

**From:** [Deb Stewart](#)  
**To:** [@Information Requests](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Submission to ODC Whanarua Bay  
**Date:** Friday, 26 February 2021 11:45:56 am

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Deb Stewart <[redhouse1@outlook.co.nz](mailto:redhouse1@outlook.co.nz)>  
**Subject:** Submission to ODC Whanarua Bay  
**Date:** 25 February 2021 at 11:31:17 NZDT  
**To:** Deb Stewart <[redhouse1@outlook.co.nz](mailto:redhouse1@outlook.co.nz)>

Submission to the Opotiki District Council on their Statement of Proposal in response to the joint request by Te Arawhiti and Te Whanau a Apanui.

My name is Deborah Stewart and I represent my extended whanau of 19 people and I am responding to the proposals relating to Whanarua Bay.

We bought our Whanarua Bay property three years ago to potentially retire here, assuming and grateful that we would have access to the Bay for fishing, swimming, kayaking and walking and were unaware of any claims to land ownership at that time.

#### Submission

##### Proposal 1 - the 7 land parcels

Partially agree. Lot 68, 70,71 and Lot 3 could be transferred with little impact on our community. However Lot 66 should NOT be transferred to Te Whanau a Apanui as sole administering body unless they are bound by the Reserves Act 1977 allowing public rights of access including vehicular, nor should Lot 80 in its entirety be transferred unless freedom of access to beachfront (except for the Urupa) was guaranteed again with the Reserves act.

##### Proposal 2 -Lot 80 the Urupa and Lot 71

Partially agree. Lot 71 should be transferred to Te Whanau a Apanui. The Urupa (rocky headland) area of Lot 80 should of course be transferred , but this needs better definition of its boundaries which appear to be ineptly drawn.

##### Proposal 3 - Lots 66, 68,69,70 ,balance of 80 and Lot 3

Partially agree. As stated previously Lots 68,69,70,71 , part of Lot 80 ( the Urupa) and lot 3 could be transferred to Te Whanau a Apanui ownership without impact on the community , however the remainder of lot 80 the beachside and Lot 66 the access road, should only be transferred with guarantee of on going access for the community under the Reserves Act 1977 including vehicular access.

##### Proposal 4 - Te Whanau a Apanui as sole administering body

Disagree with this option, but we would agree to a Joint Reserves Board.

Whanarua Bay was a modern subdivision and should not be used as a Treaty settlement. Real money was paid for the beachside sections. It is normal and proper when subdividing that a portion of land is set aside for a recreation reserve contribution. In the case of Lot 66 it was identified as this contribution and then developed as access way to houses and the bay under the observation of the ODC.

It needs to be noted that the majority of the immediate community at Whanarua Bay (around 60 households ) are NOT iwi. The ODC should be working to represent the majority in its decision. It is also to be noted that the Council appears to be being bullied into its decision making, in its own words ' However it is noted for Councils consideration that declining the request at this stage may impact on the iwi relationship with the Council' .

If the Bay access was impeded the heart and soul of our community would be destroyed.

Deborah Stewart  
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