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Report to the Landcare Committee from Alison Newell, Resource Planner, Flood Protection Group

Game Bird Hunting on the Otaki River

1. **Purpose**

- To advise the Committee on the community response to Wellington Fish & Game Council's (Fish & Game) proposal to control hunting on the Otaki River.
- To recommend that the Committee endorse and approve as appropriate Fish & Game's proposal, with an additional clause giving the Regional Council the right to change its position on hunting at any of the proposed locations at one year's notice.

2. Background

The Landcare Committee endorsed Report 99.167 ("Game Bird Hunting on the Otaki River") at its meeting on 20 April 1999. The report outlined the issues, potential hunting areas, game bird hunting seasons and options in relation to hunting for duck and pheasant on the Otaki River bed.

The Committee requested that appropriate consultation on the proposal be undertaken with local whanau, iwi and the wider community.

Subsequently, Fish & Game prepared a short proposal (Attachment 1) in line with Report 99.167. The proposal outlines the controls and conditions considered appropriate, including the specific areas to be hunted, access arrangements, enforcement, safety and registration.

3. Consultation Undertaken

Several methods were used to seek community feedback on the Fish & Game proposal for controlling hunting on the Otaki River:

- A presentation to the 'Otaki Friends of the River' group meeting by Peter Hill of Fish & Game on 2 June 1999.
- A press release issued on 20 October 1999 to the Otaki Mail.
- Distribution of copies of the proposal to Iwi, specific interest groups and adjacent landowners. A pre-paid reply slip for comments was also enclosed.

Articles also appeared in the following newspapers in response to the initial press release and the following public debate:

• Otaki Mail (22 October), Horowhenua/Kapiti Chronicle (10 November) and Kapiti Observer (22 November).

4. **The Response**

There has been a significant response from the community at large, and from specific interest groups. Twenty-two responses have been received from the public at the time of writing. A summary of these responses is attached (Attachment 2).

Iwi/Whanau

Ngati Maiotaki support hunting, ducks are a part of the cultural harvest, removal of old and sick birds keeps the population healthy; hunters are responsible people. A further response was received stressing the Treaty of Waitangi 1993 ruling regarding cultural harvests and noting that hunter access to Chrystalls Lagoon required permission from Tranz Rail as landowner.

At the time of preparing this report a response had not been received from Ngati Raukawa. This is being followed up and the Committee will be verbally updated at the meeting.

Friends of the Otaki River

The 'Friends of the Otaki River' group, at its 2 June 1999 meeting, asked that the period for consultation be extended to allow the group to form an opinion on hunting. The group wanted to clarify their role and Terms of Reference before making a decision. The consultation period was extended, but the group still felt unable to make a decision at their meeting in October. No response has been received from the group to date.

Wider Community

Most submitters did not offer direct responses to the questions posed, rather commented on whether or not hunting should be allowed to continue at all in the Otaki River.

- As a result of press coverage, local hunters formed their own Kapiti Wildfowl Group to represent their views.
- Just over half of the submitters supported hunting continuing on the Otaki River bed, in particular noting that hunters are responsible individuals and that hunting has been going on for a considerable period of time without mishap. Many felt it their right to be able to hunt rather than hunting being a privilege.
- Approximately one quarter of submitters oppose hunting duck at Chrystalls Lagoon and pheasant on the southern stopbank, whilst just under half oppose duck shooting at Rangiuru Lagoon. The majority of people opposed to hunting at the estuary felt that this was an inappropriate use of an area they would like to see developed as a wildlife sanctuary.
- Two hunters were concerned that any restrictions should be placed on them at all. Comments were made as to littering and vandalism being blamed on hunters when this was not the case, and that users of 4WD vehicles and trail bikes were causing far more damage to the sensitive estuarine environment and should be controlled rather than hunters.
- One submitter noted that if the estuary area is to be turned into a wildlife sanctuary, then fishing should also be banned.
- Several submitters noted the need for hunting to keep duck populations in check, commenting that if hunting were to be banned, then ratepayers would have to pay the Department of Conservation to cull the birds. Several submitters noted the benefit of removing old and sick birds from the game bird population.
- One adjacent landowner expressed concern that if the duck population was to increase that there was a risk of salmonella spreading to his stock in adjacent paddocks.

