

Mary-Anne Macleod
Chief Executive
BOP Regional Council

1 October 2012

Hi Mary-Anne Macleod

Thank you for your letter dated 11 July 2012 in response to my submission to Council's draft Ten Year Plan. I now ask BOP Regional Council to reconsider my submission as an investment in potential wealth creation for this region with much potential return on investment, and that all other Council spending is instead and in comparison at a cost to this region without comparable potential financial return. My submission does I believe have huge potential to create enormous wealth for this region.

Introduction

A demonstrated increase in tuna (eel) and inshore coastal fisheries commercial production towards a level that had potentially previously existed in and adjacent to the Kaituna River catchment and its exit to the sea at Maketu, could now I believe have far reaching financial benefits for the people of this region, and it could also set the scene for enormous national wealth creation from similar works in many other parts of this region, as well as in all other regions.

Imagine what inshore coastal fisheries commercial production could be worth to this region now, if the fishery had been allowed remain at its previous level of production, before BOP Regional Council had drained all of the Kaituna River catchments supportive wetlands (an 1840 estimate of 6,167.25 hectares of wetland not counting lakes in the Kaituna River catchment - Gillian Payne, WBOPDC Policy and Monitoring Manager), and had removed the Kaituna River from Maketu Estuary so isolating and destroying habitat and food chains that had once supported the previously existing local inshore coastal fishery commercial production potential.

If you think of the ocean as being farmland you can then see that we are currently trying to harvest production from our largest farm without growing any grass. You can also see that this can easily be corrected by recreating wetlands and galaxius spawning habitats.

Re-diversion of the Kaituna River back via its original course through Maketu Estuary as I have continued to propose for decades, could set the scene for not only galaxius spawning habitat re-creation within Maketu Estuary, but it could also create a deep water harbour anchorage with an entrance that is sheltered from an easterly swell that is in close proximity to a rapidly expanding population base, and so it could significantly enhance a natural resource. This could be achieved without any additional capital expense being required for dredging to create it or for maintenance of that deep water harbour asset. The energy of the Kaituna River could do the job for free as had been witnessed originally.

Because I have invented and proposed the solution to the Bay of Plenty's loss of potential inshore coastal fisheries commercial production, and because Bay of Plenty

Regional Council engineers and contractors have under BOP Regional Council guidance and support caused the problem, I hereby request that my company can now perform the corrective works for Council by contract as follows:

Plan

1. Re-open the original Kaituna River course through Maketu Estuary via Papahikahawai Channel, and protect the Kaituna River re-diversion with rock rip-rap that will shelter privately owned land and the Kaituna River stop-bank on the southern side of the river course, as well as the beach sand dune adjacent to the mole on the northern side where Kaituna River water will turn towards Papahikahawai Channel with subsequent scour potential.
2. Ensure that Papahikahawai Channel depth is sufficient to allow scour potential during times of peak Kaituna River flow by checking that channel depth with a digger, as soon as the stagnant water and mud between Papahikahawai Island and the mole has had time to flush through Te Tumu exit of the Kaituna River on receding tides.
3. Bury large boulders across the existing Te Tumu exit of the Kaituna River from the mole and to the existing width of the current river exit that is adjacent to the mole, to a height that will still allow peak Kaituna River flood flows to overtop them, especially adjacent to the mole. This will allow enormous scour potential to remain across the rest of the beach in preparation for the possible occurrence of a 100 year design flood. It will be maintained as an almost closed Kaituna River exit by wave washed beach sand except for a narrow channel adjacent to the mole which will remain open to only the highest Kaituna River flood flows. It will then be kept readily available without cost as the potential extreme weather event Kaituna River exit to the sea. It will also prevent a salt water wedge from entering the lower Kaituna River, so ensuring that galaxius species again spawn successfully amongst Maketu Estuary maritime marshland.
4. Large boulders buried in succession towards the north will prevent wave action from carrying beach sand into the Kaituna River course. They will allow scour potential between, around and over most of them during times of peak Kaituna River flow, so keeping the Te Tumu exit partially open and ready to scour.
5. Breach Maketu Estuary Spit at its narrowest point approximately 100 meters to the east of Papahikahawai Island, and then as the entrance migrates back towards the east as has been witnessed to have occurred every time that the spit has been breached, occasionally mound sand from the beach on low tides onto the newly formed spit to prevent extreme weather wave overtopping and infilling of Maketu Estuary as had occurred last time that the spit was breached.
6. Re-plant maritime marsh throughout the upper Maketu Estuary. Maritime marsh galaxies spawning habitat that had used to exist in Maketu Estuary can I believe now best be replanted as soon as the Kaituna River is reintroduced to Maketu Estuary. I would like to be able to employ a large team of individuals to plant maritime marsh in 1 meter quadrants over the entire upper Maketu Estuary shallows on low tides. When silt-laden Kaituna River flood flows are again moving through Maketu Estuary, established

