

Statement of Proposal in response to a joint request by Te Arawhiti & Te Whanau a Apanui

Our names are Pamela Connors and Steve Hibbard and we are part owners in a beachfront property at Whanarua Bay. The property is Lot 18 DP4651

1. Background

We purchased our property in 2007, in part for our grandchildren to experience a beach environment at a kiwi bach. Our grandchildren have learnt so much in that short time. The most important learning is respect for the sea and making sure fish and crayfish are of a legal size and quantity. Our future is in good hands when our children grow up with a set of values based on respect.

We rely on vehicle access to get to our property and to be able to park within a reasonable distance from the bach. There will be times when our septic tank will need cleaning and a truck will be required for that task.

There have been times when emergency services have required to access the Bay.

We also see Police and Fisheries down in the Bay from time to time.

We have been made aware of the presence of the wahi tapu area on the rocky headland. We wish to respect the area and would like to see a bigger sign there, explaining its history.

2. Our Concerns

Our greatest concerns relate to access down Lot 66 and administration of the reserves.

3. Our Submission

- 3.1. **The urupa on Lot 80.** We agree that the urupa on the rocky headland on Lot 80 should be protected.
- 3.2. **The rest of Lot 80.** We submit that the remainder of Lot 80 should remain a recreation reserve for all to enjoy, and to be able to continue to launch boats from.
- 3.3. **Lot 66 Access and Parking.** We access our property via the Lot 66 roadway and have contributed to the maintenance of it. We also park on the grassy area at the base of Lot 66. We submit that Opotiki District Council must continue to be both the 'owner' and administrator of Lot 66 at least until such time as all access and parking has been resolved.

3.4. **Administration – Joint Reserves Board – Lot 80.** We support the concept of a Joint Reserves Board for the Lot 80 foreshore reserve. The Board should also have beachfront representation just as we have representation with the Wirepa Whanau Trust in respect of Lot 75. That representation works well.

We do not support administration solely by Te Whanau a Apanui. Such an arrangement would ignore the presence of the properties fronting the Lot 80 reserve.

As beachfront owners we are deeply concerned that Lot 66, without Council involvement, could become restricted in some way. We urge that Opotiki District Council must put in place appropriate access easements before it considers any other options for Lot 66.

Beyond urging that our access over Lot 66 is formalised, we encourage that Whanarua Bay be protected for all to enjoy, not just some.

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