

Fay Looney MNZM  
Koru Rd.

I have been putting together this submission ever since I was aware of the need to speak up and oppose this proposed plan change.

I tossed most of it aside last night after spending the day listening to submitter's for the applicant.

Technical experts I will not argue with, as I am certainly not qualified to question their expertise.

I am however very qualified to celebrate the lifestyle that Oakura delivers to me my family and our residents every day of my life.

Living here raising a family participating in the communities activities should be a prerequisite for those who are in charge of a communities well being & environment. KCB proved yesterday they are champions for the community and backed it up with detailed proof.

"You need to be here "and feel the vibe that unites Oakura"  
Oakura was settled by the first settlers they brought with them farming skills and instilled them in the generations to come you will hear 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> generations voices in submissions today.

Oakura is an International Village now just listen to the many languages our 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> generations are exposed to in the playgrounds of Oakura School, everyday.  
Such are the benefits of the village atmosphere.

The applicants Planning expert obviously does not live here

“does the applicant”and therein is the problem we face at times such as this proposed private plan change.

Many experts” start from a negative position, by not being a resident of the place they are anticipating shaping “their way”

It seems the applicants planning expert felt that as the local coffee shop was closed at 2pm it indicated a lack of enthusiasm for business in the Village.

Here’s a hint if you still want a coffee and High Tide Coffee is closed at 2pm after being open since the early hours just cross the road and get one from 4square or Butlers Reef. Another option is drive to the beach down Wairau Rd the surf shop has a great coffee service you can sniff the ozone and dip your toes in the Tasman Sea long before your coffee cools down.

I also heard how the applicant is kindly donating a piece of art to become a focal point of his proposed large residential development on our rural landscape.

I have a question about that.

Why is it that people are more proud of promoting something from somewhere else other than supporting local.?

Oakura has sculptor’s Internationally recognised sculptor’s one lives on Wairau Rd. As we speak presenting at an International forum in Europe by invitation.

There are at least 4 other celebrated sculptors within a stones throw of the “Paddocks.”

1000 children at our local school? I guess that means a minimum of 500 cars delivering them on a one-way street. Goodbye playgrounds and wellbeing factors.

15000 people riding their bikes and walking from Pukeiti the top of Surrey Hill Rd?

We can’t discuss that because it is not up for discussion yet and may never be.

Green School.

Yes I believe it is a reality the trucks roaring past my door many times a day carrying the topsoil breaking up the road indicate something's happening.

However if your information is coming from the media then I would hold fire for a while with regard to the details.

I know this property well; it bordered ours for many years our families shared harvesting duties and horses then tractors.

It's full of Koru history including 22 existing building sites originally intended to become Koru Township. Our first home was its Post Office.

The river stone chimney is part of my Koru Gallery & Sculpture garden

What qualifies me to be here today??

My late husband (Harry's) great great grandfather J.J.Looney And his wife were the first European's to settle in Oakura. In 1866 JJ Looney purchased 300 acres of land in Oakura Lot 29 was a part of that land.

John J. Looney was a developer he owned Lot 29 His point of difference to today's discussion is that he contributed much of his life to creating a community and serving the community, not sucking the life out of it.

Self-sufficiency ruled his household, most likely the first green farmer in local history.

The family milled trees with a circular saw, built a water wheel that created the power to enable much of the development and building of their family home, and others. John imported choice varieties of apples and pears for the orchard often shared with the community.

His vision saw the creation of the dairy factory where he ran everything by water power, their homestead built from timber milled off the farm

His children were the original pupils that opened the Oakura School along with the Julian family.

J.J.Looney invested time in developing the village community.

He served as Commissioner 15<sup>th</sup> District Roads Board.

Provisional trustee for BNZ Taranaki – 1861

Auditor Oakura Roads Board – 1872.

Inspector and Auditor provincial Cattle Board – 1866

Member of Oakura School Board 1874

Chairman of Oakura School Board. ( a position I carried myself for several years)

Kate Julian married JJ's son Harry they combined Harry's 50-acre block and the Julian farm on Koru Rd.

This is where I have lived for the past 60 years.

As do the late Keith Looney's family still farming a large portion of the original farm

I quote from Mr. Paul Goldsmiths submission to the 2010 Paddocks Subdivision Consent”

“Thank you for drawing our attention to the vulnerability...where village meets country.

It's important to get this solution right for the future of this district. “

Unquote.

Did we get it right then ?

No

It would be far more meaningful to be talking to you with my feet planted on the grass pasture of Lot 29.