maritime marsh will again trap sediment which will build up its base to its previous height and so it will again provide ideal galaxius spawning habitat that is above all but high spring tides. We will I believe then be able to witness a rebuilding of potential local inshore coastal pelagic fisheries commercial production food chains. If inshore coastal fisheries management techniques that I have previously described are also used then I believe we will witness a significant increase in production and revenue generated from the inshore coastal and tuna fisheries.

7. Purchase lowland farm drains within the Kaituna River catchment and convert them into widened, raupo planted, flax and kaihikatea bordered, productive wetland parallel zigzagging V-drain habitats, in connection with Maketu Estuary maritime marsh galaxius spawning habitat and in isolation from pumping stations. These canals planted to best purify farm run-off with water reticulation and to create ideal galaxies and tuna fresh water habitat, would obviously and naturally be re-inhabited by native fish species. When water levels were lowered in February galaxies and tuna could still have some supporting deep water habitat in these canals. The bends of these parallel connecting canals could have shallows to maintain water depth in the individual canals that would be connected at their ends.

8. Direct treated effluent from adjacent farmland, from AFFCO Rangiora, and from Te Puke Borough Effluent Treatment Plant, through productive wetland parallel zigzagging V-drain habitats created, to lower nutrient levels and to simultaneously increase fresh-water fish species habitat, production and growth rates with additional bacteria and nutrient input.

9. Purchase and convert lowland wetland farmland into productive wetland parallel zigzagging V-drain habitats, to promote water movement during times of heavy rain and also potentially following the reintroduction of some Kaituna River flow. These will be filled with raupo, bordered by flax and supporting rows of kaihikatea to purify water, and also to provide ideal habitat for maximum fresh water galaxius and tuna production. They will be connected to Maketu Estuary maritime marsh galaxius spawning habitat and in isolation from habitat-destroying and fish-passage-impeding pumping stations that will no longer be required.

10. Expect to witness commercial and recreational fisheries production, tourism opportunity and regional commerce increase, without further investment in time or energy. The Kaituna River and its tributaries, the Rotorua Lakes and wetland habitats created, will continue to create wealth for this region ongoing, and they will demonstrate a commercial fisheries production wealth creation potential that exists in this county.

11. The existing Kaituna River-exit recreational fishery will be made unavailable at Te Tumu as that entrance closes. It will though again become available at Maketu as the new entrance created then migrates back to Maketu removing wave washed beach sand from within Maketu Estuary and back onto the beach as had previously occurred, so deepening the lower estuary and making it suitable for boating. The recreational and commercial fishery that will be created at Maketu will be significantly enhanced towards and possibly past its original production potential, by the re-creation of supporting

productive wetland parallel zigzagging V-drain habitats.

