

From Rob Peter. Cape Campbell Farm Ltd. 22.2.22

Reply to Rangitane O Wairau - re the vehicle bylaw proposal.

From the ongoing work that has been done regarding planting, conservation work and predator control it is obvious that many species can recover and the area can have a bright future. Conversely if we don't provide protection then most native species will continue their decline until they tip over and are no longer there for all New Zealand. Protection does work but we all have to care and play our part in making it work.

It is positive that Rangitane O Wairau recognises that this coastline needs the bylaw. We acknowledge Rangitane O Wairaus' customary right to collect Kai Moana. The problems are occurring with the methods of collection causing so much damage and disturbance to numerous other species. It is hoped that all native species along this coast will be valued, it requires the whole ecosystem to provide a sustainable future.

One example is the shellfish beds by Mussel Point/Te Karaka – in the last survey no juvenile shell fish of any kind were found in the intertidal sands. These shellfish beds have been harvested since people first arrived in NZ. They have survived the previous 1855 uplifts. The empty juvenile shells have been found but none are alive.

Otago University research has shown that two- and four-wheel motorbikes and 4wd vehicles kill juvenile shellfish in two ways. By directly crushing them and by digging them out of the surface sands where they soon die. Shellfish beds around NZ are regarded as one of our most endangered marine environments. If they are not looked after they collapse and do not recover. The bay in front of this beach is an important fishing ground and supports a sizeable Hector Dolphin population.

It is our hope that with time all people will want to protect and care for our natural resources, and also support their enhancement. Partial protection will not succeed as the wheel marks currently hide many damaging practices, night time driving and illegal poaching. Past policing of these problems has only had limited success.

The area is well overdue for a rest and be left to recover from the extensive damage of recent years.

Rob Peter.



