

FORM 13

SUBMISSION ON A PUBLICLY OR LIMITED NOTIFIED APPLICATION CONCERNING RESOURCE CONSENT

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Section 96 Resource Management Act 1991

(Rotorua Lakes Council is the operating name of Rotorua District Council)

To: Chief Executive Rotorua Lakes Council Private Bag RO3029 ROTORUA	Name of Submitter: Beatrice Ann Hodgkiss (Paddi) <i>[Full Name]</i>
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This is a submission on an application from *[name of applicant]*:

MHUD: publicly notified resource consent applications from LU24-010186 to LU24-010192

for a Resource Consent to *[Briefly describe the type of consent, proposed activity, and location of the resource consent]*:

The extension of the use of 7 motels as contracted emergency housing through to 15 Dec 2025

at *[The location of the resource consent]*:

Aplin Motel 16 Sala St, Apollo Hotel 7 Tryon St, Ascot on Fenton 247 Fenton and Toko St, Geneva Motor Lodge 299 Fenton St, Lake Rotorua Hotel 131 Lake Rd, Pohutu Lodge Motel 3 Meade St, Rotovegas Motel 249-251 Fenton St, 14-16Toko St, 8, 8B and 10 Toko St

The specific parts of the application that my submission relates to are *[Give Details]*:

Social impact
Site management
Damage to Rotorua's reputation
Increased drug related and other antisocial activities
Exit strategy.....the lack of, given this is the second extension request

My submission is *[include whether you support or oppose the specific parts of the application or wish to have them amended; and the reasons for your views]*:

I oppose the extension for the use of the motels listed as emergency housing in its entirety. Rotorua is, actually was, a tourist hub. It is now a homeless hub. Please see the attached document in which I expand on this.

I seek the following decision from the consent authority *[Give precise details, including the general nature of any conditions sought]*:

I request that any extensions not be granted and that the motels be refurbished and restored to their original use ie, as short-term visitor accommodation.



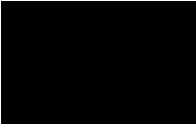

I wish to be heard in support of my submission



I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission



If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing

Signature of submitter (<i>or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter</i>):	Date:
Address for service of Submitter: 	Telephone: 
Contact person: <i>[name and designation, if applicable]</i>	Fax/email:

Note to submitter:

You must serve a copy of your submission on the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after you have served your submission on the consent authority.

The information you have provided on this form is required so that your submission can be processed under the RMA, and your name and address will be publicly available. The information will be stored on a public register and held by the Council, and may also be made available to the public on the Council's website. In addition, any on-going communications between you and Council will be held at Council's offices and may also be accessed upon request by a third party. Access to this information is administered in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the Privacy Act 1993. If you have any concerns about this, please discuss with a Council Planner prior to lodging your submission. If you would like to request access to, or correction of your details, please contact the Council.

**Submission by Paddi Hodgkiss
in relation to:**

MHUD resource consent applications LU24-010186 to LU24-010192

We are now going down a 'here-we-go-again' path however although the situation is the same, this submission isn't simply a resend the one I wrote 2 years ago. The original request by MHUD for the continued use of motels as emergency housing was heard by supposedly 'independent' commissioners in October 2022. It attracted 3841 submissions of which an overwhelming 80% were in opposition. Despite that, the public were ignored and a 2 year extension was granted. 2 years is nearly up and here we are again, another extension request.

Most of the issues in my original submission are still relevant today. Rotorua has been irreparably damaged by the failed MHUD / MSD / Kiangā Ora 'place-based experiment' developed by the previous government to concentrate homeless in Rotorua. Rotorua has 3.74% of New Zealand's population yet it now has 10% and climbing, of the homeless. I recall at the original hearing that a MHUD lawyer denied that out-of-town homeless were being brought into Rotorua. This was met by angry yells of rubbish from members of the public. That was not the first lie from MHUD / MSD and they're still coming. It was around that time that there was an interview and photograph of a young, pregnant woman in the Daily Post in which she said that she'd been bussed to Rotorua from Wellington, courtesy MSD! As a local I can accept providing emergency accommodation for local homeless. To circumvent "local" MSD reclassified "local" as someone who had lived in the area for 30+ days, therefore 30 days in a motel and you were subsequently treated as local and entitled the local privilege of continued emergency accommodation.

