

Objection to the Higham Paper Road Closure

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Mr Roger Kerr-Newell
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Objection to Higham Paper Road Closure

Dear Mr Kerr-Newell,

I wish to make my objection to the stopping of part of Higham Paper Road; that is the portion of road known as Higham Rd, South Head and described as the parcel of land containing 6.6094 Ha being sections 1,2 and 3 on survey office plan 422172.

My reasons are as follows:

1. Public access to the foreshore is vital if people are to maintain access to go fishing to feed themselves and their family. Closing Higham Road will deny an increasing regional population vehicular access to an important accessway to the Kaipara Harbour and to their fishing spots.
2. Future generations of Kaipara residents and the wider Auckland region will expect access to the Kaipara to continue, closure of Higham Road will deny them a reasonable, legal accessway that has been available for more than 100 years. The Rodney District Council does not have the right to deny these future generations access to the Kaipara through Higham Road.
3. The Rodney District Council has not followed due process by ascertaining if Higham Road will be required for future roading purposes. Until such legal process is followed there is no statutory right to deny current and future generations vehicle access through Higham Road.
4. Considering the current sensitivity around foreshore and seabed issues it is very disturbing that Nga Uri O Te Taou, as tangata whenua of this area, has not been consulted on this issue. Maintaining vehicle access is vital if tangata whenua are to both maintain their links with historical sacred sites and take their elders to these spiritual places, as such Higham Road ought to remain open.

If a hearing is to occur I wish to address my objection to the Rodney District Council. Given the absence of any consultation with tangata whenua I wish the hearing to occur at Haranui Marae, in consultation with Nga Uri O Te Taou. Please advise as soon as possible when and if this hearing will be held.

Yours sincerely,

Trish Rea.