

Submission to the Opotiki District Council on their Statement of Proposal in response to the joint request by Te Arawhiti and Te Whanau a Apanui.

My name is **Lorraine Stanley**

In this submission I am responding in particular to the Statement of Proposal as it relates to Whanarua Bay.

## **1. Background**

*My Husband and I purchased our Property in Whanarua Bay in June of 2017, we have had a long history with Whanarua Bay as young teenagers and spent our Honeymoon in a bach here in Whanarua Bay (December 1989). Both of our Parents loved the area and we spent many happy holidays in this spectacular coastal area.*

*We loved the area so much when we had the opportunity to be able to purchase a property here so our own Children, Mokopuna, Elderly parents and friends could enjoy what we have known to be an amazing community, with a relaxed environment that is distinctly Whanarua Bay boasting beautiful walks, water activities and breathtaking views.*

*Prior to purchase we were told that the access to the beach below, had limitations of : **No heavy vehicular access** and **No large boats** to use the roadway, we had also read the ODC were considering placement of picnic tables, bins as part of their ongoing beautification projects. So our belief was that there was an access available (Vehicular) to the beach front via this road. At no time were we told there could be a dispute on the access way.*

*Being able to enjoy the views and having access to the Bay was a huge contributing factor in our decision to purchase in Whanarua Bay. As my husband and I both have ageing parents are not able bodied to manage a walk down nor up the steep road incline. (also includes our young Mokopuna).*

## **2. My Submission**

2.1. **First Proposal.** Opotiki District Council proposes that seven parcels of land at Whanarua are transferred.

### **Disagree**

**I believe there needs to be further investigations into this prior to transfer of Lot titles.**

*I have gained a greater insight from talking with other residence and representatives of the Hapu on the “Proposed Transfer of the 7 parcels of land in Whanarua Bay”.*

*I have come to understand there is Cultural significance/ Tapu surrounding some of the areas which must be recognised and respected, this being **part** of “Lot 66 and Lot 80”*

*It has also come to light the original owner Romeo WiRepa’s direct descendants are feeling there has been no opportunity for them to claim redress “return of Lot 66 and Lot 80” titles back into the WiRepa Trust, adding yet more complexity to an already volatile situation.*

2.2. **Second Proposal.** Opotiki District Council proposes that the urupa on Lot 80 should be vested in Te Whanau a Apanui as a separate title of land and no longer having reserve status.

*The urupa is significant to maori but currently has no protection. The Opotiki District Council proposal offers the protection but hasn’t defined the area of the urupa.*

*There is no dispute that these areas must be recognised for their historical and spiritual significance. What I do not agree with is how both the Hapu and the local residence/people have been placed into this very complicated, hurtful and unacceptable situation all because of past mistakes made by High Court / County Council decisions, this has left behind in its wake gapping wounds of anger, stress and a division within the Whanarua Bay Community and the Hapu, as both are grappling with the complexity of this diabolical situation!*

*When **hurt** is involved the **heart leads** and the thought processes can become clouded, which breeds misunderstanding, miscommunication and segregation of a once thriving and supportive community.*

2.3. **Third Proposal.** Opotiki District Council proposes that the Recreation Reserve Lot 66 (the roadway down into the Bay) and the remainder of Lot 80 (as well as some other smaller lots) are vested in Te Whanau a Apanui and reclassified as Historic Reserves. The public rights of (walking) access would be as per the Act as is currently the case.

*A solution or resolution is required to settle the past hurt and angst felt by both the **Community, WiRepa Whanau and Hapu.** Can a solution be made through*

***another access** which includes vehicular entry for the Beach front residence/ community & the public without causing more harm to the delicate fabric that is now held tenuously by a thread, between these parties.*

*Our Whanau has enjoyed the privilege of utilising the access way (Lot 66) by vehicle to enjoy the beach, the ability to drive our parents and Mokopuna down to enjoy the following activities: Snorkelling, fishing (dingy), Kayaking, walking along the shore, swimming and enjoying a picnic.*

*We would appreciate the continued ability to use a vehicle to transport our Whanau down to the sea to enjoy all activities that the sea has to offer.*

2.4. **Fourth Proposal.** Opotiki District Council proposes that Te Whanau a Apanui would be the sole administering body for the reserves.

**I REJECT this proposal (2.4).**

*The reserves are presently administered by the Opotiki District Council. We pay our rates to that Council and acknowledge that Councillors are democratically elected. We are being asked to transfer administration of the Whanarua Bay reserves to Te Whanau a Apanui - an organisation that we are unfamiliar with.*

3. **Summary**

***If the ODC and the Crown came to a conclusion to yet again place this issue into the “To hard basket” and move the problem onto the new administrators Te Whanau a Apanui.***

*It is my belief that the complexity of the situation involving Lots 66 & 80 have been an ongoing bone of contention for 60+ years without solution or resolution. There needs to be opportunity to investigate further, gaining more facts, information, viable solutions with all parties in attendance at a hui for the betterment of relationships within the Whanaurua Bay Community, Te Whanau O Apanui , ODC and the Crown. Segregation and separation of the*

*Parties involved can be the major contributor of miscommunication and misinformation.*

*When **hurt** is involved the **heart leads** and the thought processes can become clouded and emotions reign, leaving all parties feeling lost and disillusioned which ultimately fuels anger, ruins relationships and communities.*

4. **Date and Send**

**16<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2021**

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