5. Timeframe for a Decision in Relation to the Hunting Seasons

The hunting season for ducks is 1 May to 27 June and for pheasant 1 May to 8 August. Fish & Game distribute a magazine annually that identifies areas where hunting is restricted or banned. This is produced in time for the hunting seasons, and goes to print early in the New Year. For Fish & Game to have notified hunters for the 2000 season, a decision needed to have been reached by early December 1999. This timeframe has not been met as more time was given to the Friends of the River Group to respond. This effectively means that for the 2000 season, hunting will continue uncontrolled as it has previously.

Any decision that this Committee reaches will therefore take effect from the 2001 hunting season.

6. Legal Issues

The land below State Highway 1 and the Otaki River mouth is land vested in the Council for river control purposes under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act. Therefore the question arises as to whether the Council has the authority to make a decision on matters that do not relate to rivers control. This issue does not arise with Chrystalls Lagoon, as the land is owned by the Council as opposed to being vested.

Legal opinion was sought, specifically to clarify the issue, and in summary:

- Wellington Regional Council does not have the right to control hunting in the soil conservation reserve, and perhaps more importantly, does not have the authority to ban hunting on the soil conservation reserve (i.e. the Otaki riverbed below State Highway 1).
- As the land is Crown land, the authority falls to Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and Department of Conservation (DOC) as the relevant Crown agents, to control hunting, but only after consultation with Wellington Regional Council (as the day to day administrating and controlling authority).
- Yes the Council does have obligations under the Occupiers Liability Act 1962 to take such care as is reasonable with regard to public safety. The Council also has obligations in relation to its own staff and contractors employed by the Council. Officers' view is that the Council can meet its safety obligation by erecting appropriate signs and endorsing the Fish & Game proposal, which has been prepared with public and staff safety in mind.

7. Reasons for Retaining the Right to Change Council Position on Hunting

The responses received showed quite a division between the community regarding hunting on the Otaki River bed. Many of those opposed to hunting would like to see the development of the estuarine area as a wildlife sanctuary. Others suggested that public access along the southern stopbank could be developed and enhanced.

Whilst there are no conflicts at present, the submissions opposing hunting give a clear indication that over time this might change, if a wildlife sanctuary or cycleway are developed. For the Council to advocate the banning of hunting because of possible future developments would be unreasonable. It should be noted that the Council is considering funding for establishing a "wildlife sanctuary", for possible implementation in 2002, although this would not necessarily require hunting to stop at Rangiuru Lagoon.

As a compromise, the Council position on hunting should be for it to be allowed (in line with Fish & Game's proposal) until such time that conflicts arise with other uses, for example if the estuary area is developed as a wildlife sanctuary. For this reason, the Council should retain the right to change its position on hunting on the Otaki River bed at a year's notice. This would give Fish & Game sufficient time to notify hunters of any such restrictions and changes to hunting arrangements.

As noted above, it would be for LINZ and DOC to ban hunting on Crown land, after consultation with Wellington Regional Council. Fish & Game will be requested to seek approval from LINZ and DOC to hunt in the soil conservation reserve.

8. **Communication Opportunities**

The final decision of the Landcare Committee will be reported back to the community through a newsletter and a press release.

In addition, Fish & Game produce an annual magazine, which will include the decision made by this Committee.

9. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- (1) Receive this report and note its contents.
- (2) Endorse the Wellington Fish & Game Council's proposal for controlling game bird hunting on the soil conservation reserve, Otaki River in line with the majority of views received during the consultation, with an additional clause giving Wellington Regional Council the right to change its position on hunting on the soil conservation reserve at a year's notice.
- (3) Approve the Wellington Fish & Game Council's proposal for controlling game bird hunting at Chrystalls Lagoon, Otaki River in line with the majority of views received during the consultation, with an additional clause giving Wellington Regional Council the right to change its position on hunting at Chrystalls Lagoon at a year's notice.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

