

Auckland Prison Capacity Increase Project Fast-track Application,
C/- Environmental Protection Authority,
Private Bag 63002,
Waterloo Quay,
Wellington 6140.

Dear Fast Track Board,

This submission opposes the planned increase in the number of prisoners at Auckland Prison situated in Paremoremo. I have read the submissions of the other submitters who are opposed to the proposal and agree with the matters they have raised. I do not repeat those in this submission but wish to address the previous agreement we understood was a binding commitment from the Government and Department of Correction to not increase the numbers further than had been agreed in 1988.

On the 18th of October 1988, Margaret Miles and myself, Bob Leveloff representing the Paremoremo Ratepayers and Residents Association (PRRA), met with the Honourable Geoffrey Palmer Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, Don McKinnon, Deputy leader of the Opposition and people from the Corrections Department at Auckland Prison.

At this meeting it was agreed that Auckland Prison would have a maximum number of 650 prisoners. This was followed up with a letter from the Honourable Geoffrey Palmer on 31 October 1988 confirming this number, (letter attached).

On the 18th of October 1993 we had an open meeting with the Paremoremo Residences which was attended by the Honourable Don McKinnon now the Deputy Prime Minister, members of the Department of Corrections and members from Auckland Council where they confirmed the commitment not to increase the number of prisoners above 650 inmates, (minutes attached).

Since then, we have received further correspondence from the Department of Corrections (DoC) Chief Executive Mark Byers on 12 December 1996 (letter attached) saying that DoC intended to honour the Government's commitment to the PRRA and local community and the number of prisoners would not be increased.

In 2006 after conversations with both the Department of Corrections and Auckland Council it was agreed by the Paremoremo Residents and Ratepayers Association to allow the increase in the number to 681 prisoners on the basis that PRRA would not take any further action and that would remain the maximum number of prisoners.

The new proposal is a breach of what PRRA understood to be a binding commitment to local Residents. If the new proposal is accepted what does that say about the erosion of trust that the Residents must feel when past commitments are not honoured. The Residents would have no faith going forward that any commitments will be honoured if the Residents make concessions believing the commitments to be binding. What this fast-track proposal says is that any past assurances are not worth the paper they are written on, and any agreements reached with Residents have not been conducted in good faith.

We accepted a small change before after talks with the Department, but this proposed change almost doubles the current numbers and does not consider the significant impacts the proposal will have on the Residents and environment.

DoC has not provided any data to show the reasons why there is the proposal of the increase in numbers at Paremoremo as opposed to the areas where their families are located. This is something that DoC says is important to where prisons are located. Is the decision to increase the numbers at Auckland Prison based solely on land availability rather than the other factors which should be given much more weight. Back in 1988 we pushed the DoC to look at new options that would be better suited to the needs of prisoners and their families. They finally purchased land in Northland and South Auckland but nothing since in these areas. We have requested information where the prisoners come from, but the Department has refused to give us these numbers.

Many families have purchased property in the area thinking that the fixed figure was set and that there would be no increase, and highlights the importance of the binding commitment that the Government made.

In addition, I want to reinforce my support what the other submission have said about the access from the Avenue to Dairy Flat Highway and the surfactant issue with local roads that they have highlighted.

I am happy to make an oral submission in support this written submission.

Kind regards

Bob Leveloff

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAREMOREMO RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of General Meeting October 18 1993

7.30 pm Officers Club, Paremoremo Road

Present: Don McKinnon MP, Albany; John Kirton Justice Department Manager, Penal Operations (Northern); Peter Simmons, Planning Manager North Shore City. Councillor Ray Morris; Albany Community Board Members, John Maurice (Chairman) Jenny Bassett, John Iverson; more than 70 residents.

Apologies: The Mayor, Rita and Alan Williamson, Bob Patchett of Justice Department

Minutes: The minutes of the last "Annual General Meeting" were read and confirmed. (Anne Coulson/Mitch Hutchings).

Chairman's Report: Read by Bob Leveloff and confirmed. (Derek Mason/John Marks)

Treasurer's Report: Read by Margaret Miles and confirmed. (John Iverson/Anne Coulson)

Don McKinnon addressed the meeting.

