

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Private Plan Change 95 Pencarrow Estate
Pongakawa to the Western Bay of Plenty
District Plan

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF KIRSTY GARRETT
ON BEHALF OF KEVIN AND ANDREA MARSH**

1. My name is Kirsty Garrett. I am a part time Pukehina resident.
2. I wish to support the Plan Change 95 applicants Kevin and Andrea Marsh through this evidence, speaking from my experience as a resident active in community initiatives and planning not only in Pukehina but the wider Te Puke area including Pongakawa. I am a committee member of the Pukehina Residents and Ratepayers Association and am heavily involved in several projects being pursued by that group, in particular a planned cycleway linking Pukehina to Pongakawa and beyond.
3. I am very aware of the need for more housing in our community. The plan change would contribute to delivering housing and the population base responding to employment opportunities, and in turn supporting the local economy and recreational investments and goals of the community.
4. I acknowledge that there may need to be some changes to the roading in the area to support the growth but I understand this is to be possibly developer-funded and I support any changes that NZTA need to ensure to make the roading is safe for the growing population.
5. The plan change in particular would economically support investments to-date for the Pukehina-led planned cycleway and walkway from Pukehina to Pongakawa. Resource consent has been granted for part of this route from Pukehina to Cutwater Road, and from there the planned route is to go to the Wharere Canal and down to Pongakawa and link to Arawa Road where WBOPDC have planned cycle path and playground infrastructure within the paper road of Arawa Road. Should the plan change vision come to life, with a shop/café/further playgrounds and reserves, this would be an obvious choice destination for the Pongakawa end of the cycle pathway.
6. I am also aware of links from Pongakawa to Maketu and Paengaroa in planning stages, completing a series of cycle paths from Te Puke township to the smaller

and coastal settlements to the east. The commercial development opportunities at Pongakawa would similarly create a central destination for recreational cyclists of those other routes also connecting communities.

7. The proposal makes use of land close to an existing settlement and in my view the loss of this 10ha of farmland would deliver considerably more benefit to our community. Our community needs substantially more housing and this needs to be put somewhere.
8. I thank you for your consideration of my submission evidence and am happy to answer any questions of the commissioners on my submission points.

Kirsty Garrett

25 October 2024