GAMEBIRD HUNTER ACCESS TO OTAKI RIVERBED – A PROPOSAL

- 1. <u>Introduction.</u> Gamebird hunters, hunting ducks and pheasants, have used the Otaki Riverbed for over one hundred years. It offers quite good gamebird hunting opportunities and it the closest publicly available hunting opportunity to Wellington. Many people use the Otaki Riverbed beside gamebird hunters, and concern has been expressed that hunting activities may not be compatible with other public uses, largely as a safety issue. Fish and Game proposes to directly manage hunter access to Otaki Riverbed by a permit system, so as to allay concerns about hunting while still maintaining the valuable hunting opportunity afforded by the riverbed. This paper describes the proposal, and invites responses from all people interested or involved.
- 2. <u>Fish and Game</u>. Wellington Fish and Game Council is the statutory authority with the duty of managing trout fishing and gamebird hunting, under the Conservation Act 1987 and the Wildlife Act 1953. Its region extends from Wellington and the Wairarapa to Dannevirke, Waiouru and Marton, and includes Otaki, and has its office in Palmerston North. The Council is an elected body, and it has a public accountability for its conduct through the Minister of Conservation to Parliament. In particular, it has the function of managing the game resource in the interested of hunters, and maintaining and improving access, while having regard to the impact of these activities on other users of the habitat concerned.
- 3. <u>Wellington Regional Council</u>. The Regional Council has the management of much of the Otaki Riverbed vested in it in order to carry out its responsibilities to undertake river control works for the purpose of avoiding damage by floods. Because the Regional Council is a public authority, public use of the land is allowed to the extent that it does not interfere with the primary river control requirement. As the authority with prime responsibility for what happens on the Otaki Riverbed, the Wellington Regional Council would need to be satisfied with any proposal to manage hunter access.
- 4. <u>Hunting Area on Otaki Riverbed</u>. There are three areas of public land on the Otaki Riverbed identified as having value for gamebird hunting, as follows:
 - a) <u>Rangiuru Lagoon</u>. The rivermouth lagoon on the north side of the river currently has five duck shooting positions (maimais). Hunters shoot from within the maimais.
 - b) <u>Chrystalls Lagoon</u>. There are two maimai positions at this man-made pond two kilometres upstream from the railway bridge.
 - c) <u>South Bank</u>. There are no maimais, but hunters stalk pheasants among the scrub with the assistance of gun dogs, in this area on the south bank of the river from the state Highway bridge extending two kilometres downstream towards the sea. This area stops short of private land adjacent to the river mouth.

5. <u>Use of the Hunting Areas.</u> The annual duck shooting season normally lasts from the first weekend in May for eight weeks until the end of June. Nobody is allowed to hunt ducks outside that season. The pond areas at Rangiuru Estuary and Chrystalls Lagoon are only suitable for hunting ducks, and only by the two occupants of each of the seven maimais involved. These pond areas will not be shot every day of the season; they are regularly shot on opening weekend, Queen's Birthday weekend, and closing weekend, plus perhaps four other occasions through the season, according to weather conditions, bird behaviour and such other unpredictable circumstances.

Pheasant hunting on the South Bank normally involves two or three hunters at a time, on perhaps twenty occasions during the fourteen week pheasant hunting season that extends from the first weekend in May to the second weekend in August.

6. <u>Present Access Arrangements</u>. Because it has always been public land, hunters have assumed the right to go there to hunt, and provided they hold a current firearms licence (from the Police) and a current game licence (from Fish & Game) and abide by all the conditions on both those licences, then they are lawfully entitled to do so. People hunting in the five maimais at Rangiuru and the two maimais at Chrystalls are obliged to "tag" their maimai before the season in order to claim the right to occupy it on opening weekend, traditionally the duck hunters' big weekend. Other hunters wishing to use those same maimais may do so provided the hunter who tagged the site does not arrive before 7:30am.

Pheasant hunters currently arrive as they please at the South Bank, on days that look good for pheasant hunting, and simply head down to bank and get on with it, trusting their luck that there are in fact birds in the area.

- 7. <u>Enforcement</u>. The Police check hunters during the hunting season to ensure firearms licence requirements are adhered to. Fish and Game rangers also check to ensure that game licence conditions are adhered to. Anybody hunting without licences, or in breach of licence requirement, has their gun seized and is prosecuted. The Otaki riverbed is not ranged every day, but is ranged every season; no offences have been detected here in the last five years.
- 8. <u>Safety</u>. Gamebird hunters only use shotguns; they are not allowed to use anything else. Shotguns are very effective at close range, but the small lead pellets quickly lose their effective hitting power, and at ninety metres, which is the legal minimum spacing for maimais, they are effectively safe. By law, shotguns are not allowed to be used within two hundred metres of houses or built up areas.
- 9. <u>Sharing The Use of The Riverbed</u>. We are not seeking to deny anyone else's use of the riverbed, but are seeking the continued right for our hunters to use part of the riverbed for part of the time, subject to such limitations as may be necessary to ensure that other people's rights are also upheld.
- 10. <u>Access Management Proposal</u>. In order to manage the avoidance of conflict with other users of the Otaki riverbed, Fish and Game proposes to make gamebird hunter access there subject to a requirement for a permit. Fish and Game will issue permits, and only people with Permits and abiding by their conditions will be allowed to hunt game birds on the Otaki riverbed. The conditions of the Permit will be subject to Wellington Regional Council's approval as primary land administering authority.

