

Bruce Lewis
8482 SH35
WHANARUA BAY

3 March 2021

Opotiki District Council
108 Saint John Street
OPOTIKI 3122

Email: info@odc.govt.nz

Submission to the Opotiki District Council on the Statement of Proposal to joint request from Te Arawhiti and Te Whanau a Apanui.

I am responding in my letter in particular to the Statement of Proposal surrounding the Whanarua Bay area and being a property owner of the above stated address.

I write this proposal as a proud “New Zealander” and a person who has fallen in love with this beautiful part of New Zealand only having owned the property since 30 June 2020. Within this time the property has become my second home, engagement with the local community has been very fulfilling, to the extent that a local resident (original property owner) has made the comment to me that the “community currently has the best feel to it than it has had for a long time”. He has also stated this to a now returning, but previously an “original property owner”.

Therefore I “strongly disagree” that all Lots from 71 to 80 be vested in the Te Whanau a Apanui unencumbered without any reserve access and without any public access requirements. We need to access through Lot 66 (respectfully) and the foreshore of Lot 80 to enjoy the beautiful bay/s of the area to explore, swim, kayak and fish as all New Zealanders love to do.

Would it not be possible to “section off” the urupa alone to be classified historic and tapu and be given its own title? Respectfully.

I also object strongly to the remaining Lots of 66, 68, 69, 70 and the balance of Lot 8 and Lot 3 becoming “historic reserves”, thus limiting public access.

All of the other reserves stated in the proposal along the coast are to remain recreational which is in my mind what sharing New Zealand to all of our people is about. (Witnessed by my family recently on their first visit and being able to walk through the beautiful Raukokore Church.)

I do feel that Whanarua Bay is being "singled out" and if the main concern is the urupa, then it should solely be taken into consideration only, once again respectfully.

Lastly, to proposal four, as a rate payer and property owner, I do strongly support the joint administration of these reserves by the Opotiki District Council and Te Whanau a Apanui but not the sole management by the Te Whanau a Apanui alone.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Lewis', written in a cursive style.

Bruce Lewis

Property Owner and Ratepayer

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