

Good Afternoon. My name is Tabitha Prisk. I am here to address the impacts on Turitea Road from Plan Change Aokautere. As someone who has driven on Turitea Road multiple times a day for the last ten years, I can say that the connector road proposed from Plan Change Aokautere to Turitea Road will have a huge impact on Turitea Road, not simply due to the inevitable increase in volume of car traffic but due to the equally inevitable increase in cycle traffic and foot traffic, which Turitea Road simply cannot manage. The new roads in Plan Change Aokautere have both cycle lanes and footpaths, but neither of these are part of Turitea Road. People currently ride horses, ride bicycles, and walk along Turitea Road despite the heavy car traffic and despite the fact that it is ill-suited for these activities. People will expect amenities such as foot paths and cycle lanes to continue onto Turitea Road from the roads in Plan Change Aokautere and they are simply not there. Without the development of proper footpaths and cycle lanes along Turitea Road, the increased volume of mixed-use traffic will massively increase the risk of serious injury and death to all users. I would argue that Turitea Road is already unsafe: it is in disrepair due to its current volume of traffic and cannot handle the extra car traffic, cycle traffic and pedestrian traffic without significant upgrades. These upgrades must include the replacement of the one-lane bridges on Turitea Road with proper two-lane bridges, which must also include a footpath and cycle lanes, similar to those on the Fitzherbert Bridge. For the health and safety of all users of Turitea Road, improvements must be made before a connector road is built.

Thank you for your time.