

Before an Independent Hearings Panel
Appointed by Waimakariri District Council

under: the Resource Management Act 1991

in the matter of: Submissions and further submissions on the Proposed
Waimakariri District Plan

and: Hearing Stream 12D: Ōhoka rezoning request

and: **Carter Group Property Limited**
(Submitter 237)

and: **Rolleston Industrial Developments Limited**
(Submitter 160)

Summary of evidence of Dr Gabrielle Wall

Dated: 1 July 2024

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SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF DR GABRIELLE WALL

- 1 My full name is Dr Gabrielle Julya Howard Wall.
- 2 I prepared a statement of evidence in support of the Submitters' rezoning request on 5 March 2024.
- 3 The Site is outside the Ministry of Education's proposed infrastructure boundary, therefore Ministry-derived student number projections are not available. I have used a methodology based on Census data and Ministry-held datasets that concludes the rezoning request would likely generate an additional 200 - 250 primary aged students and 150 secondary aged students. Of these, approximately 200 would need to be accommodated in the local state primary network, and 75 within the local state secondary network.
- 4 I have outlined for how primary aged students could be accommodated in the education network:
 - 4.1 The Site remains within the Ōhoka School zone and students access Ōhoka School as the local state school.
 - 4.2 The enrolment home zones of Ōhoka and Swannanoa Schools are amended so that some of the Site is within the Swannanoa School zone.
 - 4.3 A new Year 1 - 8 primary school is constructed on the earmarked site (via Education overlay) within the Site.
- 5 For secondary, the Site is encompassed by the current enrolment scheme home zone of Kaiapoi High School, and suitable transport would be available for students to access the school, either a public bus or a Ministry-funded school bus. Based on future projected growth in Rangiora and its surrounds, it is considered that it would be preferable for secondary aged students to access Kaiapoi High School as the local state secondary school option.
- 6 Kaiapoi High School currently operates eight bus routes. These are operated by Go Bus and are a combined school bus service with Kaiapoi primary schools. Because it is a shared service, the availability of a public bus would be highly unlikely to alter the current route that would service the Site, as that bus route also transports primary-aged students to state and state-integrated schools within Kaiapoi.
- 7 There are three criteria that must be met for students to qualify for Ministry-funded school transport assistance, including the availability of 'suitable public transport'. Ministry criteria on timing state that students must not be picked up before 7am, must arrive at school prior to the start time, and must be collected no more than one hour after school finished for the day.

- 8 This would mean that secondary-aged students, even if ineligible for a funded seat on the Ministry-funded bus due to the public bus meeting the requirements of 'suitable public transport', would still be able to access the Ministry-funded bus via a direct arrangement with Go Bus.
- 9 It is noted that approximately half of the secondary aged students currently residing in the relevant area (Statistical Area 2 (SA2): Mandeville-Ōhoka, Swannanoa-Eyreton, and Clarkville) attend State Integrated or Private schools, hence the relatively low projections for the number of students accessing Kaiapoi High School. It is likely, therefore, that there would be a combination of secondary-aged students accessing the 'school bus' and accessing a public bus into Kaiapoi in order to transfer to a bus onward into Christchurch.
- 10 Consideration is also given to special education and early childhood provision.

CONCLUSION

- 11 It is my opinion that the Ōhoka educational network could successfully accommodate the increased numbers of students from the rezoning request based on recent census and Ministry data and related population projections and student population proportions.
- 12 The configuration for doing so would require further engagement with the Ministry of Education, local schools including Ōhoka School, Swannanoa School and Kaiapoi High School, and local early childhood education providers. One option for increasing primary provision is to establish a new primary school within the Site (within the Education overlay area).
- 13 Should adequate planning and engagement be undertaken (which I understand the Submitters are willing to undertake), I believe that the educational network in the area could successfully accommodate the residential development under the rezoning request, and could continue to provide access to high quality state school education for school-aged children living in the Site.

Dated: 1 July 2024

Dr Gabrielle Wall