



Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass

From [REDACTED]
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To FastTrack Substantive <substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. I have attended both the meetings at Woodend and at Kaiapoi.

At the Kaiapoi meeting I was struck by what I shall call an inequity, an unfairness, which I believe is within the scope of engineers, even at this advanced stage of planning, to remedy.

It seems that some houses within the boundary of the Pegasus settlement, close to the edge of the new motorway, are to have noise walls erected along the verge of the motorway as noise mitigation measures. Several other residences along the length of the motorway are to be similarly served.

That those houses have been seen to be deserving of noise walls suggests strongly that there is an anticipated noise problem which will need mitigation.

Our houses in Lees Road are within a comparable distance from the edge of the motorway as the houses in Pegasus. At present we seemingly do NOT qualify for similar noise mitigation panels.

This seems wrong to me.

I believe the reasons given for our not qualifying are based on false argument and an unfair interpretation of the NZ standard 6806:2010.

Lees Road is now the main exit, in the morning and entry in the evening for the two sub divisions built post earthquakes south and east of Lees Road for commuters to the city. I refer to Sovereign Lakes and Sovereign Palms. There is traffic noise from this source at the times mentioned.

It would seem that the acoustic engineers have reasoned from the NZ Standard 6806 2010 that because the residents of Lees Road already have noise from these commuters a little more won't hurt them. That seems to be, in essence, the crux of the reasoning.

I reject this interpretation of the rules.

I believe they have failed to take into account the fact that our noise occurs virtually only in the morning and evening. But the decibel measurement standards they apply are averaged over a 24 hour period if I have understood correctly. Completely missing the point that our present traffic noise in Lees Road is periodic.

On the other hand motorway noise occurs virtually all the time admittedly with a slight diminution at night.

I believe Waka Kotahi has a responsibility to deal fairly with ALL stakeholders. We, here in Lees Road, as far as I can see are the only properties to be treated in such a mean and penny pinching way, a way resulting from an inequitable interpretation of the acoustic rules.

The Resource Consent application tells us there is room to move in such matters. I am sure there is room in the budget to deal with us in an equitable fashion, to provide us also with noise walls, the same as those for Pegasus where noise is already anticipated, and incorporate sound barriers along that part of the projected motorway which parallels Lees Road as well.

David Fahy

