

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

In this submission we are responding in particular to the Statement of Proposal as it relates to Whanarua Bay. Submitted by;

Ross Matthews – ex hillcountry farmer

Ann Matthews – wife

Duncan Matthews – son – BNZ Agribusiness Finance Mgr – Corporate & Maori Trust Farms – Taupo

Hamish Matthews – son – Fulton Hogan, Senior Roading Construction Project Manager- Auckland

Owners of Lot 2 DP 6635 BLK 111 Te Kaha SD

## 1 Background

We purchased Milby's Restaurant on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2004 so have been permanent residents for 17 years. The reason for purchase was for Ann to establish a Dinner, Bed & Breakfast Business "The Homestead" and to provide a home for our son's, their wives and 6 grandchildren to come and enjoy this beautiful part of New Zealand.

We were lead to believe at the time of purchase that we had permanent open access to the beach. There would be a huge Family disappointment if the beach access is taken away by the Opotiki District Council proposals.

When we first arrived we were welcomed by the locals, the permanent residents and subsequently the bach owners which made for an enjoyable peaceful lifestyle.

This had been the case until recent years when peoples demeanor changed somewhat. Everyone seemed to be on edge and any conversation invariably ends up discussing the reserves and beach access. This we suggest is not a healthy environment for any small community to endure.

## 2 Our Submission

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

My submission is that the reserves up the stream could be transferred but not lot 66 or lot 80

**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.

My submission is that I would most likely support this proposal if the area to be transferred had been defined first. If the area is defined as just the 'rocky headland' then I support the 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 (walking) public rights of access would be as per the Act as is currently the case.

Lot 66 has always been the land over which people have accessed the Bay – most commonly for the purposes of recreation. Lot 80 is quite clearly a recreation reserve – you just have to see how it is used. Remember, this subdivision was sold as a ‘residential seaside subdivision’.

Lot 66 is critical to the accessing of the Bay and must not be transferred. Lot 80 is a recreation reserve and should remain as-is for the benefit of all.

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

The reserves must be administered by the Opotiki District Council to whom we pay our rates in the expectation that they will provide a service for the benefit of all.

### **3 A Less Divisive Alternative**

The Statement of Proposal proposes reserves that are an integral part of the Whanarua community. The proposal has the real potential to cause division in our bicultural community. Our submission proposes that other reserves should be considered and we note that the reserve known as the Tokatea L.P. Esplanade Reserve is more suitable.

The reserve is described in Council’s Reserves Management Plan as “Motuaruhe 6B1, parcel 6904386, Tokatea and consists of 1.7345 hectares. It is part of the original Motuaruhe Block and therefore highly appropriate for transfer instead of lots 66 and 80 at Whanarua.



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Ross Matthews for the Matthews Family Trust

**Whanarua Bay**

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