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Opotiki District Council
RECORDS

Submission to the Opotiki District Council in response to the joint request by Te Arawhiti
and Te Whanau a Apanui.

My name is Warwick Allen (Tony) Mills and I (and associated entities) held an interest in a beachfront property at Whanarua Bay from 1974 until we sold the property in 2014. The property is described as Lot 17 DP 4651.

In this submission I am providing a point of clarification in respect to one matter related to Whanarua Bay.

1. Background

The following submission relates to the Lot 66 accessway at Whanarua Bay and a proposal to transfer Lot 66 as part of a Treaty settlement. I wish to clarify a point being made which does not adequately explain the associated background and events.

2. My Submission

Any suggestion that the access down the Lot 66 reserve was completed without the consent of or in consultation with the Council is incorrect. I recall the access down Lot 66 being completed. It was done in the late 1970's by the then owner of Lot 1 Mr Jarlov. I supplied the machinery for the work. The work was done with the knowledge of Opotiki District Council staff who had been advised prior to the work commencing.

This was done after the original access to Whanarua Bay (a track crossing the Whanarua Stream 3 times) was blocked by the Park family (the owners of the land over which the access passed in places) as a result of them becoming sick of campers using and abusing the land adjacent to the track and stream

I was Chairperson of the Whanarua Beachfront Property Owners Group for several years during which time we had several meetings with Council staff in a common endeavour to find a way to provide security of use of the access through Lot 66. Prior to selling our property in 2014 there was an understanding between Council and the Owners Group that the best way to achieve this would be by way of a review of the Reserve Management Plan that Council were about to undertake

I suggest that the Council staff saw the construction and formalising of the access through Lot 66 as a practical solution to a difficult situation which had deprived property owners of accessing their baches, and it is now somewhat insincere for some to now describe the accessway simply as "illegal".



W A (Tony) Mills

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Date 16 February 2021

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