

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 ROBYNE COOPER

SUBMITTER ON PRIVATE PLAN CHANGE 95

My name is Robyne Cooper and I have lived continuously in Arawa Road for over 36 Years. I have previously made submissions on Plan Change 95 and I would once again like to express my very strong support for the proposed Pencarrow subdivision, I feel my length of time residing in the area and affiliation with Pongakawa School gives me a unique perspective on the benefits of being a part of this very special community.

- Pongakawa School is indeed the jewel in the crown pertaining to the growth of our area. I have raised 4 Sons all of whom attended this fabulous school and it was indeed the main reason why we settled here. It has been the focus of so many opportunities and benefits, we not only have a 25 Mt heated swimming Pool but also a fabulous Tech Centre and large recreational grounds, all of which is accessible to the community. However, it is the heart of the school that sets it apart and the ability for our community to grow and support this, would be amazing.
- There is a very real shortage of affordable housing in Pongakawa and to attest to this I have had two of my sons and two grandsons relocate as they were unable to buy a house in the community in which they grew up in and very much wanted to settle. The vision of other young couples to be able to be part of what we all benefited from is exciting not only for the school but for the community to grow and have real social connections, something that is not always possible in larger towns and cities.
- The proposed plan change would provide much needed housing and clear potential for extended community amenities. The idea of a store (That I could actually walk to!) and health provider among other possibilities as in the proposed cycle trail from Pukehina to Pongakawa which our growth would support. What an amazing opportunity - I feel myself grinning from ear to ear as I write this!!
- Although these proposed changes have attracted negativity and pessimism from some, I feel the need to change our vision on “what we were” to “what we could become” is a vital and exciting possibility and to give others the chance to enjoy our “Wee Slice of Paradise”