

Submission for Ryman Healthcare Resource Consent for Karori Retirement

Village:

From: David and Gabrielle Marshall, 1 Lancaster St., Karori.

Madam chair and panel:

1. I am David Marshall and this is my wife Gabrielle. She has asked that I speak for both of us.
2. We are appearing today to support the Resource Consent application by Ryman Healthcare, both on our own behalf but also on behalf of the wider Karori Community and to try to put a **human face** to the submitters who are strongly supporting this application
3. We moved to Karori six years ago because three of our five daughters and many of our grandchildren live in Karori.
4. We do not want to go over again the reasons we have listed on our submissions or the technical aspects of the resource consent. Since the original consent application, nearly two and a half years ago, the Council officers have requested a lengthy list of modifications and changes, and have obviously met with the Ryman planning team. With nearly twenty-five years of local body experience, I understand the need for careful scrutiny of a project of this scale and the need for the community to comment, and for necessary changes and modifications. However, my reading of all these consent documents now is that those changes **have** been made and the latest drawings and consent applications appear to us at least to have satisfied these requirements.
5. However, may we comment briefly on two of the documents presented to you? First is the **Statement of Evidence from Matthew Brown**, Development

Manager for Ryman Healthcare. If we did not know better, it seems he has read our notes and submission – we wholeheartedly agree with his comments.

Second, the very comprehensive document **Section 42A Recommendation Report** by Laura Brownlie, which seems to us to deal with the issues raised by objectors very comprehensively. Problems of parking, green spaces, heritage issues, traffic flows, fencing, building height and so on appear to us to have been dealt with very satisfactorily. The only issue I wish to comment on briefly is that of **infrastructure** which has been frequently quoted to us for the last several years as the main reason for the delays in this project. The Mayor, Ward councillors, long standing residents of Karori have all repeatedly said to us: “It’s the infrastructure you know” until this seems to have become some sort of suburban folk lore. Of course, infrastructure is important but meantime consents have been issued for literally dozens of townhouses and apartments all round Karori and presumably the infrastructure is coping with them. After dealing with all aspects of water infrastructure, Section 461 of Laura Brownlie’s report concludes “...the proposal is supported from a three waters servicing proposal”. This is echoed in Appendix 11, Wellington Water Limited Summary of Conclusions, 10. i – iv.

6. All round Karori there are couples, and singles, like us. We first put our names on the Ryman waiting list at an open day held on the site in 2017. Now five years later, and with realistically at least another three or four years before there will be any occupancy, we are becoming despondent. We both have health issues and these are only likely to deteriorate as time goes by.

7. Amongst our friends, several couples have simply given up waiting and despite wanting to stay in Karori, have moved into the BUPA village at Crofton Downs, others have moved to the Kapiti Coast, another couple is off to Palmerston

North, some have died. We don't want to be those people – we have made our home in Karori, have become immersed and involved in the community in a whole variety of ways and most importantly, that is where our family lives.

8. We often hear from the WCC about the need for housing, and quite rightly. But housing needs are not just for low-cost or first-home buyers, or student flatters. May we make a strenuous plea for housing for the elderly, the fastest growing section of the population? That is exactly what this Ryman Healthcare development is for, and that is what we are. A 'windfall' development like this is likely to free up several hundred homes, many like ours in Karori, which would be more suitable for a family than for a couple like us, well into their eighties and starting to struggle with maintenance issues.

9. To us, the most important section of Laura Brownlie's report was Section 640: **"I therefore conclude that ...the resource consent application should be granted, subject to the recommended conditions set out in Appendix 1"**.

10. Many years ago as a very young member of Napier Jaycees, the mayor Sir Peter Tait came to address us. He, probably more than any one person in the fifty years we lived in Napier, made the city into the charming thriving tourist city it has become. The comment I remember most vividly from that meeting so long ago was this: "You will be remembered for the things you do, not the things you don't do". It was his motto, and I certainly remembered it during my Local Government career. Would that WCC had heard that talk!

11. Madam chair and panel, may we ask simply and sincerely, that you progress this application forthwith and allow this important project to get off the ground. We do not want to die before it is finished.