The homeless industry has become a multi million dollar business in Rotorua. (This business should be shared throughout the country.) The homeless are being trafficked to Rotorua and exploited for others' profit. Millions of dollars are finding their way into the pockets of motel owners, most of whom live out of town. MSD funds Te Pokapu, owned by Ngāti Whakāue, a **for-profit** homeless reception centre established to triage the homeless. If homeless are not being trafficked to Rotorua, why is such a business required? On the 11th August, the PM's office stated that the number of households in emergency housing had dropped 32% since the change in government, meaning that there were 1000 fewer children living in motels. This seemingly impressive data does not reflect the situation in Rotorua. In that time Rotorua has seen a mere 9.7% reduction but this is further tempered with the fact that the number of children has increased by 18, ie a rise of 6.2%! MHUD, MSD, the government, please explain. Multiple people have made numerous requests to MHUD and MSD including OIA requests, wanting to know the number of people trafficked to Rotorua. It should be relatively simple to answer. There must be a database. There must be records somewhere. Alternatively, the truth is too shocking to admit in public, too shocking to admit that MHUD and MSD have been lying about their use and abuse of

Rotorua, fudging the facts for several years so it easier to bypass questions and present data that isn't a true representation of the facts.

It is undeniable and accepted by all parties that there has been a huge upsurge in crime, vandalism and begging and other antisocial behaviours associated with the growth in the homeless industry. Residential areas close to the motels are seriously impacted. How many of you live adjacent to emergency housing motels? A new competition could be to count the number of supermarket trolleys dumped around our town on any given day. What is worse is that many of those, having had their contents unloaded at motels, are refilled with rubbish, including soiled nappies and left out on the street. Not a good look for locals, much less for visitors. Many people, myself included, don't feel safe in the cbd and retail staff are regularly threatened. It's not great to be in town shopping, having a fist centimetres from your face and being told to "get fucked" for not handing over money. Again, not good for locals even though such experiences are far from rare, much less favourable for visitors to experience. Word and impressions travel fast.

The cumulative negative impact on our local police, health services, schools and other services is also undeniable. Rotorua is no longer a tourist Mecca, it is the homeless capital of NZ thanks to collaboration between MHUD, MSD and Council. It is embarrassing to have to advise friends visiting Rotorua, including those from overseas, to check with motels re their proximity to emergency accommodation motels or shared use motels before booking, especially prior to booking through a third party. Again, not a good look for a tourist town.

It's well past time for Rotorua's motels to be restored to their original purpose, ie short term visitor accommodation.

I closed my 2022 submission with the comment that "in light of the overwhelming public opposition to granting the extensions that you, the commissioners, will NOT recommend extensions." Unfortunately that was a fail and I was left with confirmation that the commissioners were not "independent". The whole process was a massive waste of money and people's time and not legally binding.

Maybe we can be second time lucky. I request that you demonstrate your "independence" and deny the MHUD proposal to continue the use of the 7 motels listed as emergency housing. There is no way 7 motels worth of homeless are being generated from within Rotorua now. I request that you listen to Rotorua's residents, not government departments and demonstrate true independence. The current application is request number two. Should it be granted, I think Rotorua residents will be stuck with yearly requests ad infinitum. I appeal to your consciences not to inflict Rotorua with that.

Our current mayor and many councillors included in their last election campaigns that they'd put an end to the homeless industry. They've failed. We were deceived in the hunt for votes. Should you grant the MHUD motel extension proposal, I'd hold you complicit, along with our council, in continuing to fail Rotorua. I'd prefer to think that the decision-makers at this table were brave enough to put a halt to the use of Rotorua as a dumping ground for the homeless, rather were instrumental in efforts to restore some semblance of trust in government agencies, the government and our local council, the groups which collectively have let Rotorua down so appallingly.

The choice is:

- 1 Rotorua being restored to the tourist hub that it used to be known for or,
- 2 Retain it's current status as the homeless capital of NZ, or Slumcity by which it is sometimes referred.

Your call.