

**ENVIRONMENT COURT OF NEW ZEALAND  
WELLINGTON REGISTRY**

**I MUA I TE KOOTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA  
TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA**

**ENV-2023-WLG-000005**

**Under** the Resource Management Act 1991

**In the matter of** the direct referral of applications for resource consent and notices of requirement under sections 87G and 198E of the Act for the Ōtaki to North of Levin Project

**By** Speldhurst Country Estate Residents' Association

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF ROGER KNOWLES PARTON  
ON BEHALF OF  
SPELDHURST COUNTRY ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**Dated: 8 September 2023**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is **Roger Knowles Parton**
2. I am the Chair of the Speldhurst Country Estate Residents' Association (SCERA).

## SPELDHURST COUNTRY ESTATE

3. Speldhurst Country Estate is a registered retirement village situated on SH57 Kimberley Road, Levin, midway between SH1 and Arapaepae Road. The speed limit on Kimberley Road is 80 kph.
4. There are currently 400 residences with a population of 620. When completed, the village will have 475 residences. There will be a 140-bed apartment block providing care assisted living. A further 100 beds will be provided in a hospital which will include a dementia wing. Based on current projection, Speldhurst when completed in about 2026/27, will have a population of about 1,000 residents plus staff, making it probably the largest retirement village in the country.
5. The Levin Family Medical Centre opened in August 2023 within the village, located close the East Gate. The medical centre is open to the public and anticipates that it will have a patient base of about 6,000.

## SUBMISSION

6. The O2NL project for which this resource consent is requested is strongly supported by the residents of Speldhurst, based on the current projected route of the state highway which passes the village to the east of the Kimberley Road/Arapaepae Road intersection.
7. Should the route of O2NL be changed within a 5 km radius of Speldhurst, SCERA reserves the right to withdraw or modify its support for this proposal.
8. The support for the O2NL highway is based on four issues:
  - a. Vehicle Entry and Exit.
    - (1) Most of the residents have at least one motor vehicle and there are some 90 mobile homes and caravans belonging to residents parked in the village. Entry to and from the village is by two gates, Main (West) Gate and East Gate on Kimberley Road. The former has turning bays for vehicles turning right into and out of the village and is controlled by a STOP sign, while the latter has none.
    - (2) The East Gate is the means of entry and exit for the mobile homes and caravans as it is adjacent to the parking areas for those vehicles. It is an area of significant concern to residents due to the speed of traffic travelling in both directions, some vehicles overtaking at speed between the two gates. There is poor visibility for exiting vehicles due to the installation of side barriers and a sloping exit road.
    - (3) The Levin Family Medical Centre traffic will use the East Gate as the facility is located very close to it. Increased traffic flows through this gate can be expected, exacerbating the potential for accidents due to the lack of turning bays.
    - (4) It should be noted that as Speldhurst is a lifestyle retirement village, the residents are at least 60 years of age and many of the drivers are

in their 70's and 80's. SCERA regularly engages with Waka Kotahi on matters relating to traffic issues on Kimberley Road and adjacent intersections, however the above problems still remain.

b. Quality Road Corridor South.

- (1) The completion of the road will provide a four lane 100 kph route into Wellington, Kapiti and to the South Island for residents of the village. We have already seen the significant improvements in travel times and journey comfort with the opening of the Kapiti Expressway, Transmission Gully and most recently the Peka Peka to Otaki section. The provision of this road will enhance the driving experience and safety for the road users due to the four-lane separated roading.
- (2) The proposed interchange at Tararua Road is supported as providing proximate access to the new highway for residents of Speldhurst and allowing entry onto and exit off the highway in a safe and convenient manner.

c. Reduction in SH57 Kimberley Road Traffic.

- (1) The opening of the O2NL highway will significantly reduce the traffic using SH57 Kimberley Road/ Arapaepae Road. This will decrease the risk of accidents to vehicles entering or leaving the village, especially at the East Gate thereby resolving many of the issues identified above. In addition, the reduction in traffic volumes will significantly enhance the quality of life for residents especially those adjacent to the road, with a reduction in vehicle noise and vibration, and fumes.

d. Reduction in SH1 Traffic Through Levin.

- (1) SH1 currently goes through the centre of Levin so all North and South bound heavy traffic drives right through the centre of the main shopping area. As Levin is the closest town to Speldhurst, and the largest commercial centre between Kapiti Coast and Palmerston North, Speldhurst residents must visit Levin for shopping, banking, medical, pharmaceutical and all other services.
- (2) Residents have to first navigate a right turn onto SH1 at the SH1 and Kimberley Road intersection which is an 80 kph area. They like all other Levin residents face heavy traffic throughout the shopping centre with queues at traffic lights, difficulties in exiting car parks and enduring the perils of crossing the road.
- (3) A number of residents in Levin need the use of mobility scooters or walking frames and tragically in 2022, a mobility scooter was in collision with a large truck on a crossing, causing a fatality. Providing longer crossing times will assist the pedestrian users but at the expense of the free-flowing SH1 traffic. The new highway will virtually eliminate this heavy traffic, reduce the risks that currently exist and considerably enhance the shopping experience in Levin.

## SUBMISSION

9. The residents of Speldhurst Country Estate see only positive outcomes arising from the construction and opening of the O2NL highway, both for themselves and for the wider Levin population, of which they are a part.

10. We strongly support the approval of the necessary resource consents and associated approvals required for the construction of the O2NL project on the route that is currently proposed and that the resource consent be issued, and the project be completed as soon as possible.

**Roger Knowles Parton**

8 September 2023