

BEFORE THE CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

220003

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991

AND An application for a resource consent to subdivide land
at Pourerere (being Part of Lot 1 DP 27067 and
contained in Record of Title HBW3/400)

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF JAMES WILLIAM BRIDGE

28 June 2023

MAY IT PLEASE THE COUNCIL

- 1 My name is James William Bridge – Director of Paoanui Point Ltd.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our proposed subdivision at 25 Punawaitai Road, Pourerere. We appreciate your expert review of the application, concerns raised and how we intend to mitigate any impact to the area as well as enhance the overall cultural, spiritual, environmental, and economic value of the area.
- 2 Pourerere Beach has always been a special place for my family. I grew up on a farm in Central Hawke’s Bay and spent a lot of summer holidays at Pourerere Beach, like so many other families in the area. These fond memories of picnicking on the beach, swimming, learning to surf and free dive are exactly why I decided to return later in life, when the opportunity to purchase Puke O Heke came along in 2016. Puke O Heke is a 377-hectare sheep and beef farm with 5kms of beach frontage at Pourerere Beach.
- 3 As soon as I took over Puke O Heke, I felt a great sense of responsibility to improve the health of the environment – I want to leave this whenua in better shape than when I found it. However, in today’s tight farming market, coupled with adverse weather patterns, funding is an ongoing challenge and I have had to look at non-farming projects to achieve my goals to grow my farming business and enhance my surrounding environment.
- 4 Three years ago, my team and I lodged a Resource Consent application to develop 5.7 hectares of our 382ha property. In March 2021 we were granted consent to develop a 20 residential lot subdivision, which includes an shared open space for each section owner to recreate on, as well as a private beach track to allow residents to access Pourerere Beach.
- 5 To date, the benefits derived from the development of Stages 1 & 2 have been:
 - a) Established riparian planting along 800m of the Pourerere Stream.
 - b) Constructed stock exclusion fencing to keep all livestock away from Pourerere Stream
 - c) Established and maintained Dotterel protection fencing at Pourerere Beach
 - d) Upgraded public roading on Punawaitai Rd (from gravel to 6.2m wide sealed road).

- e) Introduced 14 new families to the area, who in turn, have stimulated the local economy. So far various environmental, civil and residential building projects have employed a multitude of people and suppliers.
- 6 Today, we are planning Stage 3. This will extend the existing settlement and add 48 residential lots along with two more shared open spaces. The benefits associated with this project are:
- a) Extending our riparian planting further up the 'modified tributary' to the Pourerere Stream, we will improve biodiversity and water quality of the stream overall.
 - b) We will establish and maintain predator control stations along riparian areas, including around the sand dunes where the Dotteral Habitat is located, this will help protect the Dotterel population as well as other species along the Pourerere Stream and its tributary.
 - c) We will work with Iwi to preserve archaeological sites across the farm, protecting them for future generations. As part of this application process, we have enjoyed learning more about the cultural significance this area. I want to thank the various hapu for their engagement, and we appreciate the opportunity to work with Stella August to compile a Cultural Impact Assessment of the area. We have also worked with Elizabeth Pishief and Kate Hooper from Heritage Services, who have discovered 22 new sites of significance on the wider farm, which helps contribute to a richer knowledge of the area and allow Heritage New Zealand preserve it for future generations.
 - d) We will lift production of our remaining pastoral farming system, through improved subsoil drainage. Our expert Steve Goodman demonstrates in his evidence that we will generate net gains in production through the development of drainage on the remaining flat land.
 - e) It will allow more families to either enjoy permanent relocation to Pourerere or establish holiday homes at the beach. The demand for these properties will heighten even further if the Department of Conservation (DOC) does not renew the lease of the DOC land that is home to many houses and a campground at the Southern end of Pourerere Beach
 - f) If Resource Consent to develop Stage 3 is granted, we are committed to executing this project with all the controls and balances needed to enhance the area for cultural, spiritual, environmental and economic value. That's why I have assembled a team of respected experts with decades of experience in their fields, who can advise us on the best way to do this.

- 7 The project has raised some concerns from the community which we have addressed in our enclosed submission of evidence. Change is inevitable - the Pourerere area is going to keep evolving as demand for holiday and permanent residences continues to grow at coastal locations like Pourerere. Currently, Central Hawke's Bay Council has not allowed for any growth in any coastal locations in the proposed district plan.
- 8 As a resident of the area, I want to see Pourerere thrive, I want to help enhance and protect its natural features, just as much as other members of our community. I hope collectively we can leave this whenua to our future generations better than we found it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Bridge', with a stylized, cursive script.

