



TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI AWA

23 February 2015

Attention: Mike Naude (Manager Design & Project Management)

Whakatane District Council
c-o Opus International Consultants Ltd
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WHAKATANE DISTRICT COUNCIL – GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED QUAY STREET WHARF

The following correspondence is in response to the application by Whakatane District Council for resource consents to authorise a new 160m wharf structure extending from Otuawhaki Wharf over the outlet of the Wairere Stream to approximately 10 metres from Te Toka a Taiao. Te Runanga o Ngati Awa (TRoNA) has previously provided a cultural assessment for proposed geotechnical investigations required as part of preliminary design work for the proposed Quay Street wharf (Whakatane District Council – Geotechnical Investigations for the Proposed Quay Street Wharf, dated 22 December 2014). TRoNA notes that the applicant is requesting that the consent application be publicly notified. TRoNA advises that this assessment is initial in nature. More detailed cultural information will be provided in subsequent submissions and any hearing for the proposal. Correspondence considered in this response has included the following;

- Opus, Whakatane Wharf: Quay Street Extension, dated 22 December 2015;
- Application for Resource Consent, Form 2A Land Disturbing Activities and Form 7A Application for Permit for Coastal Structures, dated 7 January 2015

STATUTORY CONTEXT

The proposed wharf structure is located within Ngati Awa's rohe, the Ngati Awa Antiquities Protocol Area and the Ngati Awa First Right of Refusal Area. The Whakatane River (Ohinemataroa) is identified as a taonga of Ngati Awa and its various hapu. Ngati Awa's relationship with Ohinemataroa and its tributaries including the Wairere Stream is covered by a Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition. There are several Wahi Tapu sites of Ngati Awa located in close proximity to the proposed wharf including Te Wairere, Te Toka a Taiao and Otuawhaki. The Wairere Stream which is a waterway of considerable significance to Ngati Awa flows into Ohinemataroa (the Whakatane River) within the length of the proposed wharf structure. Therefore, Ngati Awa are potentially affected by the proposal and are tangata whenua, kaitiaki and hold mana whenua for this area.

PROPOSAL

Whakatane District Council has advised that the primary purpose of the proposal is to increase wharf capacity within Whakatane Harbour. At the hui-a-iwi held on 15th October 2014, WDC staff further explained their desire to re-arrange current berth holders within Whakatane Harbour to provide capacity at the Whakatane Game Wharf for vessels servicing the Whakatohea marine farm. It is intended that the proposed 160m long wharf structure will be constructed in 2 stages consisting of 2.4m by 6.0m interlocking floating concrete pontoons fixed in position by piles. The first stage will be

HE MANU HOU AHAU HE KOHANGA I REREA

approximately 100m in length extending from the existing Otuawhaki wharf in the west to the Wairere Stream outlet to the east. The second stage will be approximately 60m in length from Te Wairere to within 10m of Te Toka a Taiao. Construction works will include the installation of piles, construction of retaining structures on the bed, connection of the hinged gangways to the existing flood wall and landscaping of the river bank. A construction management plan detailing final construction methods and erosion and sediment controls will be submitted for approval in the vent consent is granted.

Access to the floating pontoon wharf will be by three hinged gangways connecting to the adjacent public walkway requiring detailed design to provide for the integrity of existing floodwalls. To ensure the security of vessels berthed and public safety gates will be installed on the access gangways to restrict public access during hours of darkness. A wharf management plan will be developed to control access, security, berthing licenses and boat operations.

NGATI AWA WAHI TAPU

The proposed Quay Street Wharf located adjacent to and within the bed of Ohinemataroa (Whakatane River) has been assessed using the Ngati Awa GIS Database and Wahi Tapu Sites of Ngati Awa October 1999 report. Although the general area has been significantly modified as a result of historic reclamation and drainage works the following Wahi Tapu sites of Ngati Awa are present and provide details of Ngati Awa's history and the cultural significance of the area.

