

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by **THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL** for a comprehensive resource consent for festivals and events at Williamson Park, Whangamata

**Statement of Evidence of BARRY ARTHUR SAPWELL
on behalf of the Friends of Williamson Park Society**

Dated 25 October 2018

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SUMMARY

1. My full name is Barry Arthur Sapwell.
2. I oppose the application for resource consent to allow the proposed concerts on the following grounds:
 - a. The noise;
 - b. The behaviour of concert-goers;

OBJECTIONS

3. I reside in Browns Bay, Auckland. I am an interested party on the basis that I regularly stay in Whangamata at my house on 103B Seaview Road, approximately 30 metres from Williamson Park. We first moved out there 23 years ago. I frequent Whangamata about once a month through the winter, and I am there almost all of summer. I was attracted to Whangamata by its beautiful beach and park, and the great family atmosphere. I use Williamson Park every day when I am in Whangamata.
4. For this reason, I oppose the use of the Park for the purposes of holding events such as concerts.
5. During the summer of 2017-2018, when three concerts were held in the Park, I had to move out of my house due to the noise. It was extremely loud. The behaviour of the concert goers was offensive. The language we had to put up with was extremely loud and vulgar. Multiple concert goers were seen urinating on our gardens – the ones surrounding the venue.
6. When we first purchased a place in Whangamata, we had to deal with riots and terrible behaviour from 16 -23 year old youths. An alcohol ban was then put in place and the extreme behaviour reduced considerably.
7. This year there were a number of young people that were diverted by Maori Wardens and do not show up in the statistics for this period. This is, as I understand to be in excess of 200 young people. This included drunk people as young as 14 years of age, who had come to Whangamata for the concert.
8. I understand that the supporters of the submission are touting erroneous figures in support. These figures are skewed as they do not

include a great reduction in Police support over the 2017-2018 summer as this meant fewer arrests.

9. Where do we go to avoid the excessive noise and behaviour? Who is going to pay for the accommodation in another town?
10. I oppose the granting of the resource consent to allow the proposed concerts.

Barry Arthur Sapwell

25 October 2018