

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF 7 publicly notified resource consent applications
by Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – the Ministry of
Housing and Urban Development (**MHUD**) to the
Rotorua Lakes Council

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF STU SMITH

1. I have lived in Toko Street since 1986.
2. Toko Street used to be a quiet street full of elderly retired residents and happy tourists. My property is located in the vicinity of Rotovegas Motel, Ascot Motel, Pinelands Motel and Victoria Motel. All of these motels have been used in one form or another over the past four years for either Contracted Emergency Housing or Mixed-Use Emergency Housing.
3. The impact of this has resulted in some significant changes to my living situation:
 - (a) \$10,000 for security and fencing of my property. Something I never imagined I would have to do, or wanted to do.
 - (b) Random people would knock on my door asking for accommodation or be cheeky enough to ask if they could get a drink of water. This used to happen while my wife was at home on her own.
 - (c) I am now constantly removing/returning trolleys that have been left in front of my home from people using them from either the Central Mall or Countdown.

- (d) I am now constantly removing significant amounts of rubbish littering my property and the street in general.
4. I have first-hand accounts of behaviours impacting on my well-being from a motel that backs onto my property. The worst of this was very obvious gang related violence.
 5. While I was nursing my wife during the worst of her illness, who has recently passed away from cancer, we would have to endure the filthy disturbing language and unruly behaviours of those living in the motels. A heartbreaking time which only added more emotional distress for both of us.
 6. I've turned 70 and what I thought would be an ideal street and home to retire in, (having all the amenities I would need as I got on in age), I'm not sure I want to stay in Rotorua now (a place I always loved). I'm seriously thinking I want to be somewhere I will enjoy and feel safe. The demographic has changed too much in this town.
 7. All I want is for all this to stop, for these people to stop coming to our city and for Toko St to return back to the quiet neighbourhood we used to enjoy.

Stu Smith

30 October 2024