

2005/06 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 13 May 2005

I do not wish to make a personal submission at the hearings.

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Your Submission:

I have concerns about residential development in Halswell.

1) The 'country palms' development shows complete disregard for the ecological history of this area. These palms are not native to this area, they are the main feature of this area and they are less reflective of either the Maori or European history or the ecological history of this area than a planting of pine trees would be. I think there is just no excuse in this age for developers to be given this degree of freedom to place their stamp on the ecology of an area with such disregard for the natural history of a location. I believe that plantings should be more controlled to fit in with a locality's general conservation aims.

2) I also think that with the large rate of residential development from what were farms or orchards that 5% of land should be set aside for reserves and parks. I think conservation areas should occur not only in National Parks but on a smaller scale in urban areas too. Without this, the natural and historic characteristics of an area will largely be lost. Simple things like retaining hedges and trees that edge roads preserve the semi-rural feel. This can be seen to good effect in the northern Aidanfield area with the poplars (perhaps natives would have been a better choice!) Compare this with the hideous run of 6 foot fencing running the length of many previously pretty semi-country roads in Halswell. Let urbanisation continue, but why not disguise its uglier effects? These km runs of board fencing are more reminiscent of the entrance to South Auckland via the motorway than the supposed 'semi-rural' feel that these new developments laughably advertise. Smart development should minimise the harmful effects of the urbanisation of rural area and thus minimise the stress to residents by improving the aesthetics of places not just for the people buying the new properties but their neighbours!

There is nothing pleasing about seeing an ugly fence where once there were fields, orchards and hedges, which are far more relaxing to be around!

3) I would like to see woven into urbanisation plans more emphasis on the restoration of the native flora of this area. I think all land users have a responsibility to be a part of this, and not merely those governing reserves & parks. There is wide variety in the quality of landscaping offered by developers and to me this says that minimum standards are too low.

Without this happening at a local area we will end up with unhealthy environments where only those with the money to live in the best areas can access the healing properties of natural beauty on a daily basis.

I think that parents like myself at home should be able to walk their kids to somewhere beautiful and educational. This should be the case in any suburb and perhaps more particularly in areas where people are less likely to have their own transport or money to take a bus.