

**Before the Hearings Panel
At Greater Wellington Regional Council**

Under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act

In the matter of Otaki to North Levin (O2NL) Expressway

Hearing Topic Shared Use Path

**Statement of evidence of Arthur Yeo on behalf of the New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Network
(NZEAN)**

Date: 20 September 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Arthur Roydon Yeo, and I am Co-chair of NZEAN, and have been engaged in horse training and trekking for 48 years.
2. I have prepared this statement of evidence on behalf of the New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Network in support of the Groups' submissions to on the Otaki to North Levin road (O2NL).
3. I am authorised to provide this evidence on behalf of the Groups.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. I am a qualified Teacher and Outdoor Pursuits Instructor. I have worked extensively in Outdoor Education and trained at the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre on the Central Plateau, and am well trained in Risk Management for various outdoor pursuits including horse trekking. I have engaged in adult riding lessons for many years and am currently teaching 4 clients.

CODE OF CONDUCT

2. I confirm that I have read the Expert Witness Code of Conduct set out in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023. I have complied with the Code of Conduct in preparing this evidence and agree to comply with it while giving oral evidence. Except where I state that I am relying on the evidence of another person, this written evidence is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed in this evidence.

Commented [ET1]: Every evidence Read the Expert witness code of conduct available online

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

3. My statement of evidence considers the following matters in relation to the Groups submissions on the O2NL
The journey we have been on since 2019 campaigning for and requesting inclusion on the O2NL and Waka Kotahi's neglect of their Duty of care towards, and discrimination of, horse riders as a user group.
Health benefits of a Multiuse path which caters for and increases the safety of all active modes.
Providing safety to vulnerable road users
Equality of access
Waka Kotahi's own targets of Emissions reductions, community connection, increasing active modes for community health and wellbeing and Health and Safety for communities.
Lack of clarity about why horse riders can not be catered for on this off-road pathway
4. In preparing my evidence I have relied on the following:
 - The O2NL application from Waka Kotahi
 - The submissions made by the Groups
 - The Resource Management Act (RMA)
 - Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP)

Commented [ET2]: Add to this list

5. The scope of this statement of evidence does not extend to identifying consequential amendments needed in response to the concerns raised.
6. For ease of administration, this statement of evidence focusses only on areas of remaining concerns. Where I do not specifically address issues raised in the Groups submissions I either agree with or have a neutral stance on the recommendations made by Waka Kotahi.
7. My statement of evidence addresses the following matters arising from the Groups submission on O2NL:
 - Multi Use path design and ability for equestrians to legally use the path.

GENERAL COMMENTS

8. The Groups submission points are: that we believe the full benefits of the Shared use path infrastructure on the O2NL will not be realized unless it is maximized to be a full Multiuse pathway which will include a Cycleway Walkway and Bridleway (CWB) and that NZTA will not achieve intended targets for the community being aggrieved by this infrastructure of safer connections for vulnerable road users, increased connectivity across the district, increased ability for active modes and health benefits of these, health and safety, emissions reduction, equality and economic benefits.

HEALTH/ EQUESTRIAN SAFETY/TRACK DESIGN

Commented [ET3]: Section for specific expert material

CONCLUSION

Overall, I consider that a multi-use path which provides for use by equestrians is appropriate for the entire O2NL corridor:

Shelly Warwick
Chair Kapiti Equestrian Advocacy group (KEAG)
Co-chair New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy network (NZEAN)
Otaki Ward Councillor – Kapiti Coast District council