

Re: Request for a Private Plan change to rezone land at Wairau Road, Oakura. (ref: 8030341)

I will begin with: I do not believe that large subdivisions should be allowed so close to the native bush.

TRAFFIC

The proposal is to create nearly 400 sections on the above farm land. If each property equals approx 1.5 cars plus visitors etc, that is a huge amount of extra traffic for Wairau/Surrey Hill Road residents with no other way out. And if the entry/exit is moved south to State Highway 45, we still get the congestion at the main road intersection.

Along with the predicted 30,000 vehicles per year with the bike trail up Surrey Hill Road, the traffic amounts will be massive for our once peaceful rural area.

Mid Wairau Rd

This two-lane road (long overdue for widening) is rendered a single lane at the moment when traffic is parked by kerb-side and there has been many close calls as a result. There will be horses, runners, bikers on mid Wairau Rd along with all this extra traffic two ways plus the Wairau Rd resident's vehicles.

Main road through township

Morning rush hours and school times will likely see much congestion near the main road and at the Four Square intersection. As it is there are already hold ups.

The township already struggles with parking and congestion.

Some years back the angle parking was removed from opposite the hotel and parallel parking put in. Hence, we have less space for parking.

Now there is a middle island for walkers which creates blockages for traffic.

I cannot see how all the extra traffic will get through without major hold ups. I imagine it will be a colossal waste to reverse the work already done to make the extra space. As it is, more often than not, the main street parks are all taken so if one needs the chemist one is often out of luck to park nearby.

RUBBISH

Surrey Hill Road is becoming a dumping area for car rubbish. And of course, with extra people comes more rubbish and pollution. Why can't we fix up these existing problems before creating more.

I'm picking also that there'll be plenty of animal excrement along the roadsides to be stepped on as well as on the bike trail through the native bush.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

With all this extra local population comes extra visitors also.

Undesirables, criminals, druggies....pot smokers and meth addicts and crazy drivers, rubbish dumpers, all of which will no doubt be utilising the isolated car park at the end of Surrey Hill road which will affect all of us in this area one way or the other. Especially young people and old.

Our little patch of paradise (one of the few left hereabouts) is about to be desecrated the same as Cowling Rd and other secluded spots.

OVERKILL

An acquaintance in NP who has recently upgraded from single to double carport had to get the required permits/consents, but also a survey

had to be done to determine if one extra car coming out onto a very wide street in NP with numerous ways in and out would cause problems.

UNDERKILL

Yet here we are with a possible 30000 plus extra cars both ways, with bikers, horses, runners etc, (all on the road not the footpath) all sharing these roads, some parts of, that may never overly wide, and will there be a survey here to show the fiasco it could become?

I 'd imagine there'd be some serious safety issues here.

MARKET GLUT

If this subdivision goes through there will be a glut of properties on the market for sale therefore impacting negatively on the value of all other properties in the area.

HOW IT AFFECTS ME

My few minute's drive from home to work and back again through the township could well turn into a long drawn out affair.

Sunday drivers all the way into NP on weekdays on way to work.

Weekends will be a nightmare at my house on Surrey Hill with many of these newcomers wandering on up the road.

With this possible subdivision and the new bike trail life will never be the same.

Seclusion and privacy as well as feeling safe in your own home will be lost to a large degree. Secure gates and fences will be needed.

Doors and windows open while on one's property will be a worry.

My fifty or so years on the Surrey Hill Road, in the place I always expected to retire on, I did not foresee traffic jams and copious amounts of traffic coming past my house on my Once Quiet road. Privacy will be under threat as well as feeling safe in my own home with doors and windows open. Gates will have to be properly installed.

Our once quiet lovely peaceful road is being invaded and it seems we have no rights to maintain a semblance of our past lifestyle.

THE END.....

Of an era

Jennifer Maree Wells