

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Further to what my legal counsel have already submitted I would like to make the following comments.

I woke up early this morning and pulled back the curtains and looked out into the early dawn and the mist over the paddocks and it was so quiet. I sat in silence with my hot cup of tea and contemplated what I was going to say today. Then the birds started to talk to each other. When something is so important sometimes it is difficult to put it into words in a way that others can understand.

My home at 511 Mill Road is the historic Oddfellows Lodge built in the 1870's to support the local rural community. It is one of the most affected by this proposal because the development directly affects my southern and western boundaries. Currently beyond my boundaries are operative farming and grazing activities. I enjoy picturesque mountain views against this rural backdrop, a multitude of native birdsong, bright stars on dark and clear nights and the quiet and tranquility that rural life offers me.

I enjoy the relaxed, comfortable, and safe rural village environment Ohoka has to offer with the domain, the community market on Fridays, the stream walkway and the ability for horses to be ridden safely along the berm around the community. This is the reason why I wanted to live here and the reason I bought the house, for this small rural community. If I wanted to live in a subdivision, I would have bought a property in a subdivision. People move to Ohoka for a rural outlook which I currently have, but will no longer enjoy if PC31 is approved.

It lacks the hustle and bustle of city life and traffic safety issues which would become very difficult with the proposal providing up to 850 new households. These were all critical factors in my decision to purchase my property.

It is abhorrent to me that my property would be amongst commercial and residential development and that all the aspects that make Ohoka so special would be eroded.

It is a unique community that Council and others want to retain and the reason why it has not been identified for urban growth. I personally feel very protective of our village.

I warmly invite the panel to visit me at my property so that you can understand the magnitude of a decision in favour of this proposal.