James Bridge

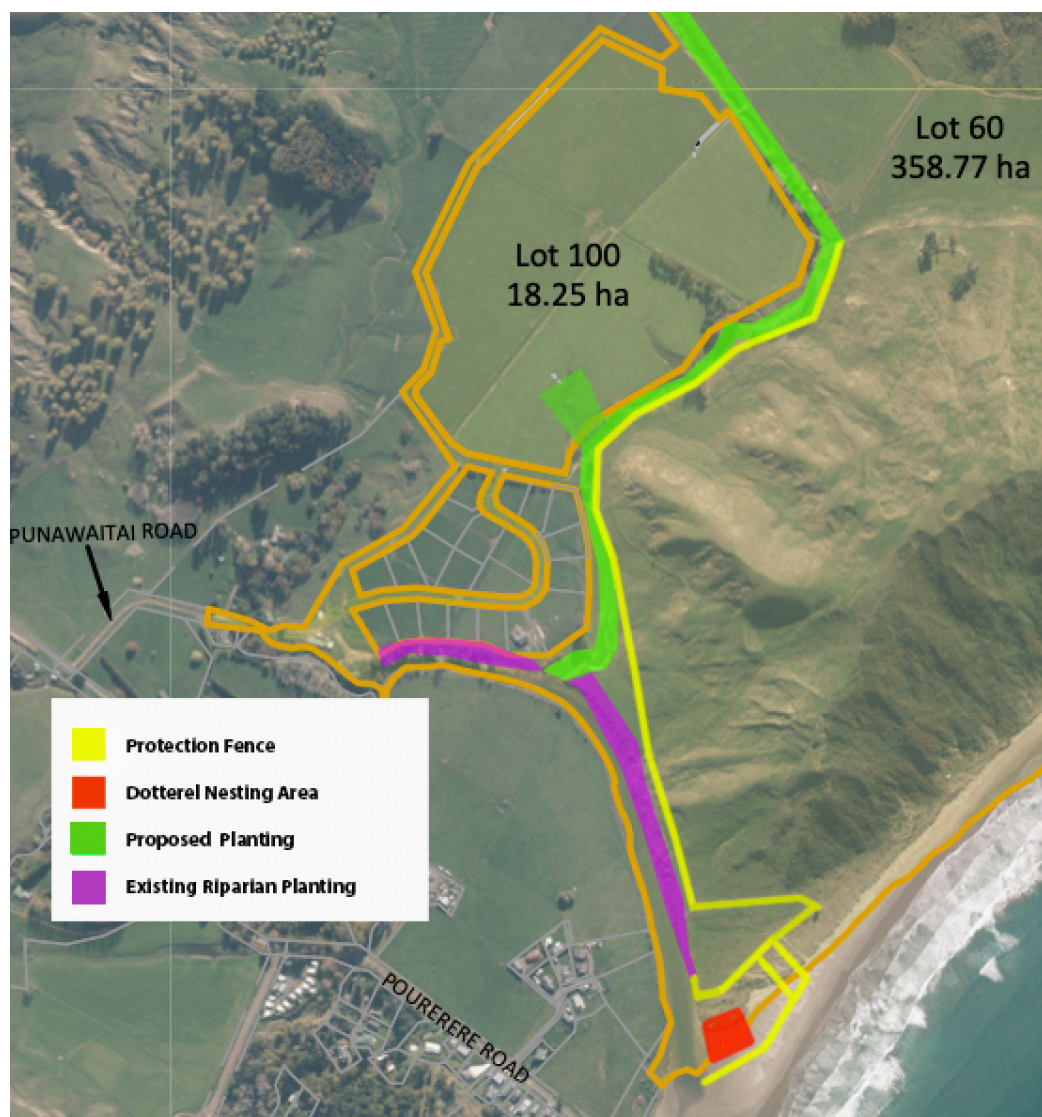


Figure 1: Map of planned and existing environmental improvements associated with Stages 1 & 2 and proposed Stage 3 of the development at Pourerere Beach



Figure 2: Established riparian planting on the Pourerere Stream



Figure 3: Established riparian planting on the Pourerere Stream



Figure 4: Existing dotterel protection fencing at Pourerere Beach



Figure 5: Existing dotterel protection fencing at Pourerere Beach, with 60m buffer fence from beach access



Figure 6: Existing dotterel protection fencing at Pourerere Beach



Figure 7: Existing dotterel protection fencing at Pourerere Beach