

## Palmerston North City Council

### Hearing: Proposed Plan Change G - Aokautere Urban Growth

***Additional submission to SO 31-1      Ralph E H Sims***

It is appropriate that the Hearing is occurring in parallel with the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai.

It is already understood that 2023 will be the warmest year ever recorded. Impacts resulting from a warming of the climate are already evident both in New Zealand and globally, and becoming more frequent.

Urban developments such as the proposed Plan G must take into account the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as allowing for future possible climate impacts.

This includes having higher density urban designs and ensuring communities are less dependent on the use of the petrol/diesel car through providing public transport and facilities to encourage walking, cycling, scooting etc. In addition, it is also imperative that natural gas connections should not be provided to any of the new buildings. This will also help reduce the costs of providing services.

The potential levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and how they could be minimised, has not been undertaken when producing the present Plan Change G proposal.

The 6th Assessment Report of Working Group III, Mitigation, of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2022) includes Chapter 8 *Urban Systems and Other Settlements* and Chapter 10 *Transport* that provide a useful reference with detailed scientific analyses and guidelines for low-carbon sustainable urban development.

In my view, the existing Plan G proposal needs to be reviewed to fully take into account the critical need to minimise greenhouse gas emissions. We simply cannot continue to develop more urban sprawl that will result in relatively high greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come.

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