11. Permit Conditions Proposed.

- a) <u>All persons hunting game birds</u> on public lands on the Otaki riverbed will require an Otaki Riverbed Game Bird Hunting Access Permit, besides their Firearms Licence and current Fish and Game game bird hunting licence; these Permits must be carried by hunters on the Otaki Riverbed at all times.
- b) <u>Otaki Riverbed Game Bird Hunting Access Permits</u> are available free of charge to Fish and Game bird hunting licence holders from the office of Wellington Fish and Game Council, 188 Broadway Avenue, PO Box 1325, Palmerston North, telephone (06) 359 0409, fax (06) 356 2780.
- c) <u>The three areas</u> within the Otaki riverbed that are available for game bird hunting are:
 - i) Rangiuru Estuary, within one of the five identified maimai sites.
 - ii) Chrystalls Lagoon, within one of the two identified maimai sites.
 - iii) South Bank, between the stopbank and the river, for two kilometres downstream from State Highway bridge.

Other than these three areas, all other parts of the Otaki Riverbed are to be regarded as Private Land, and may only be hunted by agreement between the hunter and the relevant landholder.

- d) <u>Construction Zones</u> on the Otaki Riverbed will be marked by Wellington Regional Council in areas, and at times, when river control works are being undertaken. No hunting is allowed in Construction Zones; guns must be made safe when walking though Construction Zones.
- e) <u>Vehicles</u> are not permitted to be taken onto the Otaki Riverbed.
 - i) Rangiuru Estuary, vehicles are to be left clear of the pond, and access is from Kapiti Lane, <u>NOT</u> from the haul road.
 - Chrystalls Lagoon, all vehicles must be left <u>outside</u> the Winstones gate (so they won't be stuck when the gate gets locked) and only foot access is allowable beyond Winstones gate, and then ONLY BY SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ANY HUNTER AND WINSTONES. All persons walking or driving up the riverside haul road without the express prior agreement of Winstones will be trespassing, and may
 - I) be prosecuted by Winstones
 - II) lead to Winstones denying access to other bona fide hunters.
 - iii) South Bank, all vehicles are to be left at the roadside lay-by in such a way that they do not block access to the southern gate at any time.
- f) <u>Dog Control</u> Kapiti Coast District Council requires all dogs accompanying hunters on the Otaki Riverbed to be registered, and under voice control at all times.

g) <u>Rangiuru Estuary</u>. The five existing maimai sites are registered with Fish and Game in the names of their most recent opening weekend occupiers. These occupiers will annually be asked by Fish and Game whether they wish to retain their registration. If occupiers wish to retain their registration, and if they occupied their maimai on the most recent opening weekend, and if they have complied with all requirements of Fish and Game in respect of their use of their site, then they will be confirmed as stand holder of their site with priority rights of occupation. If occupiers do not wish to retain their registration, or have not occupied their maimai on the most recent opening weekend, or they have not complied with Fish and Game requirements in respect of their use of the site, then their registration will be cancelled and the site offered to another hunter. Stand holders will not be allowed to transfer their site registration to any other person; Fish and Game will undertake any reallocation of maimai occupation.

Registered stand holders at Rangiuru Estuary will require Otaki Riverbed Game Hunting Access Permits.

