



## Harbour submissions wanted

The Opotiki District Council's Resource Consent application for the proposed access improvements to Opotiki Harbour has now been publicly notified and submissions called for.

submissions received by the Opotiki District Council will be duplicated and forwarded to Environment BOP.

The application covers:

### Background

- ▶ **The construction of parallel groynes cutting through the existing eastern sandspit at the Waioeka River mouth to create a 120m-wide channel between the river and the sea, terminating at a minimum low-tide depth of 4.0 metres.**
- ▶ **Dredging the new channel and dewatering the dredgings on adjacent farmland.**
- ▶ **Closing off the existing Waioeka River entrance.**

The project was initiated by the Opotiki District Council to capture the greatest possible economic benefit from a planned aquacultural development 6kms off the coast from Opotiki township. The 3,800 ha mussel farm to be established by Eastern Sea Farms Limited (a company which is majority-owned by the Whakatohea Maori Trust Board) has the potential to create some 900 full-time jobs and inject more than \$34 million into Opotiki's economy each year. In addition to aquaculture there are also potential economic benefits from an improved harbour entrance associated with other sectors including forestry, aggregates, horticulture, tourism and land development. Further investigations into these benefits are being planned.

The entire application will be heard by Environment BOP (the Bay of Plenty Regional Council), while the Opotiki District Council will hear the dredgings dewatering application, via an independent commissioner. In addition, the scale of the project and the sensitivity of the coastal environment means that the approval of the Minister of Conservation will also be required.

For local benefits to be realised, we need safe and reliable access through the harbour entrance. This will allow, for example, for the larger vessels that will be required to service the mussel farm and bring the shellfish harvest back for onshore processing. Detailed engineering studies have indicated that parallel, 500m-long groyne structures at the Waioeka River mouth will be able to maintain a minimum depth of 3.7m at mid-tide (compared to about 0.5m at present) and create a harbour entrance that will be safely navigable under most tide, sea and weather conditions.

This newsletter is being issued by the Opotiki District Council as "the applicant", not as the consent authority. The aim is to ensure that everyone in the Opotiki District has the opportunity to make a submission, either in support of, or opposed to the application. Supportive submissions can also set out any environmental safeguards the submitters would like to see put in place if the project proceeds.

### What happens from here?

Please note that the feedback on the project that the Council has received to date is informal. Formal submissions are now required to be considered as part of the Resource Consent process.

Once the period for submissions has closed, a hearing of the applications and submissions to them will be scheduled. It is likely that all of the applications will be considered in a combined hearing.

Submissions close on December 19, 2008. Submission forms (see page 3) can be sent directly to either Environment BOP, or to the Opotiki District Council. Any

Consents may then be granted or declined. If granted this would be with conditions as required to minimise

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Opotiki 3162  
Attn: Gill Sands

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environmental impacts and address any submissions made. Any party may then appeal those consents to the Environment Court. In the case of an appeal (or appeals), the Environment Court would hold a further hearing and may uphold, amend or reject the consents granted.

If a Resource Consent is granted, the Minister of Conservation will then consider the application and may approve it, require amendments, or reject it.

As with all large infrastructure projects, statutory approval is a crucial first step. Other significant milestones still have to be achieved, including detailed investigations into aquacultural viability and harbour and port feasibility.

After all of those elements are in place, the Council will then have to secure the funding required for the project capital works to proceed.

**Where can I get more information?**

The project website ([www.opotikiharbour.co.nz](http://www.opotikiharbour.co.nz)) provides a detailed explanation of the proposed harbour access

improvements and the benefits they would bring for Opotiki and the wider region. The website also includes all of the final technical reports, plus the main Resource Consent Application document.

Previous Opotiki Harbour Development Update newsletters are also available on the website.

The full Resource Consent Application can also be viewed at Environment BOP, at the Opotiki District Council office, and at the Opotiki District Library.

For any further information, contact Gill Sands at the Opotiki District Council.

**Contact Us**



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[www.odc.govt.nz](http://www.odc.govt.nz)

**SUBMISSION ON A RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION**

Pursuant to S.96 of the Resource Management Act 1991

To: OPOTIKI DISTRICT COUNCIL AND ENVIRONMENT BAY OF PLENTY

**Submitter/s Details:**

Full Name: .....  
 Postal Address: .....  
 Telephone No: Work: ..... Home: .....  
 Contact Person: .....  
 Address: .....  
 Telephone No: .....(if different from above)

**Submission On:**

Name of Applicant: OPOTIKI DISTRICT COUNCIL  
 Application #s: 65563; 65564; 65565; 65566; 65567; 65568; 65569; RC2009/24; RC2009/25; RC2009/26; RC2009/27  
 (please delete any applications that you do not wish to submit on)  
 Site Address: Bounded by approximate map references NZMS 260 W15:8461.4821, W15:8469.4705, W15:8587.4699 and W15:8563.4817

Type of Resource Consents Applied for:

- Coastal Permits
- Landuse Consents

Brief Description of the Proposed Activity: To undertake various activities associated with the establishment of a new Opotiki Harbour Entrance. This includes closing the existing entrance and establishing a new channel and training walls through the eastern spit.

I support the application       I oppose the application

**Submission Statement:**

The particular parts of the application I support or oppose, or wish to comment on are:  
 [Clearly indicate which parts of the application you support or oppose, or wish to have amendments made to.]

.....  
 .....  
 .....

*If you have any further comments please record on separate sheet.*

The reasons for making my submission are:  
 [State in summary the nature of your submission, giving reasons.]

.....  
 .....  
 .....

*If you have any further comments please record on separate sheet.*

I wish the Consent Authorities to make the following decision:  
 [Give details, including any conditions you would like to see imposed.]

.....  
 .....  
 .....

*If you have any further comments please record on separate sheet.*

I do wish to be heard in support of my submission [This means that you can speak at the hearing]       I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission [This means that you cannot speak at the hearing]

Signature: ..... Date: .....  
 [Person making submission, or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making submission.]