

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 SUE MATTHEWS (PAENGAROA COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED)
ON BEHALF OF KEVIN AND ANDREA MARSH**

1. My name is Sue Matthews. I am the current Chair of the Paengaroa Community Association. I have lived and worked in this district my entire life and have served as a previous Western Bay of Plenty District Councillor so I believe I have some insight into resource management planning.
2. I wish to support the Plan Change 95 applicants Kevin and Andrea Marsh through this evidence, on behalf of the Association. I wish to elaborate on our original submission.
3. We have seen first hand the positive economic and social effects of enabling growth in our settlement with the recent Wattle Grove Development. It has had a very positive change to the feel of the community restoring a vibrancy and diversity. This development has also attracted new businesses and increased the opportunities for return to business's and job creation. Another very important aspect is the positive social connectedness and social infrastructure that has been created along with increased kindergarten and school roll numbers. There have been opportunities for community initiatives to be realised as the community. One example is the community have worked in partnership with Western Bay District Council Reserves staff to create a fabulous Conway reserve park. We wish to see the same opportunities in the Pongakawa settlement at Arawa Road given the strong similarities and links between the two areas.
4. Pongakawa and Paengaroa have been central to significant expansion and growth in kiwifruit operations in recent years, bringing with it direct and indirect growth and demand for dwellings and land in this area. Therefore enabling the plan change would support those seeking to relocate here for employment in local industries, rural community lifestyle choices, and have a positive impact on reducing travel times to enable working in our local communities more sustainably.

5. Paengaroa Community Association are very keen to support this proposal as it makes perfect sense – and strengthens community development within our rural area and reinforces making a positive contribution to the use of land close to an existing settlement, this development is close to the important transport corridor of SH2, close to social infrastructure and in my view the loss of this 10ha of farmland would deliver a multitude of positive benefits to the Pongakawa and Paengaroa communities.

6. I thank you for your consideration of my submission evidence and am happy to answer any questions of the commissioners on my submission points.

Sue Matthews MNZM
Chair – Paengaroa Community Association.

25 October 2024