

RECEIVED
- 9 MAR 2021
Opotiki District Council
RECORDS

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 Brian Dennis and I have an interest in a beachfront property at Whanarua Bay. This property is described as Lot 8 DP 4651. We rely on the Lot 66 access track to get to our property. We rely on the Lot 80 reserve to enjoy the recreation opportunities that Whanarua Bay provides.

1. Background

The Dennis family is an extended family of 24 adults and children or grandchildren. We have owned this property in Whanarua Bay since the early 70's and are now into our third generation of family coming to Whanarua. My grandkids have learnt to snorkel and fish here and still come here as it is special to them.

The land was not confiscated and was sold by Romio Wirepa as a subdivision which includes the reserve land. The reserve land including the Lot 66 roadway and also the Lot 80 foreshore reserve were part of Romio's subdivision. Reserves are commonly and reasonably taken as a reserves contribution.

2. My Concerns

My family is concerned that the options being proposed by Opotiki District Council in their Statement of Proposal are likely to limit our ability to access our property and enjoy the reserves and the sea that was the attraction when this seaside residential property was first purchased. The Statement of Proposal also lacks information that might have given us some comfort in what is being proposed.

3. My Submission

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

I strongly disagree with the transfer of Lot 66. I suffered a medical misadventure at our family holiday house in Whanarua Bay early January 2021 which resulted in 3 ambulances attending. I am strongly against any transfer of lot 66 because no information has been supplied in the Statement of Proposal that would suggest that our access will be protected. All house owners along the beach frontage need full access available to their houses in case of emergency. This includes ambulance, fire or police, without any obstruction from other parties.

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.

I fully agree to fence off the urupa area on the rocky headland between the two bays.

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.

I only agree to the transfer of the rest of lot 80 to iwi if Opotiki District Council retains a dominant administrating and management interest in the remaining reserve.

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

I do not support the proposal because no certainty is being offered to give local home owners plus holiday makers access to the beach areas for canoe and boat launching.

Opotiki District Council must continue to be the sole administrator of Lot 66 while legal access to our properties remains unresolved.

Opotiki District Council must retain a dominant management role in the Lot 80 reserve.

Brian Dennis

Opotiki

Email : *bjdennisnz @ outlook.com*

