

3608A Far North Road

Houhora Rd4

Kaitaia 0484

28<sup>th</sup> November 2018

FNDC ADMIN  
05 DEC 2018

Mr John Carter

Mayor

Far North District Council

Private Bag 752

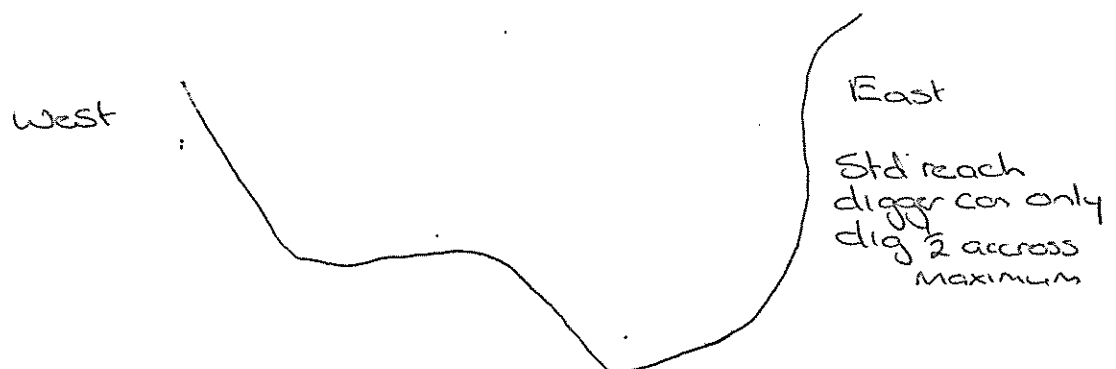
Kaikohe 0440

Hello John

Re Motutangi Stream

Please find enclosed a selection of photos (taken by drone on 11 November 2018) of the last digger job on the Motutangi Stream, 20<sup>th</sup> Sept and 1st October. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time this cleaning job has been undertaken by Wade Hogg. When he was on site I asked him did he have a set of specifications and a works order to do this and he said no, Paul Harvey had just asked him to carry out the work.

I told him that a requirement of the Far North District Council (FNDC) Document no: A 1839805 refers, page 9, is that a resource consent is required to be obtained to do this work. Information has been obtained from the Northern Regional Council (NRC) that the FNDC does not have a consent to remove soil/sand from the creek sides or bottom. Since Wade Hogg has been digging the stream, it's profile (cross section) would be looking something like this as he has a standard reach 12-ton digger.



The sediment, oxygen weed and nutrients pouring downstream into the Houhora harbour was unbelievable, he did say he had placed a capture net which he strung across the creek

at the coastal reserve, I went straight down and checked, and saw no evidence of a net in place or that there had been one at any stage.

John, my concern is if Paul Harvey is handing out the work and the contractor (Ron Fenwick) is advising council workers, there is a definite conflict of interest here. My question is if this is occurring why do we need Steven Little and Steven Smith, in their capacity in the FNDC. I would not be surprised if Paul Harvey and Ron Fenwick are authorising payments as well, where are the cross checks and accountability. Who is responsible for the spending of the ratepayers money?

If you read the letter dated sent to me by Andy Finch, it is obvious the people he mentions who checked the creek and if they said it was the best it had looked in years, he would believe it! Would it not have been a better option to get an impartial person to review the creek, not some one that stands to personally gain financially from his own recommendations to spray the stream. Is this not a conflict of interest, there is no evidence of impartiality and has a strong leaning to nepotism.

When are these lies and deceits going to STOP and your staff are held accountable for their actions or lack of?

Sometime over the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November 2018 some low class has sprayed the grass to approx. 20-30 m either side of my bridge eastern end. I wonder who that might be, and I wonder if either side of his culvert got sprayed to the same extent, maybe you could tell me if a works order was issued for this spray job? If so, can you please provide me with a copy of the works order issued by FNDC staff.

Since I border the creek approx. 1000m, I always know when Harvey or Campbell are cleaning drains as the Motutangi creek runs black with sediment, weed and obviously nutrients which the oxygen weed thrives on. Both these swamp properties are riddled with feeder drains, which then flows into the Houhora harbour.

Why is the FNDC years behind the rest of the country, regarding looking after the environment and streams, creeks, harbours etc?

If the wetlands, creek and Harbour were anywhere else, they would be protected. The lakes in Taupo, Rotorua etc and the vast majority of waterways both in the North and South Island are planted on both sides with Natives and let Mother nature do her job.

n.b. I am prepared to have a Hui with Andy Finch, Steven Little, Steven Smith and yourself if possible, at our place and show you first hand the abuse of this creek, its ecology and our environment.

I have made this offer on several occasions to Steven Little and at one stage he said he was coming to do a site visit approx. 18 months/2 years ago, and as of today's date I have not seen him.

I await your response as this matter will not just go away until some affirmative action is taken to address this blatant disregard for FNDC policy's and rules.

Your sincerely



Croydon Thompson

Please see attached summary which gives a very brief outline of my concerns

### SUMMARY

1. The Motutangi was drained for pastoral farming, not cropping or arable (animals only)
2. No consent obtained to dig soil/sand from creek
3. No cost/benefit analysis carried out or R.O.I
4. No consultation with Ngati Kuri Iwi, I/A with LGNZ. Kaitiaki of the Houhora Harbour.
5. No representation from our Te Hiku Far North representative, as Lauri Atkinson pushed her aside and onto the Waiharara/Kaikino drainage committee, which he himself should have been on. Melanie is our duly elected member for the Far North, not Laurie . Where is the justification not to have our own representative on this committee?
6. No consultation with ratepayers
7. No drain fenced (Motutangi) on Paul Harveys farm. I flew over this drain on 20/9/18
8. No buffer between stream and watermelon on Harvey's property. I flew over on 17/10/18
9. No thought to the ecology and their environment e.g. native flora and fauna
10. No AGM for the Motutangi/Waiharara Drainage committee, Bob Campbell just rolled over the committee which contravenes FNDC own rules
11. No qualifications given for the following council workers when asked: Clarke, Smith, Finch and Little. Am I to assume they do not hold relevant qualifications for their positions?
12. No justification for explosive drainage rate, just to satisfy 2 dairy farmers, who knowingly brought the lowest lying swamp land in the area, then expect the rest of the ratepayers to pay for them to farm their low-lying swamps. See rates analysis for CJ & DM Thompson attached.
13. No consideration given to the petition handed to the FNDC which was signed by 28 of the 36 ratepayers in the Motutangi drainage area NOT wanting a drainage rate increase.
14. No mitigation or even trying to mitigate sediment leaching from feeder drains into secondary drains, then into the cut and onto the Motutangi by Harvey and Campbell.
15. No weed bucket used. Slots cut out in a digging bucket is not suitable. It needs a special one made, starting with a skeleton frame.