

Online submission

This is a submission that was made online via the Council's website.

Submitter No.	S143
Submitter Name	Vernon Morris
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Submitter is contact	Yes
Email	vnmorris@xtra.co.nz
Wish to be heard	Yes
Joint presentation	Yes
Trade competition	I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
Directly affected	N/A
Withhold contact details?	No

Submission points

Plan section	Provision	Support/oppose	Reasons	Decision sought
SCHED 3: SITES AND AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO MĀORI	SCHED3 - SITES AND AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO MĀORI	Oppose	<p>Re proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan: Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori. Submission regarding Lot 3 DP 444535 Valuation number 2576031001 Milltown land classification as SASM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In relation to the proposed classification of our privately owned land at Milltown we wish to register our opposition to this proposal as it stands.2. We have viewed the "corrected" map sent out in recent documentation giving us a week to respond to this proposed plan. The corrected version has encompassed a much larger area but some of our land is not included without any explanation for the differentiation.3. It appears that the area highlighted has been selected in an arbitrary fashion and little thought has gone into the area of "significance" shown in the highlighted area on the satellite picture.4. We would like to know which actual part of our land has a site of significance to Māori.5. In background we have owned this land at Milltown for over 13 years and in that time no one from the iwi has approached us to outline any sites of significance to Māori.6. There is no urupa or other historic sites on the land as far as we are aware, and no site of significance has ever been pointed out to us as landowners. There has never been any interest from iwi in the land apart from using it to access the riverbed wherever that might be at any given time.7. We did offer to sell the land several years ago and there was no interest at all from iwi at that stage so we are puzzled by this sudden inclusion in the plan as a site of significance.8. We acknowledge that the river has significance to iwi as a source of pounamu and we frequently encounter people from local iwi on what is our land fossicking for pounamu.9. We are aware the riverbed was given back to Iwi historically and what was given back to iwi was a fixed area surveyed in the late 1890's based on what is known as the "Price survey". The river has moved considerably in the period between the "Price survey" being carried out and the present time.10. The river unfortunately has moved out of that surveyed alignment and has moved course eroding the grassed area and encroached into our land parcel.11. We do have in our possession documents which relate to our land being a part of Reserve 145 and that the land has Victorian Title.12. We are aware that as the landowners we have mineral rights acknowledged by the Crown in various documentation.13. Ownership of pounamu on our land is an existing rights and privilege.14. We have never objected to iwi who have continued to access our land to look for and remove this mineral which we do own.15. We have never asked nor expected compensation from people accessing our land to get to the riverbed which has eroded into our land and exposed rock and pounamu. We are happy to continue to allow this to happen at this stage.16. We request that any specific sites are pointed out to us.17. Without any specific sites being pointed out to us can only assume that this is an arbitrary decision made without regard to the facts that we have Victorian title and that Reserve 145 is subject to its own enactment which would require a similar act of parliament to change its status.18. It appears that the only interest that iwi have in the area is pounamu which occurs largely in the surveyed riverbed which has already been vested in local iwi.19. The riverbed is already in Maori ownership therefore there is no reason to classify our private land as of significance.20. Also of interest is that fact that the property further downstream (Cranlea Farms) where pounamu is as likely to be found is not included in the areas of significance. This land parcel also forms a part of reserve 145 which has the designation Victorian title.21. Victorian title entitles the owner to ownership of non-statutory minerals such as gold silver petroleum and uranium.22. The initial enquiries which were made to the Minister of Mines and Energy confirmed that Victorian title status also that pounamu was a mineral and that if the landowners wished to carry out business in relation to pounamu then there was no requirement to consult with iwi or the office of the Ministry.23. I believe the 1997 Pounamu Vesting Act stated at that stage that people with existing rights and privileges were not to be disadvantaged. We have documentation confirming that this is the case.24. There was a plan to build a cycle way through our land and we have cooperated with Council with those plans.25. I am aware iwi was consulted over those plans and had no objection to a major swing bridge being constructed across the entrance to the lower Arahura gorge near our property and the cycle way being constructed through those land parcels.26. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the actual sites of significance.27. Please consider this to be an Official Information request regarding any site of significance on our land and how the decision to include our property in the plan was arrived at. <p>For your attention please Vernon Morris</p>	We wish the land described to be removed from the plan as an area of significance to Maori unless genuine reasons can be demonstrated.

Documents included with submission

None