Instead we sit in an intimidating situation where we are expected in a short time to re- convince you of this applicants roort of the “Paddocks consent” which included the following:

The balance of (lot 29) will be retained as a “protected farm “unit anticipated as a dairy unit”

24.2 Lot 29 shall not be further subdivided while the land remains in the rural area.

12.2 The balance allotment was not to be further subdivided while the land remains in the rural environment area

24 Limitations as to further subdivision.

So, here we are again taking another bite at the Cherry, the Cherry being the balance of the applicant's farmland.

Thus confirming the fact that the Resource Management Act lacks integrity in imposing its own conditions.

According to the papers I have read the applicant actually said, "that the balance allotment of this proposed site would be able to be retained as a productive farming unit."

Imagine how surprised I was when the applicant's lawyer today (Monday) stated the farm was not an economic unit I guess we weren't sharp enough to know that by applying for a simple but expensive to all ratepayers

"Private Plan Change"

The worm can would open again.

I have a difficult time believing this wasn't the intent all along, when will it stop?

When our water is brown and floods into our Iconic Surf beach?

When Highway 45 on the Mountain side is unable to be farmed.??

When accessing Highway 45 becomes a raffle?

When a family walk to the seaside becomes impossible to push a pram, walk a dog, or ride your pony due to having to negotiate traffic.?

When the fire brigade races to put out a fire and the water has gone?

More importantly does anyone really believe that by changing the rules and allowing a plan change on Lot 29 from Rural to residential this will not place enormous doubts on the ability of our water supply to sustain the village.

Your own experts make the risk perfectly clear.

Quote .

Based on technical advice related to reticulated infrastructure, there are infrastructure limits on the scale and extent of this expansion.

In particular, the aquifer supplying the Oakura Water supply system has a limited capacity to meet future demand.!!!

Stop right there

Water !

without it we die!

All very valid and concerning, as are the experiences of those on Wairau Rd. who have since the Paddocks was inhabited regularly had flooding issues on their property.

As a past Chairperson of the Kaitake Community Board for two sessions some of that time leading up to the Paddocks decision. During the Oakura Structure plan proceedings I experienced the complex decision process bought about by politics and those with more often than not personal agendas.

I also experienced the frustration of our community that accompanies many short falls of the outcomes of such plan changes, they often make no common sense, and rarely are answerable for the undeniable mistakes that affect the community.

Others in qualified fields will debate these outcomes during this hearing I hope you listen, to them & to those of us who live here, and have contributed to the building of the community.

Rural is our true brand Oakura was a farm when I First came here.

I milked my first cow in Wests cowshed across the road from the Pub!

Cows grazed along the highway.

Just as they still do on the periphery of the village.

Every asset we are privileged to enjoy came from a farming environment, farmers created many of the village's amenities in their own time.

The school pool, the Hall, the Church, The Crafty Fox was relocated by farmers, tennis courts, bowling green, the play centre building was shifted onsite by locals with tractors.

Our lawnmowers and then our tractors carved out the Golf course . Pony Club started & supported by long term residents.

The Surf Club, for many years the Annual New Years Day fundraiser was manned by locals.

Then there are those who presently and in the past have given time serving on the communities committee's.

It is very humbling for me to note the passion with which a number of second third and fourth generation Oakura families and young professionals now residents of Oakura are backing those who are opposed to this development these are the voices who will be most affected, their memories will not match my generations they are making their own while contributing to the well being of our environment.

Our roots are in the land and our feet dabble in the Tasman Sea the lifestyle that Oakura is blessed with has been completely shaped by Farmers and locals in past generations.

Celebrate it don't eliminate it.

Which brings into focus a deeply distressing fact of this requested plan change it appears it has the ability to not only change forever the face of a communities unique lifestyle & heritage but by all accounts it will even destroy the ability to farm an existing well maintained local farming business due to the approximate location of the requested plan change

For that reason alone we should be loud and strong in our objection to this.

I look to areas on coastlines around New Zealand as I work in my capacity as a New Zealand landscape photographer over a period of 40 years recording many coastal communities, on raw and isolated coastlines.

I feel sad at the lack of respect for communities who have invested in keeping a true Kiwi respect for our incredibly beautiful landscape and the freedom it affords us to enjoy clean beaches and

rivers to swim and fish in, many now destroyed by large overdeveloped residential developments such as we are considering in this discussion, people don't live there for a large part of their existence, these "holiday homes" sit with curtains drawn unoccupied serving as escapes for those who have already destroyed their own immediate location

Let you be remembered by your thoughtful consideration and rejection of this completely unnecessary development. Accept change but work with locals and apply it to the plan we already have.