

My name is Peter Onneweer. I was born in and have lived most of my life in parts of Auckland which are now classified as "Special Character Areas". When I was born in 1961, my family lived in Summer Street in Ponsonby. In 1996 I bought the house in Seafield View Road in Grafton where I currently live.

I decided to make a submission because I think it's important that the voices of ordinary people who live in these areas, and will be directly affected by the destruction of the areas' special character, are heard.

Special Character should be included as a qualifying matter in the Plan Change. The Special Character Areas identified in the Unitary Plan prior to notification of the Plan Change should be included as qualifying matters in the Plan. The Medium Density Residential Standards should not apply to those areas.

Introducing the Special Character Areas was a great idea and they are working well. They retain the essential character that residents value so much and make the areas great places to live. However, they don't keep them frozen in time and they do not prevent a mix of housing, including high and medium density.

Grafton already has a mix of high and medium density housing along with standalone houses (though on much smaller lots than the traditional Kiwi suburban section). Its residents are a mix of long-term residents (many of whom have been in the area for decades) and shorter-term residents such as students and recent arrivals to Auckland. There is also the mix of incomes you would expect from such a mixed social group. It is a great example of a well-functioning urban environment.

In addition, there is scope for development without destroying our natural or built environment, by using under-developed sites instead. For example, last year a 120-year-old pohutukawa in Grafton was chopped down in the dead of night, creating public outrage. Link:

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/prominent-pohutukawa-tree-chopped-down-in-auckland-on-same-day-climate-tax-announced-to-plant-trees/MQFVEKDGSQ2FZDOKJ63UUCX34E/> . The destruction seemed

particularly insane given that there is large flat tarsealed car park on the neighbouring site and an even bigger unsealed car park nearby. This is only one example and everyone will have stories of houses in their street which stand vacant for years instead of providing housing.

The Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) became operative in 2016 after a robust consultation and hearings process. By contrast, the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply) Amendment Bill was pushed through Parliament with insufficient time for proper consultation with Auckland Council, and Aucklanders. Please respect the democratic process that led to the AUP and take account of the wishes of the majority of residents in the Waitemata Board area who support Special Character Areas (SCAs), both residential and business, as a qualifying matter. Like me, they also support the retention of City Centre character buildings and built form controls. This was demonstrated in the initial public feedback on these changes, the recent local body elections, and the current submissions on Plan Changes 78-83.