

## COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

**Report to:** Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board  
**Member Name:** Manuela Gmuer-Hornell  
**Subdivision:** Opuā – Russell  
**Date:** 17 January 2022

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### Meetings

Date	Meeting
25/11/2021	Russell Sports Club Meeting
2/12/2021	Community Board Meeting - Waipapa

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### Issues/Feedback

The peak summer season has come and gone. Unfortunately, there was no extra service to cope with Russell's rubbish. My fault for thinking this will just happen.

Late November, FNDC placed sandbags on the bank of the Moreton Bay Fig at Long Beach to stop erosion. While this was a good interim intention, the plastic bags disintegrated. They are now posing a risk to birds, sea life and beachgoers. I trust there will be swift actions to clean up the debris and develop a better long-term solution within the next few weeks. This problem highlights the urgent need to get communities involved with climate impacts mitigation. Unfortunately, the deadline was a few years ago. Can we please know how and when FNDC starts planning for climate change impacts? Thank you.

In December, the boardwalk by Smith Motorcamp was closed due to the piles rotting away. As per FNDC, the track will be closed until the end of the 2022/23 financial year. It is simply not feasible for this track to be closed for years. It forms part of Te Araroa Track and is a very popular track for local people. I've asked for a better solution and am waiting for FNDC staff to engage with me.

A lack of communication seems to get in the way of positive interaction between ratepayers and FNDC. A personal acknowledgement (after the automatic reply) is seldomly sent out and gets the interaction off on the wrong foot.

Whilst pondering over 2021, I am astonished at how poor the communication between FNDC and community board members is. Important things are happening in our communities, yet staff has not notified me. For example:

- gifted land to expand the Urupā in Kororareka
- new toilet block at Long Beach
- sandbagging the bank at Long Beach
- closure of Coastal Walkway
- closure of The Strand on New Year's Eve
- new contract at the Russell Landfill

Being informed will help for a better relationship between FNDC and Ratepayers. No one thrives on gossip and bad words.

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## **In progress**

- Opuia 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.
- Footpath Kellet Street – Opuia School – been approved but not carried out – after being promised to be finished by September, it is now "scheduled" for January 2021. 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
- Speed Limit Review
- Maintenance in Russell Township to be outsourced to a local community group
- Mark boundaries at the "Walls Bay" Opuia reserve clearly with bollards
- Placemaking Russell The Strand
- Smart Bins and Free Public WiFi is coming to Russell