

Tena koutou katoa, my name is Catherine Thorley and I live with my family on Exelby Road and I'm speaking today with my Mum & family who are part of our 'farm bubble' in level 3 lockdown. I am a registered nurse and small business owner and thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns and whilst they are mostly subjective and from our observations (not official reports) we value the opportunity to be heard.

I am also very grateful to Kay Maroney for keeping us informed about the proceedings as we have never been invited to any meetings or consultations regarding this subdivision and my initial understanding regarding this development was that Exelby Road was not going to be used as a through-road for the first stages of the construction ... and that suitable roading was being constructed to service the development. I wondered whether the lack of information was due to us being Waikato District Council residents, not Hamilton City Council but I'm unsure now if there was any information or whether Waikato District Council has in fact been involved in this subdivision process at all.

Our paramount concerns are for the safety of our children, my family, my neighbours, the community and the users of the roads in this area. I have lived with my family on Exelby Road since 1990 after moving from the king country have now made this area my home with my young family for over 12 years. In that time we have witnessed the road useage significantly increased. As a child growing up on the farm we would ride our horses to meet the neighbours and biked or walked to the local school. I strongly suggest these activities are now unsafe and our use of the road for walking or biking has greatly decreased since the various housing developments in this area have resulted in high volumes of heavy traffic, trucks and subcontractors. This has highlighted the lack of safe walking and cycling options particularly for Exelby and Burbush Roads. In short, if it's morning or from 4.30 pm onwards we avoid the roads if at all possible due to the volume of traffic travelling in both directions (making it impossible for them to swerve over the white line to make room for cyclists or pedestrians).

Over the years I have phoned both HCC and WDC to discuss my concerns about the volume of trucks on Exelby Road and most recently the safety of children using the school bus on Exelby Road. I have timed up to 6 trucks passing in a 10 minute period during the morning whilst awaiting the school bus to collect my children. I have watched them from our house travel up and down over a blind hill on Exelby Road on the wrong side of the road and requiring over half of the width of the opposite side of the road for their vehicles. I have witnessed cars pulling off the road to avoid oncoming trucks and on numerous occasions I have had to walk down banks or into roadside vegetation to avoid oncoming wide vehicles. My children are not allowed to exercise on our road without an adult and I work hard not be worried about them simply getting on and off the school bus each day with the lack of visibility on Exelby Road and the speed and volume of traffic, especially large trucks.

I have expressed my concerns to both councils about the safety of this road over the years and have questioned why trucks are not using more suitable, wider roads such as Avalon drive to transport machinery, land fill, water and supplies to subdivision sites. I have been bounced between phoning councils, advised to dial *555 for dangerous driving or speak to Waka Kotahi to ascertain whether trucks should even be using Exelby Road. I never understood the complexities of balancing responsibilities for community and road safety

between various councils and subdividers until I became slightly aware of the process we find ourselves in as residents effected by this proposed subdivison. I am left to wonder if this why roading improvements have not been made to our local roads by the council? Are they in fact waiting for the costs to be absorbed by developers?

I understand there is to be a widening of the road to 7-7.5 metres. Currently it measures 5.8-6.2metre (by a lay person). Which side of the road will be widened? When there is a constant bounce between HCC and WDC for even phone calls about roading concerns and even different councils collecting rubbish depending on what side of the road you reside! Will this be a lengthy delay in negotiations as the councils decide on this factor?

I don't understand why we are we waiting for the road to be upgraded after 500 houses have been built? The construction traffic will be significant let alone the impact of increased commuter traffic. I originally understood this threshold was 200 houses. How has this changed? Is this even a feasible arrangement considering the concerns regarding driveway visibility and areas of concerns already mentioned?

Could we please request that roading upgrade and safety for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles be upheld with the highest regard before another subdivision is permitted. I support increased and improved housing for all people in this country and region but not at the expense of the safety of existing members of the community.

The noise and dirt pollution is also of concern. The only respite coming in level 3 & 4 lockdowns without heavy vehicles rumbling past and rattling our home and the land. I have travelled behind and been walking when dirt and debri has fallen off the back of trucks and seen the roads become caked with dirt from the transport of fill and earthworks machinery. I would also like to ask how the natural environment and the waterways leading to Lake Rotokauri have been acknowledged by the developers? I worry for the drains leading to the lake every time there is heavy rain and debri running off from the road. Are all of the factors of safety and wellbeing for people and the environment being considered?

The speed at which the traffic travels and the poor visibility gives no chance to a crossing pheasant, let alone a human walking on the side of the road with no curb or footpath. We comment and I have even said to customer enquiry staff from the council, what are we waiting for to occur? Will it take a death or a more serious accident than those that have already occurred before something is done to improve safety on these roads? I hope that it does not come to this and I hope that the small number of people in our community even aware of the request by developers not to undertake roading upgrades prior to construction is enough to convince this hearing that something must be done earlier than proposed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.