READ BY LIN STREEFKERK

**Tēnā koutou katoa.**

My name is Jo Korent née Puketapu. I am of Te Atiawa descent and I was born at 3 Puketapu Grove in Waiwhetu. I speak to you today as whānau and kaitiaki of the land in Manor Park, where our family home is now.

I am speaking on behalf of myself, my husband, our four adult children who were raised in Manor Park, their partners, and our grandchildren, who visit and stay with us regularly. I also speak to you on behalf of the future generations of people who live in the Hutt Valley, and my Te Atiawa iwi who live south of Manor Park and who have deep connections to Te Awa Kairangi – our very own Hutt River.

We were one of the first families to build our home in Mary Huse Grove – our dream home, in a street with a mixture of young families and elderly. We have lived in Manor Park for 27 years, and I have lived in the Hutt Valley for over 60 years. This is not simply where we currently live. It is our family home, our children's home, and now our grandchildren's home. We thought we would downsize, but the response from our kids was "you can't do that, this is our home". So, we didn't, and we don't intend to move. My husband and I plan to stay where we are for this lifetime.

That is why we ask the Panel to retain the Rural Zone for 30 Benmore Crescent and reject its rezoning for industrial use.

I want to speak about three things:

- what industrial use would mean for our daily lives and safety;
- the risk to our stormwater, our groundwater and the artesian water that people drink;
- and our shared responsibility, as kaitiaki, to make a decision that will last for generations.

**This is our home. This is our water. And this decision will last for generations.**

First, our daily lives and safety. For myself and my whanau, industrial use of this land means trucks, noise, lighting, vibration, odour and disturbance close to our homes.

It also means additional heavy vehicles moving through the SH58 and SH2 interchange and across the railway crossing, where residents already experience congestion and safety issues.

Second, we are deeply concerned about stormwater and groundwater. Industrial activity involving waste handling, vehicle movements, stockpiles and large hard-

surfaced areas creates risks from sediment, hydrocarbons, heavy metals and accidental contamination.

The site sits between Dry Creek and Te Awa Kairangi, the Hutt River, over free-draining alluvial gravels. Water moves easily through gravels like these. If contamination did reach the groundwater, it would be very difficult to clean up, and mitigation after the event may be too late.

That matters because this groundwater is not only an environmental feature – for many people it is a source of drinking water. Artesian water is drawn on at Waiwhetu, at the Dowse Art Gallery and in Petone. At Puketapu Grove, where I was born, artesian water is piped directly into homes, and there is a tap available at the marae.

I am not a hydrogeologist, and I cannot tell you today exactly how water beneath 30 Benmore Crescent connects to these supplies. But I do ask the Panel to be confident, on expert evidence, that it would not be affected before allowing industrial use here. If that confidence is not there, then a precautionary approach should apply, and the Rural Zone should stay. If we get this wrong, it will be a future Council that has to explain why.

Third, and most importantly, this is about guardianship. As residents, Council, mana whenua and the wider community, we share a responsibility to care for this land and water, for those who come after us. Decisions about zoning can last for generations, and none of us holds our role for long. We are all temporary kaitiaki of this land and water, and what we choose to do with our time has long-lasting effects.

I also want to be clear about what this is not. This is not about the value of our property. It is about whether we can continue to live safely and peacefully in the community we have cared for over 27 years.

That is why this decision matters so much. Industrial zoning would fundamentally and permanently change the character of Manor Park. Once that change is made, it will be extremely difficult to reverse.

If you remember only a few things from what I have said today, let it be this.

- Manor Park is our family's home and has been for 27 years. Industrial use at 30 Benmore Crescent would bring heavy traffic, noise and disturbance to our doorstep, and put Dry Creek, Te Awa Kairangi, our groundwater and the artesian water that people drink at risk.
- And a zoning decision like this is not temporary – it will last for generations, and it will be extremely difficult to undo.

**This is our home. This is our water. And this decision will last for generations.**

Please retain the Rural Zone for 30 Benmore Crescent and protect Manor Park, Te Awa Kairangi, and the wellbeing of present and future generations.

**Ngā mihi nui.**