

## COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

**Report to:** Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board  
**Member Name:** Manuela Gmuer-Hornell  
**Subdivision:** Opuā – Russell  
**Date:** 19 April 2021

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### Meetings

Date	Meeting
25/03/2021	Combined Community Board Workshop - Kaikohe
26/03/2021	Border Control Launch - Opuā
07/04/2021	Presentation Russell – Okiato Cycle Way – FNDC Kerikeri
17/04/2021	Tamariki Day – Russell
19/04/2021	Russell Town Hall Committee Meeting – Russell

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### Issues/Feedback

The Draft District Plan was not available for the first week of the community engagement programme. Please revisit Russell with the appropriate staff to answer any questions for the District Plan Proposal prior to the consultation deadline. A follow-up visit has been promised – TBC (as per 19/4/2021)

Unfortunately, the rubbish bin issue for Russell is still not solved, nor has FNDC made any effort to come up with solutions – the community, on the other hand, has proposed several solutions to FNDC.

Projects being put on hold even after they had funding allocated – most recently a concise piece of the footpath by Opuā School. A staff member left, and this project got passed over to FNHL; irresponsible and not transparent.

Jobs getting started (from RFS) and then not finished for weeks or months, been almost a year for some blocked culverts to be cleared!

This is what the FNDC customers – the ratepayers – are after, prompt replies and action to everyday needs. FNDC's average customers – the ratepayers – is not overly interested in how quick the turnaround is for building and resource consents. The average customer – the ratepayers – want their basic needs looked after, rubbish, water, sewage and roads. Time to look at the customers' – the ratepayers – view (not the property developers from out of our region)!

The contract for the Russell Transfer Station has been extended instead of being advertised and renewed. It is disappointing as the community shows strong interest to implement a different model for the Russell transfer station.

The RFS process seems to have stalled since the first lockdown and then again after/during the floods. Hence no RFS lodged! Please sort this process out and if needed, involve more contractors as soon as possible.

It intrigues me that Community Board Members can't contact FNDC staff. Still, community groups are welcome to meet with staff at Council Meetings.

Roading Issues seem to get the cone treatment and justified as a "fix" – this is totally unacceptable and dangerous as well as very unsightly – we have several of these around my subdivision, and we get zero replies on follow-ups

The too-frequent sewage spills in Russell get the silent treatment from FNDC, more spills happened in Matauwhi Bay in November, and in December, a spill occurred at the Tapeka pump.

Issues with our small-town water supply in Russell, and yet again, staff need time to go through the historic agreements. This is a working system, and FNDC has no idea how and who is drawing water from a council-owned bore?

Time to pull your socks up, FNDC, and face the hard facts! You are letting communities down with their very basic needs of a sound sewage system and freshwater. FNDC needs to stop being risk-averse and start fixing aging assets, AND maybe it would help to allocate funds to EVERY town in your district to keep up with the maintenance. An 80-year plan won't fix our needs today.

The Board needs to make sure that management doesn't forward difficult decisions to the community boards without consulting or informing us in an appropriate timeframe. The no-surprises policy has to be both ways!

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## Resource Consents

NIL received

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## Requests for Service/Information

22/04/2019	RFS-3975374	Oasis Car Park
30/11/2019	24 Chapel St	Breach of building code
01/12/2019	RFS-3988901	Russell's Rubbish Woes
09/12/2019	RFS-3996575	Petition Okiato Boundray for paper road
		Footpath Opuia School Kellet St
21/02/2020	RFS-3997123	Footpath Damage York St
11/02/2020	RFS 4001004	Mark Car Parks outside of Tennis Club
17/06/2020	RFS-4010977	Sign and barrier smashed by car
17/06/2020	RFS-4011092	drain blocked
17/06/2020	RFS-4011525	collapsed drains etc
10/07/2020	RFS-4014411	Te Wahapu Slips
01/08/2020	RFS-4016222	Terry Greening flooding of drive
24/08/2020	RFS-4021868	errosion by Matauwhi Bay (tree)
04/09/2020	RFS-4023639	Tree Fallen on ZigZag
10/09/2020	RFS-4025200	Arcadia Lodge Lemon Track eroding
21/09/2020	RFS-4026086	Russell Sewage Plant Issues
23/09/2020	RFS-4026450	Rubbish bins at wharf overflowing again

05/10/2020	RFS-4028183	Russell Museum Sister City
06/10/2020	RFS-4028271	Russell township maintenance
19/10/2020	RFS-4029293	tree to be removed Wellington St
27/10/2020	RFS-4031104	Water Mains Breach Russell
20/05/2020	RFS-4005808	please mark the diesel tank intake at Russell Wharf
19/11/2020	RFS-4034886	Fire Hydrant Marking RSA Russell
18/12/2020	RFS-4038166	Flame Tree Fallen across long beach track
06/01/2021	RFS-4046814	eroded track to Opua Beach
07/01/2021	RFS-4040743	Okiato Footpath overgrown
21/01/2021	CE Office	Picnic Table Long Beach
21/01/2021	CE Office	advert for roadside spray starting 22/1
16/02/2021	RFS-4037894	No Litter Road Signs - made by Russell School
22/03/2021	RFS-4051977	sewage pump station (medical centre)
05/04/2021	RFS-4053917	Easter Weekend Rubbish - awaiting a response on how to move forward
13/04/2021	RFS-4055188	Footpath/Drain mowing Prospect St

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## In progress

- Robertson Street Stormwater Project to be completed – Residents are not impressed (maybe the wrong word)
- Opua Resource Consent non-notified for development Franklin St/Kellet St – petition tabled at CB Meeting 3/2/2020 – this has now gone to a full (over 100 attendees) community meeting 8/3/2020 – and we have just been told FNHL has sold the land to a private developer. The land is now occupied by hapu and locals. This is a community being pushed out of their town.
- Carpark for Oasis Community Centre – this has been ongoing since 2018
- Lack of rubbish collection point and recycling collection during peak season around Russell Wharf (owned by FNHL) and this is still NOT solved
- Footpath Kellet Street – Opua School – been approved but not carried out – after been promised to be finished by September, it is now "scheduled" for January 2021 and as per this report, this is now FNHL project – I am opposing this decision.
- Petition Okiato Boundary for paper road RFS-3996575 – tabled at CB meeting 9/12.19 – the cost to be carried by petitioners. Motion passed in November 2020 CB meeting
- Include re-doing the FNHL terms of reference/objective in their comments about what the next annual plan and long term plan should cover. – tabled at CB Meeting 3/2/2020
- Walls Bay, Opua – to be occupied by local hapu
- Speed Limit Review
- The contract for Russell Transfer Station to be officially tendered

- Maintenance in Russell Township to be outsourced to a local community group
- Mark boundaries at the "Walls Bay" Opuia reserve clearly with bollards
- Lack of vision after excessive roadside spraying and cleaning up the aftermath.
- A newspaper advert for roadside spraying is starting 22/1- the job will go ahead as this is an existing contract! The previous round of spraying was paid for by Central Government as part of the COVID-19 recovery. Not sure why we need to carry on with the existing contract if FNDC wants to save money (gain from the covid recovery program)
- Flooding of the upstairs level at Russell Town Hall on Sunday 14/2/2021