Other licence game bird hunters will be allowed to use the Rangiuru Estuary maimais for hunting after opening weekend, provided they first obtain Otaki Riverbed Game Bird hunting Access Permits, and provided the registered stand holders for the maimai in question do not arrive to occupy their site before 7:30am on that day. All hunting must be from the maimais.

h) <u>Chrystalls Lagoon</u>. The two existing maimai sites are registered with Fish and Game in the names of their most recent opening weekend occupiers. These occupiers will annually be asked by Fish and Game whether they wish to retain their registration. If occupiers wish to retain their registration, and if they occupied their maimai on the most recent opening weekend, and if they have complied with all the requirements of Fish and Game in respect of their use of their site, then they will be confirmed as stand holder of their site with priority rights of occupied their maimai on the most recent opening weekend, or have not occupied their maimai on the most recent opening weekend, or have not occupied their maimai on the most recent opening weekend, or have not complied with Fish and Game requirements in respect of their use of their site, then their registration will be cancelled and the site offered to another hunter. Stand holders will not be allowed to transfer their site registration to any other person; Fish and Game will undertake any reallocation of maimai occupation.

Registered stand holders at Chrystalls Lagoon will require Otaki Riverbed Game Hunting Access Permits, and will have to have negotiated access to the site with Winstones.

Other licence game bird hunters will be allowed to use the Chrystalls Lagoon maimais for hunting after opening weekend, provided they first obtain Otaki Riverbed Game Bird hunting Access Permits, provided they have first negotiated access to the site with Winstones, and provided the registered stand holders for the maimai in question do not arrive to occupy their site before 7:30am on that day. All hunting must be from the maimais.

- South Bank. There are no stands, and no ongoing priority rights for hunter occupation on the South Bank. All hunters will need Otaki Riverbed Game Bird Hunter Access Permits before they may hunt this area. The Permit will define the limits of the area that may be hunted. Only three guns will be allowed on the South Bank at any one time.
- 12. <u>Conclusion</u>. This paper is offered by Wellington Fish and Game Council for consideration by all people interested or involved, and invites responses so that a firm proposal may be put to Wellington Regional Council.

P H Hill <u>MANAGER</u>

29 July 1999

Game Bird Hunting on the Otaki River

Responses Received

Submitter	Comments	Southern Stopbank	Rangiuru Lagoon	Chrystalls Lagoon
Otaki Recreational Fishing Club	Lagoon should be a wildlife sanctuary. Children disturbed by seeing birds shot. Seats and tables should be provided - would be wonderful for educational purposes.	No comment	Opposed	No comment
Eric Matthews KCDC Councillor	Mouth should be designated as a Wildlife Reserve – with boardwalks, viewing platforms, etc. Walkway network should include mouth. Needs to be wide public consultation. Loss of shooting area should be considered against the value to the whole community of reserve.	No comment	Opposed	No comment
John Bailey Otaki	Has lived in area 7 years plus, and has seen dramatic decline in birdlife. Even though hunters only shoot game, will disturb other species. Would like to see mouth a wildlife sanctuary. Several of his neighbours agree.	No comment	Opposed	No comment
Janet MacDonald Otaki	Primarily concerned about safety issues, particularly pheasant shooting but believes controls should be ok. Concerned about decline in pheasant populations if over shooting.	Supports	No comment	No comment
Ann Higginbotham Otaki	All hunting should be banned. Can't see why they should hunt on the Otaki. Conflicts with community aspirations for wildlife reserve and access along stopbanks.	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed
Mrs Nke Otaki	Comes from duck shooting family, but thinks that should be banned on public land. Controls won't stop accidents happening.	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed
Sir Arthur Williams Otaki	No objection to hunting. Should be no restrictions at all.	Supports	Supports	Supports
Ken Ludlam Winstone Aggregates Otaki	Have co-operated with hunters for 20 years plus. Hunters have always been courteous, and have never been any problems. Hunters should be given every consideration regarding this proposal.	Supports	Supports	Supports
John Bryant Tawa	Has hunted on both banks of Otaki River for 50 years plus. Sad that any restrictions are proposed. Trail bikes and 4wd vehicles are damaging the sensitive estuarine environment and should be stopped. Fishermen use mouth area as a carpark and leave litter, as do "travellers". WRC should provide and empty litter bins. Reduction in vegetation cover on stopbanks by grazing farm animals is damaging security of stopbank and ecological values. WRC should do more pest control.	Supports	Supports	Supports

