

Email to: info@odc.govt.nz

Submission to the Opotiki District Council on their Statement of Proposal to transfer Whanarua Bay reserves to Iwi.

The properties at Whanarua are part of a residential seaside subdivision resulting from the subdivision and sale of land by Romio Wirepa in the early 1960's. Our koro bought land in the subdivision based on price, location, proximity to reserves and access. The access has proven to be a failure of the Maori Trustee and Opotiki County. To be responsible for a mistake is one thing but to knowingly seek to transfer these reserves without first fixing the mistake is even worse.

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

There is an opportunity to transfer some of the Whanarua reserves to Iwi.

Lot 66 must not be transferred before you have formalised access for the landlocked properties.

1.2. 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.

We do NOT support the unencumbered vesting of this land because the land to be vested unencumbered has not been defined or surveyed. Define and survey the land then we can give you a considered response.

1.3. 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 (walking) public rights of access would be as per the Act as is currently the case.

We rely on the roadway down Lot 66 to get to the beach and the beachfront properties. Lot 66 requires an appropriate easement in favour of the lower properties and this needs to be sorted before Lot 66 is even considered for transfer.

Lot 80 is a recreation reserve. It was classified a recreation reserve by the Maori Trustee and Romio Wirepa. It is used extensively as a recreation reserve and your

background reports offer no information or justification for transferring Lot 80 as a historic reserve.

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

The Lot 66 and Lot 80 reserves are presently administered by the Opotiki District Council and should continue to be so.

I am confident that Councillor Howe doesn't sell takeaways that aren't fresh, as I'm sure Councillor Moore doesn't sell properties with faulty S&P Agreements, as I'm sure Councillor Nelson doesn't send tyres out with a puncture. So why would you want to transfer a reserve such as Lot 66 without first fixing the access error of the 60's?



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