

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

Kevin John Maguire,
Lot 1 DP8320,
8510 SH35 Whanarua Bay

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

1. Background

Describe your association with Whanarua Bay. When did you buy a property here? Why did you buy a property here? What were your understandings and expectations?

I purchased our property in Whanarua Bay in 2016.

Our vision was that the property would essentially become **Whenua Whanau**. A focal point for our young and extended family, not just current generations but our pa harakeke (future generations). I intend to retire there.

Enjoying the Bay and having continued 4WD access to the beach to launch kayaks is a central part of that.

My understanding on buying the property was that 4WD access to the beach would continue and that part of our council rates would continue to maintain the current access to the public.

2. My Submission

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

Describe whether you agree or disagree with this proposal. If you agree in part, set out which parts you agree with and why. The areas you are probably most familiar with are the roadway down into the Bay (on Lot 66) and the beach reserve (Lot 80).

What am I supposed to be agreeing or disagreeing with? I have seen no plans from Te Whanau a Apanui on how they plan to administer the land or their intention for access for residents who don't own property in the Lower Lots. Simply stating access is "Subject to Reserves Act 1977" actually means very little.

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.

I agree the Urupa should be protected and celebrated. This should not just be roped off either but properly fenced, maintained and signs erected telling of the history of the Bay and of the local iwi. It should be something we are all proud of. There is a tremendous opportunity here.

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.

Lot 66 is the reserve which includes the accessway many of the ratepayers use to get down into the Bay. Do you use this roadway and what are your reasonable expectations for this access in the future?

The access road should be maintained to a standard for 4WD vehicles. Carrying Kayaks or snorkelling gear on foot up that road is not an option. Part of our rates should be paying for that maintenance (as we do not receive ODC water supply or sewerage) but if not, I am happy to contribute to annual maintenance costs and sign any waiver of liability to use that road.

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

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. Your options are to support the proposal, to reject the proposal, or support the concept of a 'Joint Reserve Board'.

The Opotiki District Council have a responsibility to their ratepayers. Te Whanau a Apanui have a responsibility to their whanau. I am not part of that Whanau. I need to know how Te Whanau a Apanui plan to administer access to the beach for all.

3. Summary

Opotiki District Council should maintain 4WD access to Whanarua Bay Beach for all members of the public to enjoy. The beach area should be developed with a picnic area and educate visitors to the local history. The ODC does nothing to serve the local community other than relinquishing risk and appeasing local Maori interests.

Return Lot 80 to Te Whanau a Apanui.

4. Date and Send

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Dated 21/03/2021
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