SUBMISSION to the Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills Fasttrack Application
This submission is made by Shelley, Patricia and Simon Couper.

1. Contact Details

Shelley Couper – *Yes, can receive email.*
[redacted]

Patricia Couper
[redacted]

Simon Couper – *Yes can receive email.*
[redacted]

2. Area of Reference

Our submission relates to two separate titles:

- [redacted]
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[redacted]

The property is <u>roughly</u> the area enclosed within the blue boxes on the image below.

It is two blocks:

1) **The dark blue blue block** (the House lot) includes original native bush – the very last of the original bush left on the Braigh, a large house of Oamaru stone, expansive lawns and gardens, a drive way to the current State Highway 1 and a right of way to the Waipu River. Shelley lives in this house – it is her home. It was built by her parents.

2. **The light blue block** (Lot 2) is fertile agricultural land on which we have grown kiwifruit, tomatoes and potatoes among other horticulture, and which Simon currently grazes with stock.

The block has the accruements you would expect:
fences, mature shelter belts, drainage, culverts, races, water system (pump and troughs), soil and pasture which has been cultivated and enriched, stock yards and loading race, 3 x barns, lunch room and toilet, metalled driveway and turning circle.

3. What this property means to us

House lot:

- Shelley's home
- A high specification large Oamaru stone house which is a family homestead
- A significant garden and lawn-scape in which we have invested
- Historically significant fenced off native bush of inestimable beauty (for which we arrange trapping of pests).
- Opportunity to sub-divide in future

Lot 2:

- Valuable, fertile agricultural land
- An effective property for running stock (with the necessary fencing, water, access and infrastructure) and sheltered up for horticulture
- Proximity to a neighbouring connected block which Simon leases (Hector Ewan's farm.)
- This property is a support block for the Couper family's home farm which is converting to organics. Loss of this land can only be replaced by the equivalent organic status land. Loss of this land will have a significant impact on the family farm's viability.
- Opportunity to sub-divide in future

4. Our request to the EPA and Panel

While we understand the need for improved infrastructure in Northland, we are concerned that it should come at the expense of our heritage homestead, native bush and sustainable agricultural businesses.

We would ask the panel to ensure they fully understand the impact on our business and our family life of taking these things away. If the new highway really must curve as per the illustration, we submit that the Panel need to have strategies for recreating the value being destroyed.