

Sarah Foreman

This further attempt by the applicant's experts highlights the length that he will go to for an outcome that adds to his personal bank account at the expense of the community.

A community in which he doesn't live. He attempts to project the image that he and his experts are really working through the issues when actually they are just rearranging their game plan to get a successful outcome for themselves.

It is particularly interesting that the Council's own objectives are being flouted and his experts are prepared to set forth statements arguing that those objectives and the community's aspirations have been comfortably met when they haven't.

I refer in particular to the Council's well publicised intentions since 2009 to:

- Allow development and population growth in the region but managed in a manner that does not compromise the natural or social environment.
- Make sure that residential and lifestyle developments do not destroy or degrade natural ecosystems.
- Identify and protect areas of high amenity value, landscape value and environmental quality that contribute to a sense of place.
- Ensure the subdivision, use and development of land does not adversely affect those elements that define rural character while recognising the diverse nature of rural land, and land uses.
- Preserve and enhance the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins.
- Protect and enhance outstanding landscapes and regionally significant landscapes within the district.

The Kaitake Range is classed as an outstanding landscape and has particular mana whenua significance to Taranaki Iwi. The community also has a special affinity with it. It is important that this landscape is protected from inappropriate development. This application if approved will have a major effect on the character of the landscape. No evidence from the applicant's experts can change that fact.

The community has committed a huge amount of time and energy to opposing this application for good reasons.

It is quite distressing to see those concerns dismissed from a distance by those experts such as Mr Comber as being irrelevant.

In fact I believe these are just ongoing attempts to desensitise the community's objections and pursue a particularly selfish outcome regardless.

The Community has invested a considerable amount of time and money for our own legal, expert witness etc. costs.

Unfortunately that process is continuing. We have consistently followed the rules and done our best to honestly enunciate our concerns.

It is particularly disturbing to me that so many of them have been ignored.