

R M 230077 RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE)
9 TAWA AVENUE KAIWAKA

Our submission at hearing on 21-11-23

I Sydney Wayne Leslie and my wife Linda Elizabeth Leslie vehemently oppose this application and re-zoning of land at 9 Tawa Ave.

I have lived on Settlement Road all but 4 years of my 67 years and am well versed in all things connected to, and around Settlement Road.

We farm and own properties at 49 Tawa Ave, 99C Settlement Road, 226 Settlement Road and 314 Settlement Road where we live.

We also lease land at 163 Settlement Road which belongs to A D Leslie my brother and has been in the Leslie family since the late 1800's. This land is adjacent to 9 Tawa Ave. There is approx. 66 acres and we ran mainly beef and a few sheep including young calves and animals up to 2 years old. These young calves are somewhat flighty and are easily disturbed and distracted by vehicles and noise. I regularly move bikes, tractors and these stock along Settlement Road and up Tawa Ave which would be made significantly more difficult and at times impossible with extra vehicles, noise, pedestrians and congestion especially at peak school hours.

I consider myself to be one of the best persons to give an expert appraisal of the farming background, stock movement, and especially traffic movements and management including increased flows and increased heavy traffic. Increased development on Settlement Road has caused and will continue to cause an exponential increase in traffic flows especially heavy traffic but also cars, vans, pedestrians, and cyclists.

I have read the evidence given by Mr Shields. While I don't doubt his credentials I do doubt his integrity. I believe he has been sourced for, and paid by the M.O.E. and his findings are biased towards the support of this notice of requirement (N.O.R.). He has written his report mostly from afar and come to a lot of conclusions, some that are factually incorrect and misleading.

In paragraph 4.7 of his statement of evidence it states that the Kura will be classed as a category 2 school because of the 60 kph speed limit and no vulnerable road users. We believe that a more appropriate speed limit outside the Kura on Tawa Ave and either side of Tawa Ave on Settlement Road should be 40 kph and most likely be so implemented. As for walkers and cyclists there are already numerous as I see them every day and only likely to be many more if the Kura goes ahead. Only recently a young girl got hit by a car in the vicinity of Tawa Ave and suffered a broken arm. The road as it is now is dangerous for walkers, runners and cyclists alike as it is narrow with a lot of steep drains either side. No footpath and never likely to have and no street or road lighting.

With the increased traffic using paragraph 4.13 which we believe to be on the light side this is an increase of over 33% with extra 1.8% compound growth to 2042 Para.4.9. This 1.8% is way off the mark as it was done pre covid. The extra houses and road users on Settlement Road has probably doubled this figure p.a. already. Add all this to the congestion at Settlement Road State Highway one (SH1) intersection there would be up to 70% more traffic trying to get onto SH1. Also in The Spatial Plan Kaiwaka there is an anticipation of up to 789 new dwellings on 5 Kaiwaka Southern Valley A 41ha and 6 Kaiwaka Southern Valley B 33ha most of if not all of

these properties will access SH1 from the Settlement Road SH1 intersection with possibly 1500 more vehicle movements per day. This results in another 145% increase at this pivotal intersection with over 10,000 vehicle movements on SH1 at this intersection alone and likely to double in the next 10-15 years with new motorways to be constructed between Whangarei and Warkworth.

We do not find this as Mr Shields puts it negligible, far from it. This increase in traffic is horrific and accidents in waiting. The last thing we want is any child or adult from the Kura or anyone at the Intersection of Settlement and SH1 to be injured, traumatised or worse.

There is also some traffic from Hasties Lane which is also at the Settlement Road SH1 intersection and a burger-takeaways shop at the western side of the SH1 Hasties Lane intersection that causes congestion and panic as to who can use the median strip in the centre of SH1 and when a drivers are trying to use this same strip to turn off left and right both ways at the same spot. It is a 60 kph zone but traffic going North down the hill to Settlement Road SH1 Intersections are invariably much faster. There seems to be no plans for a bi-pass around Kaiwaka township at this time. How are the residents going to get out to SH1 to access essentials like food, groceries, stockfood, veterinary supplies, medication etc. A roundabout would have to be built needing buy-in from a lot of agencies, confiscation of land and a huge cost partially because a Kura is being built on land that has no infrastructure and is zoned Rural. In terms of crashes on the stretch from Tawa Ave to SH1 I take Mr Shields to task once again his report neglects to include accidents that have happened and have been attended to by Fire and Emergency St Johns and police at both the SH1 Settlement Road intersection and along Settlement Road. I personally have seen or witnessed at least a dozen accidents in the last 5 years on this stretch of road. Why wasn't myself or other locals consulted to get a real picture of what happens on our road instead of glossing over the facts and misleading the Kaipara District Council (KDC) and M.O.E. Not all these crashes have been serious enough to be reported to the police or have been cleaned up before authorities have been informed or involved, but one accident was a people mover rolled onto its side with a pregnant mother and 5 children on board. Another two car collision at the intersection of SH1 and Settlement Road. Both cars were written off and a local woman has ongoing back injuries. Fire and Emergency, St Johns and Police were all in attendance to these particular accidents. How come there is no record in Mr Shields report. Further up the road around 314 Settlement Road cars spin out on a almost weekly basis with many of them stuck in ditches or in my road fences. One month ago someone demolished my letterbox in my driveway. Often I am called upon to pull them out with a 4WD ute or tractor with promises of compensation which never or very rarely happens.

We are in total agreement and support the Pro submissions that a Kura of this type is needed and should happen in the Kaipara area.

