support, the City of Napier Army Cadet Corps, and a group of residents who have expressed interest in being involved with the Hill Hosts project on an ongoing basis. We anticipate working with additional partners as the project moves forward.

Thank you again for providing us with the opportunity to be involved in your study, and for the detailed research report, which provides a solid base from which to further inform our local activities.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Jack

**Chief Executive**