

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 Keith Campbell

In this submission I am responding in particular to the Statement of Proposal as it relates to Whanarua Bay.

## **1. Background**

*My mother Margaret Campbell has lived in Whanarua Bay for around 38 years. She lives up by the road at 8490. We love Whanarua Bay. It's a beautiful place to live. Close to the forest on hills behind us with its abundance of birdlife. With the bay just a short walk away. We love to fish from the rocks or take the kayak out. My son is 8 now and he loves to come out with me in the kayak or explores the rockpools. In the last fifteen years we have purchased three other properties next to us. We rent these as airbnbs. We have had a lot of tourists and NZers alike come and explore this part of the country we call paradise. It would be a crime if our right to access this beautiful bay was taken away from us.*

## **2. My Submission**

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

*I **reject this proposal**. Once transferred there is NO guarantee that access to the bay will continue (roadway down into the Bay (on Lot 66) and the beach reserve (Lot 80). They could simply put a gate on the entrance to the road down to the bay to restrict all access. This would be bad for the local community as well as our guests that come to stay.*

**2.2. 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.

*I'm assuming that urupa mean the small piece of land at the bottom the road. I think its fence off anyway to stop people wandering through. I believe there was a sign there as well. That area doesn't stop us from accessing the beach, so **I support** this proposal.*

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

***I support** this proposal **if** we can keep the access to the bay as it is now. I normally walk down or take the kayak down for fishing or a paddle around the bay. The same goes for most of our Airbnb guests. My mother would take the car down to visit friends because the walk up she finds to difficult for her age.*

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

*I reject this proposal. I would prefer the Opotiki District Council were the sole administering body, but I would support a Joint Reserve Board. Having someone with local knowledge on the board would be good.*

### 3. **Summary**

*Whanarua bay is a beautiful place and we love it here. The feedback from our guests over the years has kept us going. We get a lot people coming back to revisit the place. The bay is large part of that. We just want access to continue.*

Keith Campbell

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