

Form 5 Submission on notified proposal for policy statement or plan, change or variation
Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Whakatāne District Council

Name of submitter: Talei Swanson

This is a submission on the following change proposed to the plan:
Whakatāne District Plan - Plan Change 2: 23 and 45 Keepa Road

Trade Competition

I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

The specific provisions of the proposal that my submission relates to are:
All provisions in proposed plan change

My submission is: I oppose the proposed plan change from industrial to residential and wish to have it amended to Community and Cultural Zone with underlying Residential.
I wish to have it amended as such based on the existing Maori Freehold Land, Te Hokowhitu Marae, the occupied houses and the contaminated sites of land that are recorded within the property boundary of the subject land.

My name is Talei Swanson I am a member of Wharewera Whanau, Ngati Hokopu Hapu and Te Hokowhitu atu Marae.

I am 51 years old now and can remember when the land surrounding our Marae was our farm. We have watched with a sense of dread the developments that have already taken place so close to our homestead and Marae on the Gateway Drive side.

The huge industrial buildings with accompanied noise and visual pollution, the funeral home and sewerage ponds that went in without any consultation with us has had a devastating affect on our whanau and Marae. I remember my nannys and Koro's, now all gone, being saddened by this constant onslaught forced upon us. The day my nana and koro found out the land had been sold has always stuck in my mind, I was only young, but I remember the devastation and shock everyone felt. Nobody saw it coming. I remember also being at the marae when the bulldozer first came in and started working on the road. Everybody ran outside and I remember a lot of crying and anger at the sight, but we were helpless to do anything. Our Marae has always been our home and sanctuary.

After the confiscations in the 1860s our hapu was forced off their land and we were placed in different areas around Whakatane. I asked my grandmother Gabriel Kingi nee Wharewera why her grandparents Wharewera Kaperiere and Ema Patara moved to this area. Wharewera was Ngati Pukeko and had land at Pahou. According to her, they actually lived at Pahou. They moved to Te Rahui when the council started draining the swamp, because they were afraid they would lose that land which Ema Patara of Ngati Hokopu had shares in. They made their life there, our marae was built and their children built around them too. Over the last hundred years our land has been whittled down through various means. I believe this has seriously impacted us spiritually and psychologically for generations. I will expand on this in my oral submission.

Sometimes our Marae will be mourning. At these times we will have groups of people sometimes 100's arriving throughout the days to pay their respect. We will have Kaumatua speaking on the Pae, waiata, crying, whakawhanaungatanga. I remember my koros tangi in 1988 and the constant sandblasting and noise that occurred at that tangi and many others right next door to our marae. I remember living at the old house next to the marae and having to keep the doors and windows shut because of the constant noise and dust flying over from Robert Stones. I believe these kinds of impositions have compounded over the decades, seriously undermining our psyches.

The site line to Kapu-te-rangi /Kohi point is very important to us and our Whaikorero

We are the only Hapu in Ngati Awa faced with the challenges of being boxed in. The first time has been with our other Ngati Hokopu marae, Te whare o Toroa Marae.

I seek the following decision from the authority

- To recognise and provide for the relationships of Ngati Hokopu ki te Hokowhitu a Tu hapu and whanau, and our culture and traditions with our ancestral lands, waters, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.
- To provide for future generations of Ngati Hokopu ki te Hokowhitu a Tu community who will continue to actively participate in their community at their marae.
- To recognise the reverse sensitivity matters that result from the ongoing and enduring activities undertaken at the marae and whanau households – including gathering places for solemn (tangihanga/funerals) and celebratory (21st birthday parties, weddings, club parties) and educational activities ranging from quiet events like healing workshops and more noisy events like secondary school workshops and kapa haka and other purposes.
- As a gesture of goodwill I would like to see the land gifted back to our whanau, so our tupuna original vision will be fulfilled, and our homes once more will be around our marae.

Hearing submissions I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Signature of submitter (or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

Date 12/04/2018

Contact details

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