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RE: JETTY AT LAKE OHAKURI

Dear Brett,

As you may know the jetty located at the Lake Ohakuri boat ramp was recently removed due to it being unsafe and a hazard to the public. Since its removal, word has spread very quickly amongst Atiamuri Village residents and homeowners and on the Facebook group questions have been raised as to whether or not a new ramp will be built to replace the one that was removed. I have sent many emails to Mercury Energy, Taupo District Council (TDC) and Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and I was advised that no replacement would be installed. Locals and holiday house owners in the local area have been very disappointed with this response.

On Saturday the 14th of October 2017, I took some friends to the lake, we had two boats and a jet ski. The process of putting the boats into the water and collecting the shore man (person that parks the car and trailer) was very time consuming as we didn't want to damage the expensive crafts due to the amount of weed that covers the large rocks in the water close to the shore. Unfortunately, the shore man slipped on the jetty and wedged his ankle between the concrete slabs which could have led to him having a severely injured ankle rather than a few cuts and grazes. I heard a week later that on labor weekend someone else did the same thing and another boat hit their propeller on a rock thus damaging their boat. The jetty is slippery and this makes it dangerous for those in the water as they have no safe place to wait for and get onto a boat once the craft is safely in the water. I have children and I am concerned that due to their being no safe place for them to get on and off the boat they will be forced to use the boat ramp or enter via the slippery rocks on the lake shore which could lead to injury.

During this whole ordeal I decided enough was enough and I reached out to Mercury to ask if they would allow us to install a new jetty if we paid for it or found alternative funding, to which it went to their management and board and they finally agreed and even offered to put \$1,000 towards the funding. I then reached out to WRC to see if we could obtain any further funding or at least get the resource consent arranged without a fee, where I was advised to write this letter asking for the grant.

Other issues which may be caused over the summer season which is fast approaching includes frustration and anger from people on holiday and locals as the amount of time it takes to get a boat in and out of the water has at least tripled. In the summer, Lake Ohakuri is particularly busy and with their being no easy way to get crafts in and out of the water, and no easy way for those onshore to get on and off the boats there is likely to be more injuries as people try and work out the best way to launch and dock crafts without a jetty available to them. This could also lead to

increased traffic and roadblocks on an already busy and dangerous state highway. In the holiday time, particularly over the Christmas and New Year period if people find themselves stressed for whatever reason (in this case possibly injury, or having to wait ages to get off the Lake) people tend to take more risks when driving which is something we would like to avoid as too many people die along this stretch of road as it is and we don't want any deaths on the lake due to frustration and silly mistakes.

Another thing to consider is having removed the jetty, there is going to be more damage to the natural environment of the lake with people disturbing and destroying local flora and fauna in their endeavor to enter the lake with their boats and with those on board. It is also of concern that any noxious lake weed currently present may spread due to the fact that boats are coming in close to the shoreline and spreading them further then would normally occur.

The manufacturer of this particular pontoon has installed this style of jetty in rivers and lakes around the country and not been required to gain resource or building consent. Is there any way that this could be waived for this project?

I have the backing of at least 100 members of the Atiamuri Village Community, plus many others from surrounding areas which have offered money towards the project and to see Lake Ohakuri made safe for all to use again. People and companies who have relevant skills within the area have also offered to assist with the erection of the new jetty. To see the fundraising I have undertaken please visit <https://givealittle.co.nz/project/lakeohakuripontoon> , this excludes the funding committed by Mercury.

The plan is as follows:

1. Complete the funding process to at least build a 5m by 1.5m jetty, however are hoping more funding comes available to allow us to build an 8m jetty with a landing at the end similar to that in Appendix 3 below.
2. Obtain permission from WRC for the waiver of resource consent fees for the project
3. Obtain assistance from TDC, Atiamuri Sports Association or Mangakino Pouakani Community Grants to assist with point one plus with the submission of the resource consent.

I am not willing to take on the resource consent myself as I feel this is something that the councils or government organisations should do to protect the safety and well- being of the local community in this area.

In closing, I ask that you considerer this project to be in the best interest of the public that use this Lake.

Many thanks for your time in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards



Barry Murphy

Appendix 1 – Location of Jetty, marked by the green square.



Appendix 2 – Old Jetty



Appendix 3 – Proposed Floating Pontoon

