



# NGARUAWAHIA GOLF CLUB (Inc)

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To the Waikato District Council Hearings Panel,

Ngaruawahia Golf Club appreciate the opportunity to submit on the Proposed District Plan and the reserves zone where our golf course sits. Our submission to the proposed district plan appears to have been misinterpreted by council as one of an overly ambitious amateur sports clubs with ideas of mass development. This is simply not the case, we are an organisation that is simply looking to safeguard our future sustainability, whether that by services offered or potential advertising.

Councils 42a report outlines a number of problems with the formalisation of a minor 'commercial activities', there does not appear to be a great deal of flexibility in the management of these reserves, especially if there is no reserve management plan in place. Whilst we understand the intent of protecting reserves, (we understand this as we spend 95% of our members subscriptions every year doing this) we find the response a little over the top or conservative. What is being considered in the formalisation of the driving range maybe as simple as an extended shed with an honesty box system or payment being made through the existing pro shop, either way there are no effects on the enjoyment of the reserve or the neighbouring properties.

The above mentioned project is not a short term undertaking, so the golf club is heartened with the reference to the National Planning Standards and potential plan changes that may better reflect what goes on a day to day basis on a reserve, that is essentially managed and by a community organisation.

The other key point in the submission to the proposed district plan was in relation to signage. Acknowledging the incorrect reference to rural zoning, the golf club maintain the notion that advertising can be undertaken tastefully on a stretch of road frontage that is treelined and is essentially straight piece of road. The golf club has proposed measures and potential restrictions on itself, by creating a ratio of 1 sign per 150m. We believe that this will mean the signage can be set into the reserve landscape but not dominate our beautiful golf course. It is interesting that the council response to our submission talks of unlimited 1m<sup>2</sup> signage, I think this would personally detract and look tacky in comparison to the two or three additional signs we are proposing.

As a committee we have decided not to attend the hearing, but to table this response. We see little point in occupying the hearing panels time in relation to formalising a small scale 'commercial activity', it would appear we are better placed waiting for the NPS to be developed. We would remind council staff that they have set an expectation with us now and would anticipate early engagement given the scale of community facility we provide. In

relation to signage on site, we would encourage the hearing panel to undertake a site visit, just a short distance up the Great South Road and see for yourself how two or three signs would not detract from our environment and would allow a little more income to be gained for this community facility.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arndell', written in a cursive style.

Peter Arndell  
General Manager