

**BEFORE A HEARINGS PANEL
APPOINTED BY NELSON CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE MATTER of Private Plan Change 28 – Maitahi Bayview

**AND IN THE MATTER of Clause 21 of the First Schedule of the Resource
Management Act 1991**

**EVIDENCE OF ASTRID BANKE SAYER FOR SAVE THE MAITAI INC
YOUTH PERSPECTIVE ON THE VALUE OF THE MAITAI VALLEY
DATED 11 JULY 2022**

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INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Astrid Banke Sayer. I am a school student in Nelson. I have grown up, as have many of my friends, visiting the Maitai Valley. It has been a place of adventure, activity, and escape since I was little. It would no longer be a place for those things if PPC28 is approved, and the urban development is allowed in the valley.
2. I have not read all the applicant's evidence, but I have looked at the most recent Structure Plan in Mr Milne's evidence, and the indicative masterplan provided with the applicant's rebuttal evidence, so that I understand in a general sense what type of development is proposed.

EVIDENCE

Why the Maitai Valley is special for Nelsons young people

3. Like all my friends, and many other young people in Nelson, I have been going to the Maitai Valley for my whole life.
4. For younger children it is a place for family picnics, birthday parties, exploring and adventure. It then becomes a place to learn to swim or where you are first allowed to walk by yourself or walk the dog. For me now as a teenager, the Maitai is a place to meet friends, swim, play sports, and walk.
5. The reason the Maitai is so loved and visited so often is that it is close to town, with safe access, and it is undeveloped; it is open and green and wild.
6. You are able to bike or walk there safely along the cycle way on Nile Street and then the valley's walking tracks, and then suddenly you are out of the city and in nature.
7. The Maitai is unique in this way. It is close to town but within five minutes walk it feels like you are in the country. I can go after school and suddenly be free to listen to and connect with nature, and enjoy what nature has to offer.
8. There is no other places like this for young people in Nelson. There are no other undisturbed and safe spaces where you escape the noise and bustle of town that are

so easy to get to. This makes the Maitai special. The Maitai and these values need to be protected and preserved.

Effects of urban development

9. If urban development is allowed in the Maitai, the Maitai's atmosphere – the calm, quiet, natural space it provides Nelson's young people – will disappear.
10. It will no longer be a place where children can explore and learn to love the natural environment.
11. The main area where I would go with my friends is the upper Maitai, from the end of Nile Street and Branford Park going up to the golf area. This is where the swimming holes are, with Dennes hole being closest to the PPC28 area. These are all spots used often by families and young people; it is impossible to bike or walk past on a Saturday in summer without them being filled with people playing and swimming. All three of these areas would be directly impacted by urban development at the PPC28 area. You would be able to see the houses, especially from Dennes hole. You would be able to hear noise from the subdivision, and from increased traffic. As a result, the Maitai would no longer provide the tranquil, rural, open, undeveloped escape it currently provides. It would just be part of Nelson's urban sprawl.

CONCLUSION

12. For me the most beautiful thing about the Maitai is the atmosphere, and the openness, and the ruralness. That is what makes it so attractive for young people especially when there is nowhere else to go like this and because it safe and easy to get to.
13. With the traffic, and number of houses PPC28 would enable, the Maitai would lose this rural undisturbed feel, and may no longer be the safe place it currently is. The thought of this loss makes me sad. There are many times where I say, or one of my friends says, "o when we are next up the Maitai we can...", and that would no longer be a way of thinking. I would love for my future children to be able to enjoy the childhood I did in the Maitai.

14. It is for these reasons I request that PPC28 be declined.

Astrid Sayer

11 July 2022