

Tabled
10/12

FURTHER SUBMISSION TO THE HEARING ON THE URBAN AND SERVICES PLAN CHANGES TO THE WHANGARI DISTRICT PLAN

By Rosemary Morgan

Thank you for the opportunity to make further comments on Kianga Ora's submission due to the lateness of their submission. The opportunity is gratefully received, but the process has been 'stuffed up' again!

- I received the notification of the extra hearing from Eden Edwardson of the WDC on Monday 2 December. It was addressed to me personally. I assumed that other submitters had been notified too. I did not receive the attached Direction 2 from the Chair of the Hearing with this notice.
- I met Jenny Edwards in Puriri Park on Thursday 5th. At that time, she did not know about the extra chance to present evidence.
- I immediately contacted Eden asking whether the letter to me was intended for me personally or for the Puriri Park and Maunu Residents Society Inc. of which I am the secretary.
- She answered, saying it was for both. There was nothing in her email to indicate that I needed to send the email on to other people. At that point I forwarded the email.
- Jenny Edwards is not a member of the Society. Nor is the submitter who appeared first today. If it hadn't been for a chance meeting, neither of them would be here today. How many others would have liked to be here, but it wasn't communicated to any of them? What were the criteria for admission to this added hearing?
- It was only this morning (Monday November 9th) that I received a replacement copy of HNZ's first document and some of its evidence – all 400+ pages of it. And like the rest of us, I haven't read or received the rest of their material.
- I just haven't had the time to read the inundation of HNZ's material and much of the material is beyond my understanding. I need help to translate it into an easily understood language.

Rob Forlong's Letter

I sent a copy of my last submission and Kerry Grundy's submission to the WDC Mayor, Councillors and the CEO. In the introduction I said I wanted to make sure they knew what we said at the Hearing.

One of our complaints about the processes of this civic activity, was the difficulties of locating information relating to this Hearing on the WDC web site. Another complaint was about the number of expensive experts that large companies, government bodies and local councils with bottomless expense accounts can hire to quash all other opinions. Mr Rob Forlong's letter in reply to this is, is attached.

If this is the beginning of some real change to give the public/community participants some genuine acknowledgement that they know and understand their home area better than anyone else, then all this has been worthwhile. It is not up to anyone else to barge in and change the whole character of a suburb by the introduction of high density state house development with all its attending problems.

All multi-unit dwellings should go through the consent process as there needs to be some checks to protect existing dwellings & the future tenants.

We are here because we love living here and want to retain the special characteristics of each of our suburbs. It is our city, our district and our district plan. Let us organise it the way we want it to be. It does look to those of us who think we know what is going on, as though Whangarei is a target for Housing NZ and still is with Kianga Ora. Is it because we have a National MP? If they believe their own motto of Homes and Communities, they should realise that it is existing communities who are being ignored, trodden on and generally abused. But we are all part of their communities already. They should not ride rough shod over us.

I completely stand by the material in my previous submissions. But I would also add the lack of Kianga Ora's evidence and its arrogant disregard of deadlines has left us with a bad taste of how little they care about local people. How can we possibly do a good job today when much of the material we need hasn't got to us yet? Their focus on providing housing is admirable and important to many, but it shouldn't be at done with total disregard of existing communities.

I still hope for some realization that we are indeed a democracy and that the people's opinions do, in fact, matter.

From: Rosemary Morgan
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 8:59 AM
To: Rob Forlong
Subject: RE: Hearing submissions

Ha ha I say!! R

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Rob Forlong
Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2019 12:58 PM
To: Rosemary Morgan; Sheryl Maj; Cr. Phil Halse; Cr. Tricia Cutforth; Cr. Gavin Benney; Cr. Greg Martin; Cr. Anna Murphy; Cr. Vince Cocurullo; Cr. Greg Innes; Cr. Jayne Golightly; cr.reid@wdc; Cr. Carol Peters; Cr. Nicholas Connop; Cr. Shelley Deeming
Subject: RE: Hearing submissions

Hi Ms Morgan

Thanks for your email. I've read through the submissions and while I wouldn't agree with everything - your points around how difficult it is for a non-specialist to access the system are very well made.

I have worked with the Resource Management Act since its inception in 1991 and over that time I have witnessed it becoming more and more driven by legal arguments and process. As you have seen first-hand, an RMA hearing is now more akin to a court case that a process of community engagement.

From time to time I discuss these matters with senior officials from the Ministry for the Environment who oversee the RMA process. I would like your permission to use your examples in my discussions so that they can get a real world view of the downside of the "leagalisation" of the RMA process. I don't need to use your name or details but I do think your views would be beneficial.

Thanks again for your insights.

Regards

Rob

Rob Forlong

Chief Executive

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From: Rosemary Morgan <romiemorgan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 5 December 2019 4:15 PM