

**Marilyn and Gary Rooks submission to Opotiki District Council Draft
statement of proposal for Te Arawhiti and Te Whanau a Apanui Joint request
for Opotiki District Council reserve Land.**

We, like many Whanarua Bay residents and ratepayers are not happy with any proposal to hand over ownership of the Whanarua Bay reserves. We are part owners of a beachfront property, which as a Piper family, have owned for 40+ years.

We agree to part of Lot 80 (Urupa) being transferred to Iwi . There should be appropriate fencing and signage of the sacred site.

We disagree with the balance of Lot 80 being classified as a Historic Reserve. The Recreation Reserve was created at the time of the subdivision and I see no need for reclassification. Lot 80 recreation reserve needs both pedestrian and vehicular access to allow for launching of boats and for recreational purposes, as was the obvious attraction and intent of the land subdivision in the 1950's.

Lot 66 there is a need to create an easement to ensure vehicular access to both properties and Lot 80 which is recreation Reserve.

I cannot stress enough that the current situation of no legal access for owners to reach their landlocked properties and for the public to gain access to Recreation Reserve is due to bureaucratic bungles by the Maori Trustee and Opotiki County Council back in the 1950's. This was later followed by Iwi blocking off access via the Whanarua Stream. Opotiki District Council has acknowledged this and undertook to explore options nearly 20 years ago.

All this is not of property owners own doing.

We would prefer to see a joint management of the Whanarua Bay Recreation Reserves by Opotiki District Council and Iwi.

This is not a treaty settlement discussion, this is a time for Opotiki District Council to take ownership of this issue to look after the Whanarua Bay ratepayers, create an easement with Lot 66 for both pedestrians and vehicle access, and take management of Lot 80, alongside Iwi.

If it is possible for the creation of an easement for the boat ramp at Waihau Bay, then it is possible at Whanarua Bay.

We are not available to read this out at the hearing. Marilyn & Gary Rooks.