Submitter	Comments	Southern Stopbank	Rangiuru Lagoon	Chrystalls Lagoon
Ian Murray Whitby	 Rangiuru lagoon area has always been dumping spot, litter and burnt out cars. In his experience, no hunters have ever drunk alcohol whilst out shooting. Never been any accidents to his knowledge. Proposal will lead to better management of harvest. Otaki is southern most river available for hunting and is well used. To close the area for hunting would be unfair to hunters and would affect local businesses. Duck shooting is short and has no effect on local ecology. Hunters are responsible and only shoot legal species. Concerned about emotive letters in local press. Proposal could fit in with a working reserve if that is what the majority wants – has worked elsewhere. 	Supports	Supports	Supports
Joe Taylor Federated Farmers	Proposal is very sensible.	Supports	Supports	Supports
Liz Mikkelsen OCEAN Otaki	OCEAN promotes public access for cyclists. Have put in a proposal for a nature cycle track between Otaki and Waikanae, included is the southern stopbank. Oppose pheasant shooting, although support better control of hunting, distressed that hunting should take place on the Otaki at all. Accept that hunting has taken place for 100 years plus - but that doesn't make it right. Safety is a major concern.	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed
Tracy Short Levin	Hunters should be able to use the river just as any other user.	Supports	Supports	Supports
Bruce Bryant Waikanae	Has hunted for 15 years plus. Is his right to be able to hunt under current legislation as has right to discharge a shotgun beyond 100m of built up area. Hunters are responsible people, has paid personally to put up signs saying they are hunting. Finds comments about hunters being drunk offensive. Thinks proposal is good compromise. If the proposal to turn the estuary into a wildlife reserve goes ahead, then fishing should also be banned.	Supports	Supports	Supports
Neil Denton Otaki	Has shot duck on the Otaki for over 30 years, mostly upstream of Chrystalls. Would be disappointed if hunting were restricted to the 3 areas proposed he feels the lower reaches are where the majority of conflicts seem to be with other users, but that upper reaches would be ok. Hunters are doing the community a service by controlling duck populations; landowners would have to pay to have them culled otherwise.	Supports	Supports	Supports

Submitter	Comments	Southern Stopbank	Rangiuru Lagoon	Chrystalls Lagoon
Dr Bayston Keep Otaki Beautiful Otaki	Otaki community concerned with conflict between hunters and other users. Public safety and right of access are very important. Anticipate the development of riverbank walkways with all year round use, and the estuary/lagoon area will be important in this, and that the right bank walkway will eventually extend upstream of Chrystalls. Chrystalls was planted with natives by Forest & Bird etc few years ago as a "nature" area.	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed
John Bailey Otaki	Enclosed a petition signed by 23 residents requesting the Lagoon and estuary area be turned into a bird sanctuary and the banning of all trail bikes and 4wd vehicles form indiscriminate use of the area.	No comment	Opposed	No comment
Lenore Winterburn Otaki	Has been hunting on Otaki for 100 years plus - and no injury or fatality. Plans for enhancing the river may or may not increase visitor numbers. Proposal is a compromise to those scared of guns, who don't realise that hunters are responsible people who originally put up signs before Fish & Game did, and who take their sport seriously. Hunters have sat Police exams to make sure they are safe, and carry licences. Would prefer no controls, but happy with the controls proposed as it will benefit hunters in the long term.	Supports	Supports	Supports
Ray Best Otaki	Is concerned that if duck populations aren't kept under control by hunting, then there is a risk of spread of salmonella to his cattle which graze upstream of the mouth on the right bank.	Supports	Supports	Supports
Otaki Community Board	Report from KCDC staff outlining the Fish & Game proposal and issues it raises. Recommends that board members advise KCDC staff of any feedback they wish to provide to WRC on this matter.	No comment	No comment	No comment
Julia Huriana Noble Cain Otaki	Member of Ngati Mai Otaki. Has lived in Otaki long time, swum in river, etc. Supports duck and pheasant shooting. Ducks are cultural food (Treaty of Waitangi ruling 1993) – not just to people from Wellington but also from Otaki. Population needs to be controlled to keep it healthy - take out old and sick birds. Signs notifying public that shooting is happening in area are sensible. Hunters are responsible people. Hunter access to Chrystalls Lagoon requires permission from Tranz Rail as landowner.	Supports	Supports	Supports
Robert Taylor Paraparaumu	 Fully support Fish & Game proposal. Requests that access down the haul road with parking being along the road remain for hunters to access Rangiuru Lagoon. 	Supports	Supports	Supports