

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
TANGI RUSSELL
ON BEHALF OF TE RŪNANGA O ŌTĀKOU**

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Tangi Te Matekaro Russell. I am an appointed Tangata Tiaki / Kaitiaki, an executive committee member of Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou and Chairman of the Maitaitai Committee.

2. I whakapapa here through the lines of Taiaroa, Retara, and Russell.
3. As a child this coastal area was our home we were always here for lots of reasons, Tangi's, Hui's, Whānu gatherings. We have always gathered out of the harbour for Bubu's (pupu), Mussel's, Paua, Kora, Pipi, Tuaki and Flounder. Set netting for Hoki and Trumpeter or getting eggs off Te Tihi o Waiari. The Harbour has always provided a kete (basket) of kai for the whānau. This is why I joined the Maitaitai committee to guarantee sustainability within the harbour.
4. I will now present my evidence, on behalf of myself and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, on the application for resource consents by Port of Otago Limited.

MY CONCERNS

5. My concerns with the proposed dredging are:
 - The effects of dredging, size of ships and speed.
 - Effects on tuaki and other shellfish environments.
 - Lack of initiatives on destabilization.
 - Dumping areas.
 - Discrepancies in management surrounding capital works, Incremental works, and maintenance dredging.

KŌRERO / DISCUSSION

6. Dredging and the size and speed of ships that come into the harbour are already having an effect on harbour landscapes through backwash and silt movement in tidal areas. Since the last major dredging in the late 70's early 80's I have noticed some tuaki beds have disappeared altogether. Flounder no longer flourish and there are more concerns around the safety and erosion of the tidal areas.
7. Destruction of tuaki and other shellfish beds in the harbour are still being calibrated on the effects of the last major dredging.
8. The application lacks initiatives to stabilise shellfish beds and sand banks if detrimental effects start occurring in any of the tidal areas.

9. Dumping areas are also a concern to the marine environment in the harbour and outlying areas of the coast line. Have the studies included the strong northeast winds that are our prevailing wind and the effects of the tidal flows?
 10. I am concerned there are discrepancies in the management surrounding capital works, incremental works and maintenance dredging. We all know what happens when you dig a small hole in wet sand, you end up with wide reaching effects. Add tidal flow to the same equation and all of a sudden maintenance dredging becomes a bigger proportion of the overall size of the operation.
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CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

11. Myself, like others who affiliate to the harbour, have concerns about the stability of the channel banks and surrounding tuaki beds, including reinstatement of beds and banks if dredging doesn't go to plan.
12. Although dredging the harbour can have beneficial implications for Dunedin and Port Otago the price would be too high if detrimental effects were to eventuate in our pristine, safe, harbour (our taonga). I therefore urge you to ere on the side of caution, look at the overall effects both long term and short term, get the management right and make sure the project is transparent throughout.
13. That concludes my evidence.

Thank you.