

UNDER The Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application for resource consents for Project
Next Generation by Port Otago Limited

AND

IN THE MATTER of the submission lodged by Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF
RIKI HARRIS AND ELEANOR RUSSELL
ON BEHALF OF TE RŪNANGA O ŌTĀKOU**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Riki Harris, Resident of Ōtākou, Commercial Fisherman

- 1.1 I have grown up on the same piece of land that my whānau have owned for eight generations, passed down from my tupuna Retara (Russell). The land overlooks Te Rauone Beach and looks out to the entrance to the Otago Harbour.
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- 1.2 I spent a lot of time with my Poua (grandfather) gathering kai moana and set netting to put food on our whānau's meal table. We are well known for being gatherers of kai moana, for example tuaki, mussel, paua, bubus, flounder, moki and trumpeter. Now as a parent myself, and as a caretaker for our rohe, I want to be able to teach my children the knowledge that has been passed down to me.
- 1.3 I am now 34 years old and have noticed a change in the tuaki beds and a lack of flounder from half way along Te Rauone Beach to its southern end. I feel the dramatic change from the northern end to the southern end of Te Rauone beach is due to the widening and deepening of the channel as it is today, as well as the weather.

Eleanor Russell, Resident of Ōtākou, Local Tangata Tiaki, Mataitai Committee, Coastal Care Committee, Ōtākou Marae Whānau Committee.

- 1.4 I am a descendant of Retara (Russell), Taiaroa and Karetai. I grew up in Dunedin but came down to the Kaik (Ōtākou) for different reasons.
- 1.5 We gathered our kai moana from Te Rauone beach, including tuaki, mussels and the rock oysters at Wellers Rock. We also climbed Te Tihi o Waiari to get fresh seagulls eggs.
- 1.6 I have now lived at the kaik for 11 years and have seen quite a vivid change on Te Rauone beach.

2.0 OUR CONCERNS

Our concerns with Project Next Generation are:

- 2.1 Erosion on both sides of the Otago Harbour from Port Chalmers through to Taiaroa Heads.
- 2.2 The effects on our tuaki beds and other shellfish, all fish and other species and the bird life.
- 2.3 The effects of making the channel deeper and wider.

- 2.4 The size of the vessels, their speed, and back wash. With the increase of larger ships the back wash seems to have got worse on different tides, eg spring tides. The backwash can flow over Harington Point Road and reach our mail box on the corner of Pipikaretu Road.

3.0 KŌRERO (DISCUSSION)

- 3.1 ~~We as Ngai Tahu, Kāti Māmoe descendents have strong concerns about the dredging and dumping of spoil proposed as part of Project Next Generation.~~
- 3.2 We have lived here at Ōtākou from the day we were born. We were bought up with the knowledge that has been passed down to us from generations before on being caretakers of the surrounding resources. Whether it is the kai moana or the land we have managed to be sustainable over many years.
- 3.3 We feel that we will have more erosion on both sides of the Otago Harbour from Taiaroa Heads to Port Chalmers. When you dig a hole in the sand, sand just keeps falling in and the hole gets bigger. Will sand keep on falling into the new channel, or will Port Otago need to support the sides with something permanent?
- 3.4 Our concerns with the dredging are that as you are making the channel deeper and wider it will have an effect on tidal flow, movement of sediment and sand movement which then comes back to our concern that the tuaki beds and beaches will be eroded.
- 3.5 We as kai moana gatherers in and outside the Otago Harbour have grave concerns about our tuaki beds and other shellfish, and the effects on fish and other species and the bird life.
- 3.6 The dumping of the spoil eg sand and other materials could have an effect on Commercial Inshore Fisheries, if the sediment settles on the fishing grounds.
- 3.7 The size of the vessels, speed and the impact that they will have on backwash from Harington Point through to the Harwood Flats is a concern.

4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our conclusion as caretakers is that you should ere on the side of precaution, and look at the implications and effects of what the dredging and sediment will do to our Harbour. Port Otago should be transparent all the way through the process and forthcoming with information..

Thank You