



Auckland Prison Extension Application feedback

From Sandy Howard-Whitty and Leslie Whitty

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To Substantive <substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Auckland Prison extension which has been placed under fast tracked approval.

I completely understand that there is a need to increase the ability to house more prisoners within the New Zealand Corrections system. As the population grows in New Zealand there will unfortunately be an incremental growth in the number of people who wish to step outside the reasonably sensible laws in our country to live their lives – hurting others in the process. Do the crime, pay the time. It's been wishful thinking from successive governments to think they can implement a reduction in offending to reduce the prison population.

However, I have the following concerns:

- Doubling the population at Auckland Prison based on the proximity to the offender's families is not an honest or reliable basis to go on. Without applying for an OIA, given the site's designation I am confident that a more than reasonable proportion of the prison population were moved there due to its security designation, not its close to family designation. **Prove it.**
- Doubling the population at Auckland Prison is pre-emptive and **future - future proofing** (not a typo BTW) – it will not be filled immediately, or within a few years. Advice sent already has stated that the project will not support the improvement to much needed roading infrastructure at the intersection of The Avenue and Dairy Flat Highway or the Coatesville Riverhead Highway and Highway 16 until prison numbers reach a certain level – 900 plus. This is too late – there is already a huge problem at this intersection – **are you waiting for someone to die as a result of an "accident" to fix things???**

(happily – it's been great) in 2010. A year later in 2011, a long term resident stated that an application with a petition attached from residents to then North Shore Council now Auckland Council/Transport to install lights at the intersection noted above was made 35 years prior. **You do the maths – this is over 50 years ago.**

- I realise you are not in control of Auckland Council/Transport however waiting until prison numbers reach 900 as stated in previous correspondence **is not good enough.** The traffic from the construction of the extended prison will cause major traffic issues for the area without the improved required infrastructure in place at both choke points to contend with this – we have already experienced this with the implementation of the new unit of the Prison several years ago.
 - For your information it was poorly managed with construction workers intimidating and bullying residents with their behaviour on the road outside the prison. Complaints fell on deaf ears. **This needs to be addressed.**
 - Although the area is probably designated a rural area, the reality is a lot of people live here. The disruption from construction including concrete trucks arriving in the middle of the night to the area was hugely disruptive. **This needs to be addressed.**
- Via the fast track system there has not been confirmation of the improvement to **wastewater, sewage and other infrastructure requirements to the area where there have already been issues highlighted.** Wastewater and sewerage infrastructure in particular is a serious concern to the surrounding environment. **What are the plans to mitigate this with this expansion?** – it needs to be confirmed as being addressed before construction starts – **this is the concern with the fast track process.**

- Paremoremo is an important part of wider environmental conservation initiatives – a lot of work has already been completed to improve the area in consultation with wider communities. The degradation of waste water, sewerage overflow, increased traffic and all that this entails results in a wider issue for the environment. The current “mitigations” proposed do not sufficiently resolve the issues. **What else are you proposing to do to mitigate this.**
- The Corrections Village has been advertised as no longer a Corrections designation – but there has been no communication at all with residents. What does this mean for current residents? What changes are proposed – who will be the “owners” of the houses. At some stage, communication needs to be improved because I have to say it has been woeful to date. **Where do we stand? Are there changes? Do we need to look for somewhere else to live? Are our homes being demolished?** This is the level of concern within the village.

Again, I understand the need for expansion, however I am concerned at the speed of apparent progress without considered process and consideration for the area and the environment.

I welcome your response to my concerns.

Regards

Sandy Howard-Whitty

Resident – [REDACTED]