Please recognise and provide for:

- The Wahi Tapu sites of Ngati Awa Te Wairere, Te Toka a Taiao and Otuawhaki;
- While Wahi Tapu sites of Ngati Awa may be recorded as a point they may refer to the use or occupation of a wider area;

WDC Ngati Awa Historical Site – Entry No's 22A and 22B Te Wairere and Te Toka a Taiao - Te Wairere *is the name of the present day waterfall that cascades from the lofty heights at the rear of the present day Commercial Hotel in Whakatane. This was another sacred site disclosed to Toroa prior to his arrival to these shores. Te Wairere stream flows directly from the base of the falls into the Harbour estuary. The stream boundaries have over the years been used for a variety of industrial and commercial activities. Early European settlers once operated a flax mill and flour mill on the site close to the falls at Woirere Street. The early Ngati Awa people used this site for many purposes ranging from ceremonial to recreational and it was also the source of drinking water for the early township. The stream outlet in the estuary was a favourite white baiting spot and Ngati Awa maintains that this is where the rock **Te Toka a Taiao**, the original anchor stone of Mataatua was located.*

WDC Ngati Awa Historical Site – Entry No 18 Otuawhaki – *This rock on the edge of the Whakatane River behind the Strand and to the west of the Wairere Stream outlet was once occupied by the first wharf sheds to be built in this town. Now the venue for the Green Wharf, it served as a special place where the people of Ngati Awa would repair their nets after fishing expeditions and relax.*

Given traditional cultural use and occupation in the area there is considered to be a high likelihood that items of cultural significance may be present specifically where there is disturbance in the river bed or to depths where parent ground will be disturbed. In the event consent is granted TRoNA requests that a discovery protocol is developed in consultation with TRoNA and applied to all construction activities.

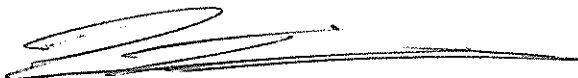
CONCLUSIONS

Te Runanga o Ngati Awa opposes the proposed Quay Street Wharf. The site of the proposed wharf structure is of considerable cultural and historic significance to Ngati Awa. Given initial feedback from nga hapu o Ngati Awa, TRoNA considers the proposed wharf structure will negatively impact on Ngati Awa's spiritual and physical connection to, and relationship with Ohinemataroa. TRoNA notes that Whakatane District Council is requesting that the consent application be publicly notified. TRoNA advises that this assessment is initial in nature. TRoNA will provide more specific information regarding the cultural and historic significance of the site to Ngati Awa through formal submissions and at any subsequent hearing for the application. The following are some key reasons why TRoNA is opposed to the proposed Quay Street Wharf;

- The site is one of the last remaining stretches of the Whakatane River (Ohinemataroa) town reach where access to and along and use of the awa is not restricted by structures.
- TRoNA is concerned that the mooring of large vessels alongside the proposed wharf structure will interrupt and/or impede cultural view shafts of Piripai, Opihi Whanaungakore and Moutohora from the water's edge and adjacent public walkway. TRoNA notes that that visual assessment provided by the applicant considers views across the river from the upper levels of the nearby apartments but not from the water's edge and adjacent public walkway.
- TRoNA is concerned that the proposal to extend the wharf structure across the outlet of the Wairere Stream may negatively affect the wairua or mauri (spiritual life force) by creating a physical and visual barrier between Te Wairere and Ohinemataroa.
- While the applicant has confirmed that the current practice of white baiting from the existing rock lined bank will still be lawful the proposed wharf will restrict other forms of fishing and may impact on the quality of white baiting at the site.
- TRoNA notes that while originally proposed as a public facility, the Otuawhaki Wharf is now permanently locked and unavailable to the public. TRoNA is concerned that the current proposal for unrestricted public access during daylight hours may be amended in the future to further restrict access.
- The proposed wharf structure will extend to within 10m of Te Toka a Taiao, the original anchor stone of the Mataatua waka. TRoNA is concerned that expectations of berth holders on the proposed wharf structure may lead to further destruction and lowering of this taonga in the future. Ngati Awa has suffered from the historic modification and loss of many of their significant toka in the name of navigation and safety improvements within the harbour. As tangata whenua and kaitiaki Ngati Awa has a responsibility to protect and care for those toka that remain.

This correspondence was prepared by Ray Thompson, Environmental Manager, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa. If you have any queries, please contact the undersigned.

Naku noa, na



Ray Thompson
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