

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 TREVOR GORRIE on behalf of the Friends of
Williamson Park Society**

Dated 25 October 2018

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SUMMARY

1. My name is Trevor Gorrie.
2. I oppose the resource consent application on the ground that Williamson Park should not be used for commercial purposes.

OBJECTIONS

3. I am 54 years of age. I live in Auckland.
4. I am an interested party on the basis that I have been holidaying in Whangamata my entire life on a property originally owned by my Grandfather. My father now owns it and sometime in the future, it will be passed down to the next generation and so on. We are now on our fifth generation of ownership in the family. My father's brother also owns the property next to us. He has done so for 54 years. Last year he passed away and now the property is owned by my cousins.
5. We are a very close family which has grown over the years as the family has expanded.
6. My Grandmother's wishes were that the property be kept in the family for future generations to enjoy.
7. During the '80s, I was a teenager. We would go to Williamson Park many times during the evenings and for New Year's Celebrations. They were not pleasant times for Whangamata. There was a great deal of intoxicated people, urinating in public, fighting and smashing bottles on the road, cars would do burnouts and the police were in riot uniform.
8. Over the past 20 years, this has changed. This was due to the introduction of liquor bans and strict penalties for breaking the law, by the council.
9. Now, we have the introduction of concerts being held at the Park. Big ugly fences are put up and people are charged money for tickets to watch these events. Alcohol was also sold onsite, bringing more trouble. I believe that the Council wants to begin charging people for the events such as Beach Hop and Britz at the Beach. This is purely revenue gathering from the Council as these two events are non-profit and the money is donated to charities based in Whangamata.
10. Williamson Park was donated to the community of Whangamata by the Williamson family for people to enjoy. It was also so they could enjoy the open atmosphere alongside the beach and free events, 'forever'.

11. I am strongly opposed to commercial gain by the Council and event organisers through Williamson Park.

Trevor Gorrie

25 October 2018