

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
MOANA WESLEY
ON BEHALF OF TE RŪNANGA O ŌTĀKOU**

INTRODUCTION

Aoraki mauka, Aoraki pounamu
Ko Muaupoko te wahi taoka, te papatipu whenua
Ko Pukekura te pa tawhito
Ko Kai te Pahi te mana o te whanui
Na te hapu Kai Te Ruahikihiki
Ko te Atua o Taiehu te piki
Ko te Tai o Ōtākou te wai
Tenei te mihi, tenei te mihi, tenei te mihi
No te whanau Wetere te Kaahu ahau
Ko Moana Wesley taku ikoa
Tena ra tatou katoa

1. 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.
2. My concerns with the proposed dredging of the Otago Harbour are:
 - Dredging, deepening and widening of the channel
 - Dumping of dredge spoil
 - Size and speed of ships
 - Impact on mahika kaimoana
 - Impact on tuaki beds from dredging and backwash
 - Impact on the safety of Te Rauone beach

WHĀNAU HISTORY

3. I grew up on Te Rauone beach, my children grew up on the beach and now my mokopuna (my grandchildren) are growing up on the beach.
4. My tupuna, Te Kaahu was watching from his whare above Te Ruatitiko when the first sailing ships entered the harbour.
5. My Poua (Grandfather), Tarewai Wesley, and my father, TAT, farmed the family farm at Ōtākou, supplementing the table with kaimoana and mahika kai (gathered food) and their income with seasonal work at the freezing works. There was always food from the farm and from mahika kai on the table.

My Taua (grandmother) used to make beautiful, fluffy sponge cakes which were often bright pink due to her using sea gull eggs which have a dark red yolk.

6. Whenever Poua was going to a Hui or a Tangi he would take a bucket of cockles in seawater (to keep them alive). He would often take a sack of potatoes or a side of mutton as well but the Tuaki (cockles) were a particular koha from Ōtākou. Poua was passionate about his responsibility as Manawhenua to look after the beach and the kaimoana. This is common among the people of Ōtākou.
7. My father, joined the army in 1960 and we moved away from the Kaik (the village), but we as children often came back to stay with our Poua and Taua who would come and collect us.
8. We returned to the Kaik from '65-'69 and I remember the marae as very much a hapu and whanau marae. There were film evenings and dances in the whare, and there was always kai moana on the table for supper.
9. Te Rauone was very safe for young children. It was a hard, white-sand beach with a large inter-tidal zone. The whanau could safely swim, play, gather kai - patiki, crabs, tuaki, bubu (pupu), karengo to name a few. We would also collect kaeo (sea tulip) from the fisheries wharf, bubu and mussels from Te Umukuri (Wellers Rock) and around the rocks on Harington Point, and occasionally set nets over the tide for mullet.
10. Although we had moved away in '69, we continued our regular visits to my Taua, to the farm and to our beach. As an adult I regularly brought my children to visit my parents who had retired back to the family farm, and in 1983 we moved home to live at Ōtākou as I felt it was important for the children to grow up on the Kaik. All through these years the harbour was integral to putting kai on the table.

SUMMARY OF CONCERNS

11. Over the years I have watched the harbour change as the shipping traffic has grown in quantity and in size.
12. It is the nature of a beach to change with the weather and the seasons, however some of the changes that I have noticed on Te Rauone in the last few decades are
 - Massive redistribution of sand due to repeated scouring along the length of the beach from rebounding backwash;

- “Softening” of the intertidal zone as the supporting subsurface sand shifts towards the channel to replace what has been dredged, so that what was a hard, white sand beach is now soggy and grey;
 - “Churning” of the cockle beds resulting in forced redistribution of the cockles and sometimes extensive shell-breakage.
 - The accumulation of sand on top of the tua-tua beds at Aramoana due to dumping of dredging spoil is also of concern.
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MANAAKITANGA

13. During the 1980s there was a cultural sea-change which saw the Marae begin to host a greater number of Hui.
14. Ōtākou hosted Waitangi Tribunal Hearings on the marae and there was a growing recognition of the Treaty throughout the county. This resulted in us hosting more Hui for local and central government departments, and other organisations.
15. Since the 1990s the range of groups who we host at the Marae has continued to grow. This places an increasing responsibility on us as a hapu to provide for visitors.
16. Manaakitaka, (Mana-a-ki – to fill with mana) is about lifting up and respecting the mana of your visitors by providing the very best that you can, and looking after them to the best of your ability.
17. It has always been an integral part of our life on the kaik to take our visitors to the beach to play, to walk, to gather kai. We now have many more visitors to Te Rauone as tourists (both domestic and international) stop to enjoy the walk, the scenery and the wildlife. It has become a major concern that the size and strength of the backwash from some of the larger container ships is now a very real danger to the unwary as it can be strong enough to knock a child over and engulf him.
18. Kai and particularly our local kaimoana is also a very important part of our Manaakitaka. How we care for the kaimoana here at Ōtākou is integral to our mana, as is our ability to provide and care for our guests - this is the essence of Manaakitaka.
19. Manawhenua, manamoana, manaakitaka – our mana as individuals, as whānau, as a hapu rests on how well we fulfil these responsibilities! It is of concern that as our obligations as hosts continues to grow, our ability to meet those obligations has continued to diminish.

CONCLUSIONS

20. Please remember that what may seem to be only small changes, can add incrementally to become quite significant – and our Harbour has already been subject to significant modification. Therefore I ask that you exercise extreme caution and ensure that every step is monitored, and all concerns are addressed. Please err on the side of caution.
- ~~21. That concludes my evidence.~~

Thank you.