

Carole Searle Submission 18.

First I would like to introduce myself. My name is Carole Searle. I ~~was~~ grew up on farms and came to live at 372 Parallel Road 53 years ago. My husband's family have been on the farm for 113 years. Our children are 4th generation running the farm. I am well used to the realities of rural life.

My main concern for Plan Change 25 is the setback from roads. Across the road at 383 Parallel Road a Kivikuit Farm was started in 2022. Crop protection shelters were erected without consent. A retrospective Consent was granted. This was succeeded a new consent was issued. This had a clause that the structures opposite 434 Parallel Road were to be moved back 9 metres. They were erected at 6 metres back. This consent was ignored and development went ahead. I spoke to the chief Enforcement officer for the Council on 4 occasions. The last report there would be a deadline then an abatement notice and possible fines.

Going around the corner by 434 Parallel Road is now an extreme safety hazard. On that corner an existing hedge on the other side is very close to the road. Before the structures were erected road-users had a line of vision around the corner. This has been obliterated. To make matters worse a hedge has been planted close to the boundary.

Parallel Road is an extremely busy road with users ranging from many cyclists to large trucks and agricultural vehicles. I submitted a statement from Peter Orchard and Clare Hamilton who live at 424 Parallel Road. They have witnessed multiple near-misses. If the structures had been removed the required 9 metres and a hedge erected in a suitable place safety could have really improved.

There is another potential safety hazard developing on a corner. This is across the road between 372 and 360 Parallel Road. Soil has been laid up against the fence in preparation for hedging. On that corner are 2 boundary posts very close to the road.

This paddock has been planted in maize the last 3 years. At its maximum height all vision for traffic coming around the corner was removed. When the hedges grow this will be permanent. As it is close to our home at 372 we have listened to vehicles of all sizes going around the corner at high speeds. There has been accidents where cars losing control.

Settling back the shelters at 15 metres on corners would result in a minimal loss of productive land. Every farm has some land not in production. The extra setback is only on corners. This is a small concession for public safety.

I request the Council consider safety a top priority over any minor economical effects.