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Submission number 41

Name Rakau Kurei

Organisation if applicable Home owner. Resident of Opotiki.

Support or oppose Oppose

Reasons for support or oppose I would like to submit my letter attached: Letter to Oppose the bylaws proposed by the Council- RE: The amendment. I have stated my several reasons in this letter.

Wants to Speak to submission/feedback No

Additional information SEE ADDITIONAL PAGES

22 Waioweka Pa Road
Opotiki

Friday 3 September 2021

To Opotiki District Council
Opotiki

To the Council

Re: Thoughts on the review of Part 8 (Animal Control) of the Consolidated Bylaws 202.

I am writing to OPPOSE, the bylaws that the Opotiki District Council are proposing in their supposed response to the health and safety issues and supposed increase in nuisance caused by roaming horses in the Opotiki township.

In my opinion we should oppose it because the proposal is limited and restricts many good and great horse owners from their activities. For many in fact a majority of these horse owners and families within our community have ridden and owned horses for more than 35 years. The proposal will limit these owners and their families from "keeping" their horses in our community - therefore limiting the many opportunities for your rangatahi, youth and the passing on of knowledge and skills to our next generations. There are many respectful and wonderful horse owners who do respectfully care for their animals within our township. Furthermore, horses and our horse communities are part of the wider culture of our Opotiki community.

Did I mention:

- The nuisance is caused by a few / minor horse owners and this does not represent the wider "horse community".
- To put such bylaws in place prohibits our youth and younger and skilled riders from moving their horses from one paddock to the next.
- The council is responding to the issue without full consultation of the wider "horse community" and are likely responding to a "social media" issue. It would be interesting to see the actual written and formal complaints by those in the

community. Evenso, we need to give our "horse community" greater opportunities to be involved in the solutions.

Instead I believe the Council should be;

- a) working with our communities, and those few owners who need the **education** around "keeping" e.g. fencing or caring for their horses. It is unfair to place these bylaws on the majority who do a great job of "keeping" (caring) for their horses.
- b) Asking our horse communities for their **solutions** e.g. could there be a voluntary group of horse owners who can monitor the streets, the roads, or the places that are causing concern and the like, surely the "horse community" have many solutions.

I am 63 years old. It is such a pleasure to watch my own children, my mokopuna ride horses, and this gives them a sense of belonging within their community, they have fun and they learn responsibility and values about caring for animals etc. Thi is just to name a few of the good things that they learn as children, that they get from their immediate and wider families that own horses in our town. Furthermore, great horse owners like those who live at Waioweka Pa and those closer in town, we have much to learn from them. If the Council would just give these owners the opportunities to share their knowledge and help to educate the minor few that are causing the issue, (unable to keep their horses safely within their paddocks).

I challenge you guys to actually listen to the wider horse community. I challenge you to think about what this would mean to the many good horse owners. It would be disheartening, it would limit our families, and it would take away the golden opportunities for our horse community to connect with their families and wider families and our community.

In my opinion the Council should be using this as an opportunity to educate those who need educating and reminding. Not cutting off the wider horse community from what they are skilled at, and knowledgeable, and from what they have been passing down traditionally to their children and children's children.

Wake up, Council.

Yours sincerely.

Electronic signature: R S Kurei