

**Milou Barrett - Subdivision Hearing Plan 48**

I have many concerns if the proposed subdivision was to go ahead and oppose it in its entirety.

**Oakura School is at capacity now**

- The school has had steady growth now for a number of years with development coming from infill and areas already zoned for development – this will continue with what we have now.
- Parking and traffic safety by the school is currently an issue. Peak times already take up all available parking, (Donnelly St, Hussey St, Main St, Outlook, back of the 4 Square). Vision can be difficult when coming from Donnelly St onto the Main Rd, especially at peak times.
- An increased risk of the safety of children getting to and from school with increased traffic. Navigating a busy highway and a busy Donnelly St already pose safety problems for our community, an influx of traffic will have severe implications to the safety of our school community.

The thought that The Ministry of Education thinks that the school's capacity is 1000 is a joke!

No other primary school in Taranaki has 500, let alone 1000 students, the largest **intermediate** has around 600 on a site considerably bigger than Oakura School. We have only 2 High Schools who have exceeded 1000 students on sites that we can not even compare to Oakura School's site.

With the proposed subdivision Oakura School would grow considerably impacting on the values and character of the school. Sports fields would have to go to make room for classrooms. The only other sports fields in Oakura is Corbett Park. A 20 minute walk to and from would take away from crucial educational time and compromise the safety of our children travelling along a main highway. As a parent I find this completely ridiculous.

Auckland primary schools may have these huge numbers, but also have the infrastructure to cater for this – that is because they are in a built up, high density, urban area where they are able to manage and cater for this. Oakura is not a high density urban area, but a semi-rural township and we should adhere to the long term plan prepared by the Oakura Community Board. This does not include the proposed subdivision on the mountain side of State Highway 45!

Increased numbers at the school could mean the school is forced to loose their year 7 & 8 students. This is something our school community values and is part of the schools character. To loose the year 7 & 8 students from the school would be a detriment to the valued leadership and caring nature our students gain from this.

**Traffic**

Increased traffic volumes will compromise safety, especially to our children heading to and from school and commuting around Oakura. Entering onto the main highway is already hazardous, especially by the 4 saure and off Wairau Rd. Crossing of the main road will become even more treacherous.

Oakura already lacks sufficient parking space at and around the school, the main road, library, at the beach to name only a few.

Being able to commute safely around the village for us and our children is detrimental to the quality of life and village atmosphere.

### **Further Development**

Infil housing and proposed development will continue to create growth and will continue to need to be managed and already is putting strain on our infrastructure and services.

Development should happen on the seaside of the main road to aide with this management.

If this subdivision was to go ahead it will change the landscape from rural to urban and destroy rural views and vista leading up to the Kaitake ranges. Development on the seaside would be less visible and have more options to walk/bike rather than take a vehicle.

Having this proposed development so close to Kaitake ranges would increase pests in which we are working so hard in trying to reduce and eradicate.

Insufficient infrastructure as grassland is converted into curbs, roading and pathways will add to erosion of stream banks and runoff into our streams and to the beach.

### **Population**

Oakura has a village feel and a unique character and an amazing sense of community – this **will be** compromised with such a huge growth of population, we do not have the infrastructure or services to cope with this growth – gradual growth will continue to happen with infil and proposed development already zoned.