Summary

The last time that Maketu Estuary Spit was breached was following attempted and unsuccessful reintroduction of Kaituna River flow to Maketu Estuary via Fords Twin Cuts. I had predicted that this would occur in an Appeal Court hearing in my attempt to try and stop BOP Regional Council from further-wasting public funds and further degrading the environment, by causing erosion of the back of the toe of Maketu Estuary spit and subsequent spit breach and so further infilling of Maketu Estuary with wave washed beach sand, because of the site of the Ford's Twin Cuts reintroduction.

I have been proven by time to have been entirely correct in my Appeal Court predictions. The Department of Conservation and BOP Regional Council who won the Appeal Court hearing with public funds on their behalf, under the misguided direction of Chris Richmond of DOC, and also the Appeal Court Judge have been proven to have got it entirely wrong at my considerable personal expense. The Appeal Court loss was reported unflatteringly in local newspapers while the previous generation of my family members was still alive, to my frustration, humiliation and embarrassment.

The one-way flap gate structure at Ford's Twin Cuts that was designed and built by BOP Regional Council engineers and contractors has also proven to have been unsuccessful. It has been yet another misguided and complete waste of public funds, as was the initial construction of Ford's Twin Cuts which caused erosion of the toe of Maketu Estuary spit and subsequent infilling of Maketu Estuary.

I believe in this instance that any further expenditure by BOP Regional Council on consulting engineer's reports could best now with hindsight be judged as completely unnecessary and to be yet another waste of public funds, because what I have continued to describe for decades had been successfully modeled naturally in the past. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. We just need to recreate what we had before BOP Regional Council destroyed it by removing Kaituna River flow via Papahikahawai Channel from Maketu Estuary, and by draining and disconnecting the surrounding wetlands.

We have now been through a public consultation process. We have agreed in committee to put the Kaituna River back through Maketu Estuary via Papahikahawai Channel. I have described how my company wants to do that for BOP Regional Council at minimal expense.

I had originally proposed the methodology in public meetings with and in written submissions to the Department of Conservation, to Members of Parliament and to BOP Regional Council 25 years ago. I now ask BOP Regional Council to please provide me with the authorization and funding that is necessary to allow my company to do the works under contract to BOP Regional Council.

I hereby request that BOP Regional Council draftsmen do please now draw plans as I have described for the creation of productive V-drain wetlands in Te Arawa Wetland at right angles to Maketu Road, in Lawrence Oliver Park at right angles to the existing

drain, surrounding Te Puke Borough Sewerage Treatment Plant, and adjacent to the Waiari Stream and to the Kaituna River stop-banks. That will allow my company to oversee the creation of at least 100 hectares of productive wetland as has been adopted in the BOP Regional Council 10-Year Plan.

This could then serve as a working model of what can be further created in other sections of the Kaituna River catchment, and could include the Kaituna Road drain, the Pah Road drain, AFFCO Rangiuuru lowlands and other lowlands and farm drains as they become available for purchase and conversion into productive wetland parallel zigzagging V-drain habitats.

This work that I propose could initiate and could accommodate the WBOPDC Draft Long Term Plan for the future of Maketu, where Gillian Payne, WBOPDC Policy and Monitoring Manager, had written that the purchase of a wetland park would remain a priority and that the action to investigate the purchase of land for the development of a Sub-Regional Wetland Park be confirmed by staff, given reference to future sources of funding for an investigation into local coastal fisheries production.

I hereby request that BOP Regional Council does now please provide my company with the necessary funding to complete the works under contract, via my company bank account number 030474 0452068 00.

Kindest regards

Don Paterson
CLM; HbT. SRF; SNTR

Chairman, History Focus Group
Kaituna River & Maketu Estuary Management Strategy
BOP Game Fishing Charters
NZ Registered Natural Therapies Practitioner NT1634

Natural Therapies Ltd
28 Jellicoe Street Te Puke 3119
Ph 07 573 5533 fax 07 573 9363
www.naturaltherapiesnz.com
www.gamefishingcharters.co.nz
www.wetlandsnz.com