

DARK SKY PROCLAMATION AOTEA / GREAT BARRIER IS.

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people, visitors and community members; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Auckland, live under a dome of light pollution (excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness) and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, Aotea / Great Barrier Island is home to many nocturnal wildlife species —including the Takoketai (Aotea Black Petrel) which relies on an undisturbed night environment to fledge and thrive; and

WHEREAS, Aotea / Great Barrier Island is a place of natural darkness, which we wish to preserve, promote and share with our community and visitors; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International, is the globally recognized authority on light pollution and has created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

Now, therefore, I, Izzy Fordham, Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board Chairperson, of Aotea / Great Barrier Island, Auckland, New Zealand do hereby declare April 2-8, 2024 as

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

On AOTEA / GREAT BARRIER ISLAND and ask each resident to join me not only in observing and pondering this important week, but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark sky resources.