

Proposed Plan Change G - Aokautere Rezoning Hearing 7 Dec 2023

Good morning, I am Martin Hunt, Manawatu Rifle, Rod and Gun Club Deputy President.

The RR&G Club has been at its present site at 333 Turitea Road for approx 60 years. Originally the Club started as a rifle and clay target shooting club. In the early days clay target shooting competitions sometimes could have up to 200 competitors competing.

Over the years our activities have slowly changed, the clay target shooting section closed in 2002 and the sighting-in membership has increased. We have 400 members, half of which are sighting-in Section members, using our 100m sighting-in range. The other half of our membership is split between pistol shooting, smallbore rifle target shooting, archery, air rifle, service rifle and cowboy action shooting.

We have a strong club membership with members of all levels. We want to be able to provide a safe environment for the enjoyment of the casual shooter. But we are proud of the RR&G members that have represented New Zealand at all levels of competition such as World Championships, World Cups, Commonwealth Games and Oceania regional championships. Our members have won World Championships and medals at the Commonwealth Games, Oceania regional championships and National titles.

RR&G also hosts local NZ Police staff for their annual firearms proficiency training. RR&G is the only range that Manawatu Police can use to complete their annual Firearms training without having to travel out of the region.

The Club's location meant it was originally located well away from the urban Palmerston North population. It was the ideal location for a shooting club, socially distanced and well away from neighbours. Over time, new neighbours have moved in and as a club we have enjoyed being part of this small Turitea community. As a club we have a policy to be good neighbours. We have enforced operating hours so as not to bother our neighbours after hours, or on ANZAC and Christmas Day etc. We have also fitted in with our neighbours when they have had weddings and have willingly stopped club activities to ensure they are able to enjoy their special day.

Over this long period, we have enjoyed a good relationship with the Waters family and hopefully this will continue. We recognize that progress is happening and that the Waters family especially will be affected if they cannot subdivide their property in the future.

However, it would be remiss of the Club to not protect its interests with this Plan Change and the Club is concerned about reverse sensitivity issues that will arise from this. We are not against housing and development; we just want to ensure we are able to continue with our Club activities without being disadvantaged. We are sure that the new residents will enjoy their life in the Turitea valley just as much as we do. However, with many new residents there is always the possibility that a small minority may find our presence not so comfortable. **We ask that this Hearing ensure that our position is futureproofed, and we are not disadvantaged by this Plan Change.**

Originally, we opposed the Plan Change as we could foresee that we could be subject to noise complaints from residential residents. However, we also knew our opposition would affect any future plan to sub-divide by neighbouring properties.

We note with interest the reinstating of the rural-residential overlay with the introduction of a non-complying activity rule to manage future subdivision (STATEMENT OF REPLY EVIDENCE OF ANITA RENIE COPPLESTONE ON BEHALF OF PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL PLANNING report (28 November 2023) which enables further development of the Waters and Brian Green Development properties in the future. We would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by PNCC in listening to both sides of the debate. PNCC have also done an excellent job working with both sides to come up with a solution.

We agree with most of this new solution and the new rules for allowing sub-division within the 55dB contour affected areas. As lay people we can only hope there are no hidden loopholes which could cause us to regret agreeing to the reinstating of the residential-rural overlay. We ask this Hearing check and ensure that we won't be disadvantaged if there are any loopholes that n

o one has spotted yet.

We have two areas that we like to discuss and propose slightly different wording:

Discussion on the proposed new clause (6) to Rule R7.15.4.1:

New clause (6) to Rule R7.15.4.1: 6. Any subdivision in the Rural Zone or in the Rural Residential Overlay that will create lots within the 55 dB LAFmax contour area identified on Map 7A.4B of the Aokautere Structure Plan, except subdivision for the purposes of accommodating any network utility, **is a Non-Complying Activity**.

As lay people we are concerned a clever resident within the 55dB zone could try to bypass this **Non-Complying activity** clause by firstly ensuring they met the required standards i.e. double glazing and required construction etc., then applying for a consent saying they now are "complying". If it was granted, they would then be able to override this **Non-Complying Activity** clause.

To prevent this, we ask this phase to be replaced with a phase such as "**Prohibited Activity**".

NB This discussion is to ensure the Club isn't blindsided by someone trying to get around the "Non-Complying Activity" clause at a later date.

Notification The Manawatū Rifle Rod & Gun Club **may** be given limited notification of an application made under R7.15.4.1.6.

We feel the phrase “The Manawatū Rifle Rod & Gun Club **may** be given limited notification” is not strong enough. The definition of **the word “may” is an expression of possibility, a permissive choice to act or not, and ordinarily implies some degree of discretion.** Effectively the word “may” means notification probably won’t happen.

The word “may” should be changed to “shall’ or “must” so that notification must happen.

Club noise mitigation measures:

As a Club we recognize we have a responsibility to manage the sound levels as best as we can. These measures are:

- Limited hours of use
- Being receptive to requests from neighbours for special events.
- Noise insulation of the sighting-in range building.
- Future mandatory use of suppressors on rifles using the sighting-in range.
- Future acoustic barrier on the northwestern boundary (closest to Palmerston North) to limit noise exiting the Club boundary towards PN.
- Moving Police pistol training to Range 6, further away from the boundary closest to Palmerston North. This would reduce noise at the northwestern boundary. Police would still use Range 2 for rifle training. This training uses suppressed semiautomatic rifles which have lower noise levels.
- Covering in of the 100m sighting-in range in the future.