

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
PAUL ROBERT LEGGAT KARAITIANA
ON BEHALF OF TE RŪNANGA O ŌTĀKOU**

1. INTRODUCTION

Tena koutou katoa

My name is Paul Robert Leggat Karaitiana of Ōtākou.

1. 1 Thank you for the opportunity to bring my view about the Next Generation Project and how I think it will affect our land where we live, particularly the land under the sea. I present my evidence, on behalf of myself and my whānau.

2. WHĀNAU HISTORY AT ŌTĀKOU

2. 1 My whakapapa has many strands which include. Te Hautapunui o Tu, Te Rare and then Piromate who married Octavius Harwood. Their daughter, Mere Piro Harwood married Taituha and they had three children, the youngest being my grandmother Ruiha Titapu Karaitiana, nee Taituha. Our whenua is on Pukehau and goes into the sea at Te Rauone.
2. 2 My mother's mother was Mere Te Keahe Fowler, daughter of Korako Karetai, granddaughter of Chief Karetai who signed the Treaty in 1840 at our whenua, Pukekura.
2. 3 I took over the farm at Te Rauone in 1980 and became a trustee/ kaitiaki of the land. The whenua was the focus for the whānau, with its access to the water and kaimoana. I enjoyed gathering our food from the sea both in the inner harbour and around the coast. Cockles, flounders and barracuda were plentiful in the harbour; and blue cod and paua off Harington Point, the Heads and the Mole. The boys still go out and now and then I still get a feed.
- 2.4 However, over the years I have noticed the change on Te Rauone, from solid sand to a mix of mud and sand in the low tide area, and where once the beach had a good covering of sea grass, now there are just patches of it with other sea weeds appearing. Also, there is erosion of sand at the north end and accretion at the south end of the beach. I am concerned about the effects of increased dredging.

3. KAITIAKITANGA

3. 1 The whānau relationship with Te Rauone is acknowledged in our Maori Land Ahu Whenua Trust Order, which requires protection of the beach and sustainable management of its food resources.
3. 2 Since the first approach from Port Otago to deepen the harbour we have listened and read as much of the scientific research as we can to assess the impact of this project on our food sources, as well as the wider implications on the whole harbour and surrounding areas that may be affected.

3.3 While the Port Company plays a huge part in the economic development of our region, we are very concerned that a project of this magnitude will have a negative impact on our beach, and we are adamant that at all costs the harbour and its resources must be sustained for future generations, or better still, improved.

3.4 I believe that the clean and healthy environment of the harbour is a significant asset for ~~tourism and other industries that locals engage in to make a living. The availability of~~ healthy and edible food in the sea for families to eat must be upheld especially in these financially difficult times. Also, it is important that whānau can continue to live safely alongside the harbour.

4. Conclusion

4.1 My concerns are:

- The effects of dredging, especially at the Harington Bend, where the ships turn;
- Impact on kaimoana and the harbour;
- Impact on tuaki beds from dredging and backwash;
- Incremental widening of the sides of the channel over time;
- Further sand erosion at the north end of Te Rauone Beach, and a build up of muddy sand over the tuaki beds at the south end of the beach¹;
- The size and speed of ships at the Harington Bend;
- The increased hazard from rogue waves, caused by shipping, on Te Rauone Beach; and
- Increased transference of alien weeds on the bottom of ships.

4.2 Therefore my support is conditional on assurances from the Port Company that utmost care will be taken to protect the ecological balance of Te Rauone and the harbour and to provide for the sustainability of its kaimoana and tuaki beds by implementing any development within the most rigorous protocols; and on our whanau having direct mana whenua, mana moana involvement in monitoring the effects of this project.

4.3 That concludes my evidence.

Thank you.

¹ We believe that a buildup of muddy sands at Omatie Beach, to the south of Te Rauone Beach, has led to a loss of tuaki beds.