

**IN THE MATTER OF** the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** 13 publicly notified resource consent applications by Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (**MHUD**) to the Rotorua Lakes Council

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF MARIE ANTOINETTE TASSELL**

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**Introduction**

1. My name is Marie Antoinette Tassell. I am a resident of Glenholme.
2. I am authorised to provide evidence on behalf of RRI.

**Background**

3. I have lived in Glenholme for 13 years. For the past 10 years I have resided at 31 Holland Street, Glenholme, Rotorua (**my Home**). Prior to that I lived on Sophia Street, Glenholme, Rotorua.
4. A copy of a map showing my home in relation to the 13 proposed sites for emergency housing is annexed and marked in pink as Appendix 1.
5. Before 2020 Glenholme was a quiet residential neighbourhood. I used to regularly walk from my Home, along Fenton Street, to Urbano Café where I

would sit outside and enjoy the neighbourhood. I also used to walk to the Rotorua CBD from my Home and along Fenton Street.

6. My now 16 year old son would also regularly walk from my Home to Profiles 1.0 24 hour gym on Ti Street.

### **Effects of Emergency Housing**

7. Glenholme has significantly changed since the introduction of emergency housing on Fenton Street in 2020.
8. For a start, there are now constant police sirens which seem to be present most nights. We also get woken up by loud motorbikes screaming up and down Fenton Street, and the surrounding streets. This often happens at 2am or 3am. This has been negatively affecting my sleep as I get woken up by the loud motorbikes between three and four times a night. I also cannot leave our windows open at night because of the noise. It is not uncommon to see groups of people walking around the Glenholme streets late at night. They often have loud music playing as they walk along too.
9. I no longer let my 16 year old son walk to Profiles 1.0 24 hour gym on Ti Street as he has on a number of occasions encountered violence and fighting along Fenton Street. It is also not safe for him or myself to walk past Four Canoes and the other emergency accommodations anymore.
10. I myself no longer feel safe to walk to the CBD or to the Countdown supermarket on Fenton Street. I have had too many instances where I have felt unsafe and/or have been approached by people that seem high and quite unstable. I also used to walk to my business located in the CBD, but I would never consider walking there now.

11. My family and I used to walk to The Redwood's to walk our dog. Twice we have had our dog attacked by aggressive non leashed dogs around the area near Malone's hotel. The people accompanying the dogs just laughed.
12. I do not regularly go to Urbano Café anymore. It is no longer enjoyable to sit outside Urbano Café as guests are sometimes plagued by people coming up to ask for money who then become abusive when it's not given.
13. It is also not just Fenton Street which feels unsafe, it is also the connecting streets that run off it such as Lytton Street, Grey Street, Tilsley Street etc.

#### *Crime*

14. Since the arrival of emergency housing we have had our garage broken into and bikes stolen. We now have a large dog, who we are grateful for as he barks and on several occasions indicated that people are on the property.
15. We have also installed security cameras on our property.
16. I have on a number of occasions witnessed fights along Fenton Street when driving to work in the middle of the day. Sometimes these participants end up blocking Fenton Street.

#### **Investing in Rotorua**

17. I own a property investment agency (iFindProperty) and we have noticed a decrease in people prepared to invest in Rotorua, especially in the central locations which used to be very popular. There seems to be quite a bit of awareness from non-Rotorua based investors about the emergency housing issues here and this has created a loss of confidence to invest.

18. I am also a member of the NZ Entrepreneurs' Organisation and attend monthly meetings in Auckland. I have heard numerous colleagues there talk about how they used to regularly holiday in Rotorua but refuse to now. The "brand damage" done to Rotorua is huge.

### **Conclusion**

19. I think the government should be working more closely with the private sector (landlords) who are the largest providers of accommodation in NZ. Find a way to incentivise landlords to work with organisations working to provide emergency housing. This would allow the houses to be spread over much greater areas rather than concentrating them all in one area (like Fenton Street). The gangs and associated illegal activities are able to easily operate in the current concentrated populations.
20. I am sad to see the state of Rotorua, especially the Glenholme area. Glenholme is no longer safe or inviting. Because of it my family and I are planning to move to Nelson in an effort to leave behind emergency housing and its effects.

Marie Antoinette Tassell

12 October 2022

Accommodation Type ● Hotel/Resort ● Motel

