

27 September 2019

Dear Mah'rufa,

I wanted to formally thank you on behalf of the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group for your engagement and commitment since joining the Civil Defence Youth Ambassador Programme. It is refreshing to see our young people so keen to learn about emergency management and show such an interest in giving back to their community.

During the workshops in 2018, the facilitation staff suggested that they weren't sure who had learnt more; the staff or the students! It was great to hear that the students had so many innovative ideas and embraced the content of the course. The resilience of communities will be improved by your understanding and ability to raise awareness amongst your peers.

I was really pleased to see you return as a mentor for the 2019 workshops to share your knowledge and experience with the new Youth Ambassadors. Articulating the challenges you have had in raising awareness within your school allowed our staff to problem solve and support the new Youth Ambassadors in their journey.

It is exciting to see you and other students continue to engage with Emergency Management Bay of Plenty. I know that this engagement is supporting you through your study but it is also great that you are taking the time to completely understand how emergency management really works. It is also really pleasing to see you share your understanding with the wider school community.

Your work with the Pāpāmoa community has been incredibly beneficial and will increase resilience across the area. It has helped to increase understanding of our local hazard scape and has helped to create supportive networks that could be vital in an emergency. If we continue to develop these relationships it will significantly increase the resilience of Pāpāmoa.

Finally, thank you for briefing the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee and the Minister of Civil Defence. It is really useful for us to see the journey you have been on since joining the programme and to understand the benefits of engaging with our youth.

Thank you again Mah'rufa

Sincerely



Mayor Greg Brownless,
Chair: Joint Committee
Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