We agree with the relocation of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Ngringaomatatariki for the betterment of the Tamariki of Te Uri O Hau especially to uphold and reinforce their culture and laungage. We believe that the M.O.E. along with their expert planners have left Settlement Road and the Kura from Oruawharo down by buying this land 9 Tawa Ave. This land is not zoned or appropriate for a 0-18year Kura. Not nearly big enough for 250 (and in time probably more) pupils. No water supply, no sewerage disposal, not enough stormwater dispersal, no footpath to and from, not enough parking and way too much traffic congestion inevitably leading to more accidents.

While pumping waste water (sewage) could be an option it is unlikely to happen because of the cost, the distance and the likelihood of a large upgrade needed of the Kaiwaka reticulated network. With the further development planned for Kaiwaka township with lots more houses and industry, why would the KDC accept sewage from outside the old town boundary.

Undoubtedly there will be run off from stormwater and or wastewater from any soakage field in advance weather conditions running into downstream farmland and waterways. It's also only a few kilometres to the nearest tributary of the Kaipara Harbour. This harbour is the spawning ground for 80% of all snapper on the west coast from North Cape to halfway down the South Island, This harbour is already under severe threat from pollution caused by development population and forestry. The scallop beds have been decimated and a rahui has been in place for the last 5 or more years and not much sign of replacement.

At 9 Tawa Ave there will also be limited space for green areas and sport and recreation.

A more appropriate site which we were told at an onsite meeting that was not looked at may have been down Bickerstaffe Road in Maungaturoto.

I have since been told that it was originally looked at but the Kura board felt that they might lose some of their identity by being closer to another Marae (Otamatea the Mother Marae of Te Uri O Hau). Surely in the interests of the Tamariki of this area this should have been a positive initiative not a negative one.

Bickerstaffe Road has the majority of the children that would attend this facility in the vicinity. It has all the amenities needed-water supply,sewage, nearby sports and recreation. Also has bike and pedestrian access, bus turning, car parking, footpath into town and street lighting. There is already a high school there and I'm sure their amenities like swimming pool, Gymnasium, fields and others could be shared and no need to rezone land and plenty of space.

When the land at 9 Tawa Ave was bought by M.O.E.there was no consultation by the Kura or the previous owner or the M.O.E.and somewhat strangely without thought that it would be mandatory and wanted, that there would be a consultation process that even if it wasn't legally required.

If the previous owners had known of the neighbours' opposition then they may have had second thoughts about selling to the M.O.E.

We the locals have had no voice until this N.O.R.and it appears that it is a fait accompli.

There are a lot of pro submitters and we agree that a facility of this type is needed and deserving of this area but if the dealings has not been done behind closed doors a much better outcome may have been achieved without divisiveness and disagreement. Again shame on the M.O.E. for not consulting the locals or the general public and spending our money not theirs on this property that is entirely not suitable.

Of the pro submitters thank you Reno Skipper for at least acknowledging our concerns, but how many of these pro submitters live on or near Settlement Road. NOT ONE.

Their concern is ours that a Kura be built here or somewhere for their culture and language to be upheld and advanced and we understand that but we have other concerns and responsibilities to our road and farmland.

Surely the ones that are most affected by this Kura should get listened to more than someone outside of the area say Wellsford, Maungaturoto, Auckland or anywhere in New Zealand. This will affect our everyday life and livelihood and greatly increase the risk of accidents and injury on Settlement Road. It will devalue any land that we may want to sell near 9 Tawa Ave.

NOW THIS IS IMPORTANT If you buy land next to an existing school or Kura you know what you are getting yourself into. If a property is rezoned and a school or Kura built there it has been foisted onto us and neighbours with no consultation, comeback or compensation. If a Kura is built here it will be here to stay for the foreseeable future. What happens when the roll exceeds 250 pupils *WHICH IT WILL*. What happens then. What happens when there are 300 vehicles trying to get on SH1 in one or two peak hours. Someone will get impatient and the likelihood of an accident increases. What happens when the soakage facilities and wastewater overflows and affects the downstream water courses, farmland and the Kaiwaka River and Kaipara Harbour.

AND IT WILL HAPPEN. We and the neighbours will blame the M.O.E. not doing due diligence properly. But hang on, the people making these decisions have long moved on but we are still here trying to deal with the cards we have been dealt.

Also because of Tawa Ave being relatively isolated and not in the public eye we believe a lot of residents will feel more insecure with a lot of extra people-adults and children frequenting the area.

In closing we know a few sites were identified as suitable and this site ticked more boxes than some of the other sites. And it was for sale, we don't believe due diligence was done by the M.O.E. and the Kura board and, with complete lack of consultation we know there could have been a much more suitable site with more space, infrastructure and less traffic impact had the net been cast a little wider and it would be an aberration if this site is rezoned and this application is granted it will be difficult but try not to be swaged by the beautiful waiata and korero and passion displayed by the pupils parents and teaches and pro submitters. We were in awe of these presentations especially from the tamariki - it was an absolute delight and privilege to hear and witness. But this hearing is not about whether this Kura is needed or wanted it's about its suitability at 9 Tawa Ave and the obvious ill effects on our road, neighbours farmland and animals, and absolute traffic congestion.

Hopefully as an independent commissioner our concerns are heard and that this Resource Consent is not granted and that the N.O.R. is declined and that 9 Tawa Ave not be designated Asa Kura Kaupapa Maori for years 0-13 and a Puna Reo.

There is a distinct lack of detail and numerous inaccuracies in the statements of evidence and they should be thrown out and done by completely independent professionals.

Thank you for your time and the ability for us to air our greivences.

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