



**Media Statement – for immediate release.**

**31 August 2021**

**From Robyn Lindstrom, Chairperson Game On Charitable Trust**

**Game On Charitable Trust is overjoyed by news that Waitomo District Council has agreed to take responsibility for the King Country Indoor Sport and Recreation Centre.**

At its August 31, 2021 meeting Waitomo District Council has conditionally agreed to support a proposal for Waitomo District Council to take full responsibility of the King Country Indoor Sport and Recreation Centre Project.

“As a group, and as individual members of the Waitomo community, the Game On Charitable Trust is ecstatic that the project is going to happen. It has been a long 7 years. There have been times when we really felt the project would falter” says Robyn Lindstrom.

The Trust is also very pleased that its original vision for a school community partnership to own and manage the facility has been retained, and thanks Waitomo District Council for its commitment to the project.

The project was initiated in 2014 by then Te Kuiti High School Principal Bruce Stephens who was looking for a way to replace the school’s 50 year old gym. TKHS initially commissioned a feasibility study, and then a business case to assess the best options. The focus was on developing a model that would benefit the whole community, would be financially sustainable and would help to address some of the social and educational issues that Te Kuiti and the wider community faces.

Robyn Lindstrom, who has been part of the GOCT since it was formed in 2017, believes the community owes special thanks to Sport New Zealand for believing in GOCT’s vision, pulling all the various stakeholders together and engaging Steve Bramley of SGL Funding to drive the project to this stage.

“SportNZ has acknowledged that this project, as a community driven one with a focus on a school community partnership, sets a benchmark that will guide other similar communities. This is a special day for the King Country. We thank the community for their support”.

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