

Oral Submission to planning tribunal, Wed 19 April 2023 - Proposed District Scheme Change 56: Intensification

(Pam and Molly)

<p>Who we are, what we do</p>	<p>2min</p>	<p>Pam Molly</p>	<p>Tena koutou katoa.</p> <p>Ko Pam Crisp toko ingoa</p> <p>Ko Molly Melhuish toko ingoa</p> <p>Ko Te Awa Kairangi Ki Tai ahau</p> <p>Ko Transition Towns Lower Hutt toko rōpū</p> <p>Transition Towns L Hutt is part of an international network focused on building community resilience and regeneration.</p> <p>Our base here is the Transition Towns Community Centre in Alicetown, which we run on behalf of Hutt City Council.</p> <p>Our primary focus is not on being against things, but on developing and promoting positive possibilities.</p> <p>For example we contributed to HCC's extensive consultation on its Climate Change Strategy 'Pathways for Survival' in 2019.</p> <p>(SLIDE - Transition Towns Community Centre)</p>
<p>Overview; key points we wish to submit on (below)</p>	<p>2min</p>	<p>Pam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our submission highlights a number of issues, risks and opportunities associated with the draft Housing Intensification Policy. We will speak briefly to several of these. ● We support the overarching objectives of rapid transport, retaining existing urban areas and stopping sprawl.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However our planning system doesn't facilitate the design thinking that we really need. • The draft Housing Intensification Policy focuses mainly on the What but not the How • Linkages needed across relevant policies and strategies incl. transport, Riverlink, and 'Pathways for Survival' climate change strategy
Context - risk profile for L Hutt	1 min	Molly	The January floods and Cyclone Gabrielle have highlighted particularly significant risks for the Hutt Valley. (SLIDE)
Flood protection & mitigation.	3 min	Pam	<p>The draft Housing Intensification Policy requires one third of all land surfaces zoned for intensification to be left permeable. HCC is not currently being enforced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New housing developments in Wainuiomata and Waiwhetu - "concrete everywhere". (SLIDE) • State-of-the-art tiling in a new apartment complex on Kings Crescent will allow surface water to soak into the ground quickly (SLIDE). • (SLIDE: 'Spongy' neighbourhoods can reduce flooding in our cities' - Newsroom Pro, 23 February 2023) <i>'a proven blueprint for how development should continue post-Gabrielle'.</i> <p>The proposed planning changes across Te Awa Kairangi Ki Tai challenge us to:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be informed by variations in demographics, local geography and ecology • Ensure the most disadvantaged residential areas have access to Nature, including local pocket reserves with native trees • Bring tangata whenua, community representatives, planners, designers, technical experts and developers together and be prepared to do things differently.
Urban forests	6 min	Molly	<p>For Transition Towns Lower Hutt, to planning hearing LHCC, Planning Tribunal April 19 2023 (Molly Melhuish, melhuish@xtra.co.nz 027 230 5911)</p> <p>Climate change has changed the world: heat deaths in are cities increasing rapidly</p> <p>Urban intensification needs to embrace new concepts in response</p> <p>Trees cool the city, and provide ecosystem services: water, air, Nature for physical and mental health</p> <p>Colonials admired grassy parks with isolated trees 1 – Hutt city does too – unwanted ground is typically kept in grass, which costs money to maintain, and emits more carbon than it sequesters.</p> <p>Colonials housed their underclasses in crowded tenements – often in swampy areas. Hutt still does –</p> <p>WOA marae was built in a swamp; a large subdivision is now proposed for a swamp in Silverstream (2).</p> <p>WOA marae’s chairman contributed to LHCC’s Climate Protection consultation, called for a playground of native trees and rongoā. I met them and created a poster, He Ngahere He Korowai (3), a tiny forest as</p>

		<p>a precious cloak with every species, to offset harm of urban intensification</p> <p>A method to create city forests was discovered in Japan 40 years ago – Every species of tree and shrub adapted to the soil and climate, into prepared soil, 3 stems per sq meter. The SUGi group reports on 142 “tiny forests” built since 2019 in 16 countries (4)</p> <p>ALL the cost is upfront, no maintenance cost after 2 yrs, no arborists are needed as roots and branches interlock, making forests stable to flood, windstorm, even tsunami.</p> <p>The urban public needs commitment from Council to match urban intensification with funding for voluntary groups to create pocket reserves in areas of greatest need – the poorest urban subdivisions.</p> <p>#5 of Lower Hutt City Council’s draft Intensification Plan is to require developers to contribute \$\$ for either reserves or new infrastructure. We want the reserves! – and the funding to support volunteers growing and planting the trees.</p> <p>1. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/366921733_Calling_Time_on_the_Imperial_Lawn_and_the_Imperative_for_Greenhouse_Gas_Mitigation</p> <p>2. https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/122348229/massive-proposed-earthworks-sparks-concern-for-environmental-restoration</p> <p>3. https://www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/he_ngahere_he_korowai</p> <p>4. https://cdn.sanity.io/files/ozyxja8/production/5f0283474d1d0c3cdbc66e6576e2ab8d4bae2803.pdf</p>
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