

Hi Ken

Please help me to convince Pim de Monchy, Senior Land Management Officer, Bay of Plenty Regional Council that there is a potentially more productive way of reintroducing Kaituna River flow to Maketu Estuary than to use a man-made Fords Twin Cuts that has already failed twice.

Pim did indicate to me by phone that he can see the logic of my submissions while in discussion with me, but then BOPRC employed engineering advice is in conflict and is in support of their previous recommendations. Pim is a good bloke and he is keen to make the best job of it but he cannot go against engineering advice presented to date. I believe that under the Local Government Act he now has a legal obligation to model my proposal because it has been tabled.

I had taken the last Fords Twin Cuts reintroduction attempt by BOPRC to the Appeal Court to try and stop it 20 years ago because I believed that it was a mistake to ignore the original Kaituna River course through Maketu Estuary. Now everything that I had predicted in the Appeal Court has come to pass. BOPRC engineering advice is now that it is a coincidence that what I had predicted did happen. These gentlemen seem unbelievable to me.

Please also invite interest in www.wetlandsnz.com so that all can see my personal efforts to date to restore local fisheries production based on Maketu Estuary's interaction with the Kaituna River catchment and including the Rotorua Lakes. I request that all do support all of the points in my attached letter to Pim de Monchy please.

I believe that the original Kaituna River course through Maketu Estuary must work because it did work in the past. It is also by far the least costly option of reintroduction.

I believe that the lower Kaituna River will empty towards low tide through Papahikahawai Channel and into Maketu Estuary just as efficiently as it currently does over the bar at Te Tumu because initial full low-tide Kaituna River flow through Papahikahawai Channel will maintain the carrying capacity of that channel, and because Maketu bar will be kept lower than Te Tumu bar currently is because there often is less wave action at Maketu.

Te Tumu has been the unnatural exit of the Kaituna River since a breakout that occurred on the outside of a bend behind a sand dune in the 1950s was contained there by the construction of a mole. Maritime marsh within Maketu Estuary then disappeared without a freshwater input and fisheries production food chains collapsed. I believe that food

chains can be rebuilt by using the original Kaituna River course through Maketu Estuary, and that Fords Twin Cuts reintroduction would stop that from happening, because if a salt water wedge was left at Te Tumu then it would keep Kaituna River galaxius spawning in the limited Kaituna River habitat and away from extensive maritime marsh galaxius spawning habitat that had used to exist in the upper Maketu Estuary.

Boating access to and from the lower Kaituna River could be enhanced by full low tide Kaituna River flow through Papahikahawai Channel and so through Maketu Estuary, which is a much safer entrance than is Te Tumu, where boating access could be further undermined by a proposed Fords Twin Cuts partial flow into Maketu Estuary which would take considerable Kaituna River flow away from Te Tumu. As a commercial launch-master with years of big boat bar crossing experience at Whakatane under all sorts of weather and sea conditions, as well as small boats at Te Tumu and at Maketu, I would much prefer to cross the Kaituna River bar at Maketu than at the more exposed Te Tumu exit that I believe can now best exist for high tide flood relief only. An overtopping weir at Te Tumu could be built up in stages to best be able to judge the effect if any on existing gravity drainage outlets into the lower Kaituna River.

Maketu Estuary with full low tide Kaituna River flow exiting via Papahikahawai Channel could provide an ideal deep and sheltered connection between the Kaituna River and the sea, with an original deep water anchorage in the lower Maketu Estuary and with an entrance that is sheltered from an easterly swell by Okurei Point and it could all be created at minimal cost.

Kindest regards

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