Key points:

- "No intention to change the undertaking of 650 limit" for inmates at Auckland prison.
- Apologised for poor liaison between Government Departments and Government regarding proposals for the "psychiatric unit" which became the sex offenders unit.
- Confirmed that the Justice Department intends getting out of housing. Stated decisions on future of the prison village was on hold until social and environmental issues had been addressed. Said he personally aligned himself with those who say it is sensible to have a certain number of prison staff living near a prison the size of the Auckland complex.
- Confirmed that he is willing to participate in quarterly Justice Department meetings and suggested that December may be a good time.
- Noted that the ring road was now complete and that access problems in an emergency were under greater control.

Questions:

A number of questions were asked on electoral issues (election due in three weeks). Those of current relevance to the area are minuted.

- Whenuapai Base, would it remain. Did residents have rights regarding noise and night flying.
- A. Base will remain despite report to previous Government recommending closure. Hobsonville will continue to have some traffic. The SAS regiment from Papakura would be based at Hobsonville. Night flying will continue for operational and training reasons, including training for civil emergencies.
- What was the Government's intention regarding the Queen's chain.
- A. It is not about to be changed and Government has given undertakings that it will not be changed to public detriment. Any amendments would be on the basis of enhanced benefits to the public only. There were historic complications regarding the Queen's chain in that there were some fifty years between its promulgation and implementation and anomalies existed on titles granted during that time. Maori land was not affected for instance.

John Kirton spoke.

Key Points

- Prisoner Numbers:

Confirmed that Doug Graham has agreed to maintain Auckland prison inmate level at 650. The prison currently has 120 maximum security inmates in the East Division. Current cell numbers based on an inmate-per-cell are: 253 in East Unit, 240 in West and 60 in the West Unit annex. Corrections Operations tries to maintain this level in the face of rising sentencing levels. In the past four years prison inmate musters have been rising at around 8 per cent per year which puts considerable pressure on the system to provide new accommodation for inmates. A further 60 cells is being constructed on the Auckland West site for a sex offenders unit to be completed in April 94. A "multi purposes unit" or security unit will cater for a further 20 prisoners. This will take total number of prisoners to 639.

- The security unit:

This is to be built within the confines of the present prison and will have the highest level of security surveillance possible over 24 hours. In the short term this will accommodate some D Block prisoners during upgrading of D block. He said in future half the prisoners in East division will be medium and half would be maximum.

- Sewerage system:

Justice was supporting North Shore Council regarding problems. Improvements have been noted following installation of an oxygen injection system.

Any remaining problems reported appear to be related to the North Shore City Greenhithe pumping station. The prison pays \$180,000 pa in sewerage tax to the city council, but unlike North Shore domestic residents this does not entitle them to council service when problems occur.

- **New Prisons:**

Current prisons in the region are Auckland Prison and Mt Eden. A new remand facility is to be built at Mt Eden in 1996/97 accommodating 250 inmates. A new privately operated prison will be built in South Auckland at the same time to take 350 medium security prisoners. This is expected to reduce demand on prison facilities in the Auckland area. Unlike Australia the private prisons will be expected to take the same prisoners as state prisons and will not be allowed to hand pick inmates.

- **Disposal of Village.**

Implementation of the policy of getting out of supplying accommodation for prison officers has been slowed down and there will be further consultation. However, the policy will stand. The houses are to be sold and removed from the site.

In answer to a question suggesting that 5 to 8 years down the track when the prison village has gone that the site could be used another prison, Mr Kirton said he could not give absolute assurances. He reiterated that assurances had been given regarding numbers of inmates and there was not intention at this time to exceed 650. He was not, however, prepared to give undertakings for the future, nor, he pointed out would Don McKinnon.

- **Curtis Escape:**

Judge Buckton's report would be out on October 30. In response to a question regarding the proven ability of prisoners to saw through bars, Mr Kirton said he was unable, for security reasons, to say what was being done but he gave an assurance that action was being taken both in management and in physical running of the prison and funding had been made available for the purpose. Auckland prison has the best escape record in the western world.

- **Ring road.**

Said Bob Patchett is committed to planting of tree screen which has started.

- **Thanked us for inviting him and asked for further contact with the committee.**

Peter Simmons addressed the meeting

Mr Simmons spoke on principles of planning and the need to meet change.

