

4 years ago when my husband and I started talking about maybe moving back to New Zealand from Perth, it wasn't a hard decision to make. We both wanted to give our two daughters the same "kiwi" upbringing that we both had.

In deciding where in New Zealand to do that was also easy.

Where else but a small beachside village called Oakura...with the added bonus of a grandparent, and two sets of aunties, uncles and cousins who had also decided to call Oakura home.

We are now looking at having the dream of a small village upbringing for our daughters shattered with the impending possibility of "wairau estate" being built.

This is not what we had in mind for a quite place to live when moving to Oakura.....

What concerns me is the increased traffic that will travel thru the village, there is already far to many cars that speed thru ignoring the 50km speed limit, and neglecting to take notice of people waiting at the zebra crossing, especially children.

And to say that our school can handle 1000 students....where are they meant to go, presumably more buildings will have to be built, thus taking away outside play areas. One of the things we loved most about Oakura school was the big outside areas for the students to play and explore. And how is the local 4 square going to handle the surge of those extra children that flow thru their doors for ice cream Friday!!

It will be very sad if our little village becomes so overrun with people that when strolling along the beach or sitting having a coffee that the faces that walk past are strangers to you.

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Oakura