

December 5, 2008

Chief Executive Officer
North Shore City Council
Private Bag 93500
Takapuna
North Shore City

Onepoto Lagoon Co-ordination Committee
c/o 3 Mollyhawk Place
Birkenhead
North Shore City

Attention Geoff Mason

Dear Mr Mason

State of stormwater ponds – Onepoto Domain

This letter is to express further concern regarding the state of the stormwater ponds in Onepoto Domain. These ponds experience a high level of recreational use both passive and active by three model boating clubs and yet these stormwater ponds are not being maintained and are in fetid condition. The smell from the mud in summer over the last few years has resulted in numerous complaints that the public toilets were leaking.

The Onepoto Lagoon Co-ordination Committee (OLCC) was in communication in 2006 with the Birkenhead-Northcote Community Board Chairperson over the state of the ponds. The OLCC also lodged a submission to the 2008/09 Annual Plan – copy of the submission and response is attached. In its presentation to the Hearings Committee, the OLCC sought that \$300,000 be identified in the 2008/09 Annual Plan for dredging the ponds.

It appears that these ponds have fallen through a gap with Parks Department not taking responsibility for stormwater ponds, and the Stormwater section not having these ponds in their register for maintenance. This is probably why they have not been adequately maintained.

The two linked ponds were identified as serving as stormwater ponds for Exmouth and Sylvan Avenues as well as the Kowhai Point development in the 1977 Reserves Management Plan Onepoto Basin & Onepoto Stream.

Policies in the current 1997 Onepoto Domain Reserve management Plan include:

5.4.7 That dredging of the lakes be provided for and that disposal of dredgings on site be an option.

5.4.10 That the lakes be de-silted regularly to maintain a minimum depth when full of 350mm approximately.

This has not happened and the ponds are now as shallow as 100-200mm for up to 2 metres around the margins (see attached survey). Not only does this compromise model boating for which the ponds are meant to be maintained, but the thick layer of fine, black mud is giving off methane and hydrogen sulphide during summer months (see attached photos).

If these ponds have not been dredged since 1977, please ensure they are given a high priority in the stormwater pond maintenance budget for this year.

Sincerely

Carol Bergquist
Onepoto Lagoon Co-ordination Committee

CC Jennifer Yorke, Chair Birkenhead-Northcote Community Board
Cc Richard Plinston, Onepoto Lagoon Co-ordination Committee