

Logan Bertram, Submitter

Intro

Kia ora koutou

Ko Pukenuioraho Te Maunga

Ko Waiotaha Te Awa

Ko Mataatua Te Waka

Ko Whakatohea Te Iwi

Ko Upokorehe Te Hapu

Ko Maramahoe Te Marae

Ko Logan Bertram Toku ingoa

Tena koutou katoa,

My name is Logan Bertram I whakapapa to Whakatohea/Upokorehe, I am mana whenua of this rohe. I grew up here and own a section where I intend to raise a family. It is my wish that my kids and their kids get to experience an upbringing like I had in a rural region with plenty of area to explore and discover. I now currently manage a pest control company, we are Auckland's largest contractor for smaller pest animals such as possums, stoats and ferrets, naturally my upbringing and experiences from rural living lead me into this line of work. Through my role, I have been privileged enough to travel and see vast areas of rural New Zealand and meet knowledgeable people.

My reasons to decline this proposal:

I would encourage the Opotiki council to thoroughly consider the issues of this proposal closely before it is taken any further than this hearing. If this proposal is granted, I believe the council will be setting a bad precedent for approving small sections in a rural area especially given the insignificant amount of proposed native planting. My experience through my current role has indicated that the reason Auckland has been able to maintain rural areas is because the council has enforced their guidelines on development and section size criteria and I would again encourage the Opotiki council to do the same.

The statement of evidence 32 given from G Stilwell is untrue and is quite insulting. I was never approached prior to this subdivision as Manawhenua/Tangatawhenua and as a Kaitiaki of this area and a section owner. The least I would expect is to meet Kanohi ki te Kanohi (face to face). My first exposure to this proposed subdivision was April 2022 via email from Mike Stilwell, by this time the proposed subdivision plans were well and truly in motion. As seen from dated emails in other statements.

Here are a few issues I believe the proposed subdivision causes;

- **Traffic** – This is an issue we will have to deal with for the length of time we are situated here. The increased volume of traffic, traffic noise and driving lights. The road becoming public will also increase traffic movement yet again.
- **Privacy** - When living rural you want to have and maintain a certain level of privacy. This proposal threatens privacy due to the increased level of housing for this area. The road being public will also result in increased foot and vehicle traffic which could also lead to increase in potential crime.
- **Pets** - Dogs and cats endangering our native species is also another issue with this proposal. We are blessed to live amongst some of the richest ecosystems here in Ohiwa. The increased number of people and housing will mean a rise in the number of domestic animals present. I have seen countless times, cats become wild or irresponsible cat owners believing that their cat stays inside all night when in reality they can be out hunting down birds etc. Uncontrolled dogs are also a problem as there are kiwi within our rohe. I fail to see how this is going to be managed appropriately.

Landscape- Section sizes setting a precedent for future projects of this caliber is the biggest issue arising from this proposal. As viewed from Ohope this subdivision will break up the natural landscape of the most dominant ridge seen from Wainui, Ohiwa and Ohope with minimal planting to accompany.

Conclusion

I wish to oppose this request. I don't want to see our whenua being ripped apart as with more people comes increased damage to the natural structure of the land scape. Not all development is progress.

The proposed plan is maximising the amount of housing in the development which breaches council regulations. I believe if this proposal gets approval, it will open the flood gates to other potential developers to pillage our land and encroach closer to the harbour. Ohiwa harbour is a sacred area for our people as well as a place to gather kaimoana to sustain and nourish our people for the likes of tangihanga. I feel this resource which has been used for generations is in impending danger.

I see no economic gain from this development only personal gain for the Stilwell's.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts on this proposal.

Logan Bertram.