It is important for planners to understand and meet the needs of communities and changes in society. Council is preparing a district plan for the city, a draft of which will be brought out about the middle of 1994.

Changes are likely to be more significant in built up areas than country. Generally speaking zoning in the area is now divided largely into a residential 1 zone around Attwood Road area. A rural 1 zone exists on the valley floor which is complicated but mainly involves 3 hectare subdivisions in the rural valley and 2 hectare subdivisions elsewhere. A landscape protection zone exists around Ridge Road and between Paremoremo Road and Lucus Creek.

Planners see the area staying much the same as it is. Ratepayers may express their views informally before the plan is published toward the end of next year or through a formal process once it is published. Refinements designed to improve the performance of existing rules are seen to be likely. Planners see the opportunity for incentives to revegetate escarpment areas, improving the use of land regarding the placement of houses (are houses placed with sufficient care on the landscape) etc.

There was general discussion on the planning implications of removal of the prison village and the social effect of amenities being downgraded or removed. Mr Simmons observed that there is clearly a need for discussions between the school, Justice Department, ratepayers, council and others on the impact of the removal of the village. Residents in discussion, confirmed the conclusion that the focus for this area will move back to Attwood Road area and that planning issues must be considered.

There was some discussion regarding water and sewage. Mr Simmons said there were no plans for either in rural areas. A resident observed that Attwood Road area was zoned residential and that both water and sewage currently had been installed for the prison.

General Discussion

There was discussion of condition of Paremoremo Road and other roads. John Maurice, Community Board Chairman said decision had been made not to upgrade Paremoremo road until after the sex offenders unit was completed. Unsure of the priorities but thought Ridge Road was a priority.



DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS

12 December 1996

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New Zealand

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Ms Glen Weir
Secretary
Paremoremo Ratepayers' Association

Dear Residents

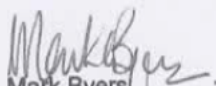
I am providing formal confirmation on two points that have been raised.

- (a) The Department fully intends to honour existing Ministerial and Resource Management Act commitments to limit the maximum number of inmates on the site to 650; and
- (b) to that end, we have no further plans or prospective intentions to construct major, separate additional inmate accommodation on the site beyond the proposed 60 bed complex we are discussing with you and which will not now be a separate facility.

I trust this now clears the way to proceed with the proposal put to us.

At this stage I expect to be up your way in March next year on Parole Board business and would be happy to meet with you again if a mutually convenient time can be found.

Yours sincerely


Mark Byers
Chief Executive

Reducing Re-offending



OFFICE OF THE
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
WELLINGTON 1

31 October 1988

Mrs R Leveloff
Secretary
Paremoremo Residents and Ratepayers' Association Inc
R D 3
ALBANY

Dear Mrs Leveloff

Thank you for meeting with me on 18 October at Auckland Medium Security Prison. I believe that the discussions I had with the members of your association were extremely useful and I am pleased at the positive outcomes achieved by the meeting.

As agreed, I confirm that a committee is to be established, and that the committee is to meet 3 or 4 times a year. Membership of the committee will comprise 3 representatives of the Paremoremo Residents and Ratepayers' Association, and 3 Department of Justice staff. The Justice representatives will be the 2 superintendents of the prisons at Paremoremo, and one person from the department's head office.

It is also expected that there will be some future contribution from the Takapuna City Council or other appropriate Council. The committee will consult with the City Council in considering issues such as roading and sewage needs for the department's estate.

The first meeting of the committee will, of course, take place on Monday 31 October at 7 pm. Mr Mel Smith, Deputy Secretary for Justice, will attend and will be reporting to me following the meeting.

I take this opportunity to confirm that the Government is reconsidering plans for a special facility at Paremoremo in the light of the Mason Report. In any event, no decision will be taken on this matter until the Committee of Inquiry into the Prisons System has also reported. If a decision to proceed with the special facility is then made, I would expect that it would be smaller than was initially envisaged.

I also confirm once again that the maximum number of inmates on the Paremoremo estate will not exceed 650. Should the special facility mentioned above be reduced in size or not proceeded with, the actual figure will, in practice, be smaller.

Yours sincerely



Minister of Justice