

Keystone Trust

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Opotiki District Council
(Strong community strong future)
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I wish to be heard.

Submission on Proposal to transfer Whanarua Bay Reserves to Te Whanau a Apanui

- A. I understand that the headland has been a urupa but because the area isn't easily identified perhaps signage would be the appropriate way to recognise this piece of history.
Lot 71. It would make more sense if it was owned by transit.
- B. Lot 80. This should remain vested in Council on our behalf. Purchasers of the sections and subsequent owners both upstairs and down have purchased their properties with a full expectation of free access to the beach for swimming kayaking fishing from smaller boats and other recreational sports. Access to launch the boats is imperative.
Lot 3. An odd piece of title should be amalgamated with lot 80 for practical purposes. This would be helpful in case of further land movement above.
- C. Lot 66. While this access is not an ideal structure, it is our only access. There are many other roads within the ODC with similar challenges. We need road access to our homes, apart from the practicalities, my husband fell last January and fractured a vertebra and he needed to be taken to the health centre.
- D. Lots 66 and 80 should remain vested in Council on our behalf. These reserves were transferred to Council as with any normal planning procedure. There are several people who permanently live in Whanarua Bay.
Our family Council rates are in excess of \$3000. If there are 70 odd ratepayers in Whanarua I would estimate the rate take at between \$140,000 and \$170,000 per annum. Apart from some ratepayers using the transfer station (most don't) we get no other services, and have maintained the roadway and beach front at our own expense and effort over the years.

For many years Council promoted Whanarua Bay in their coastal booklet, a beautiful bay and one of the few public accesses to the beach. It is an iconic spot that should be shared by everyone.

Councillors are elected by the ratepayers. "Strong community Strong future" we are part of that community.

In earlier years negotiations with the hapu were very difficult and protracted. Indeed at one stage we were unjustly fenced off from using the beach for two years. Those issues were resolved thank goodness, and we don't want a repeat.

Joint ownerships are cumbersome, expensive and I do not believe would be in any of our best interests. Council should retain "ownership" of the above titles on our behalf, and manage it for us all Maori and European alike.

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