

**BEFORE THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS FOR NORTHLAND REGIONAL
COUNCIL**

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application pursuant to s 127 of the
Act by Interesting Projects Limited
consequential to applications by Doug's
Opua Boatyard for resource consents
relating to the redevelopment of the
boatyard on 1 Richardson Street, Opua

**STATEMENT OF JULIE MARGARET KIDMAN
ON BEHALF OF INTERESTING PROJECTS LIMITED**

Dated: 25 July 2020

Henderson Reeves Lawyers

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I, **JULIE MARGARET KIDMAN**, state:

1. I am the co-owner of Interesting Projects Limited trading as Great Escape, the yacht charter and sailing school operating out of Doug's Opuia Boatyard.
2. Interesting Projects Limited submitted a s127 application for repositioning of the Great Escape floating structure to accommodate the wharf reconstruction aspect of the application lodged by Douglas Craig Schumck.
3. The mooring area, wharf, floating structure, slipway, and boat yard are all integrated, essential elements in our business.
4. The administration is conducted from our floating pontoon tied to the boatyard wharf (consented to 2036). We use the ablutions in the boatyard. We use the haul out and storage space in Doug's yard. From a maritime safety and operations continuity perspective these facilities are crucial.
5. Over spring/summer we had on average more than 200 sailors a month using the boatyard, reserve, and wharf. Our sailors access the wharf through the boatyard and reserve.
6. We support the complete application lodged by Douglas Craig Schumck for the following reasons;

All tide access to the wharf

7. The proposal for dredging and deeper water alongside the wharf will improve accessibility and reduce health and safety risks. At present other than two hours either side of high tide, we need to ferry our customers to and from our larger boats. This is inconvenient, adds cost and introduces health and safety risks.
8. If we have a vessel in need of unscheduled maintenance the lack of all tide access at present is also an issue.

Security - and public access

9. We support the addition of restricted access to the wharf after hours and use of the wharf by permission only. We have considerable expensive equipment and yachts on the wharf and would like to limit unauthorised access. It is standard practice in most marinas around New Zealand for access to be restricted or by invitation only. This restricted access also reduces our health and safety concerns and operational challenges.

Wharf Space

10. Our sailors have a lot of gear at the start and completion of their sailing holidays, we need access for safe operation of trolleys, we need adequate space for briefing, loading and unloading.

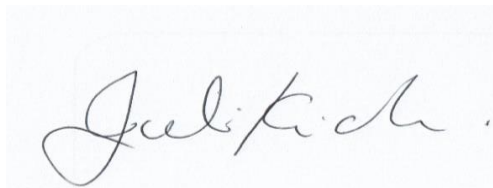
During our sailing school lessons boats are also tied to the dock at the end of each day's instruction.

Slipway

11. Considerable ongoing maintenance and refurbishment is required for the fleet. Having a local slipway and the ability to work on boats here enables us to continue to operate the business and complete maintenance tasks. When we have significant issues, such as the recent stern leg damage we need to be able to haul up and work on the boat for more than a single tide.

Wellbeing

12. As Bay of Islands residents, we are proud of the maritime heritage of the area. From the days of the “Hell Hole of the Pacific” to the thriving local and international recreational boating scene we have today. The nautical seafaring values of this community attracted us to this region.
13. Doug’s boatyard is part of the maritime history and a vibrant part of the present and future, contributing to the unique elements of our community. We enjoy watching the operation, seeing the different vessels come through. We’ve noticed plenty of others, locals and tourists, who also stop and chat, discuss their own boats and dreams with Doug, boat owners and crew working in the yard or on the wharf. Being adjacent to the Paihia-Opua walkway the boatyard adds an element of local colour and interest. We’ve observed people sitting on the sea wall, enjoying the boating landscape and taking photographs.
14. The yacht charter, sailing school and the boatyard work in harmony together. The investment Mr Schmuck is making in the boatyard supports the wellbeing of not only our own business and its employees, but several peripheral local operations which benefit from the boatyard and our yacht charter and sailing school operation.
15. Since our involvement with the boatyard we have only experienced continual improvement and strict environmental controls under the stewardship of Mr Schmuck. Most importantly this boatyard is a unique and special maritime operation that may not make economic sense but enables an important legacy to continue and will benefit generations of boating New Zealanders.



Julie Margaret Kidman
25 July 2020