

Jan Caunter
Chairperson
Ohinewai Foam Factory Expert Consenting Panel

9th June 2021

David Whyte
[REDACTED]

Jan

Thank you for the opportunity to give input into the fast tracked application for the sleepyhead foam factory.

This development will massively impact myself and the local community. Transforming a sleepy rural hamlet into a bustling commercial and light industrial centre and associated population boom. This is not a trivial change, and it is only because of the attitude of Sleepyhead in wanting to do the right thing that more opposition to the project has not occurred.

Given that this foam factory is part of a wider development, which includes much needed homes, it would seem immoral to oppose the development.

Currently I have a good relationship with the key players in the development, and feel comfortable that I have the ability to raise any issues as they come up. My major concern is that production of noise in somewhat quite rural environment (the noise does depend on the wind direction, given the express way and train track). Thus having regulations around time of working, especially in the weekend. It is important that we can maintain quite peace and enjoyment of our home, and given how low frequency sounds transmit long distances, the construction traffic and associated noise needs to be limited to typical working hours.

The other concern I have is the volatile gases from the plant. I have a lung injury which means exposures at a low level to chemicals or irritants results in painful breathing. For example in North Hamilton there is a business that clearly uses fibreglass since driving on the old SH1, the smell of fibreglass is quite obvious. I have noticed that if traffic is slow through this area, that it is enough to start the lung complaining. Therefore a factory that uses volatiles in large volumes is not without concern! However I have been informed that there are per reviewed designs using carbon filters that will extract any fumes present, and that the factory is negative pressured to make sure no flumes escape elsewhere. Therefore I hope and have faith that these systems work. Over the upcoming decades systems and equipment can wear out and get sloppy. So in 30 years time, when I am geriatric and more vulnerable, will be the time that systems and equipment may become problematic. Therefore some level of future proofing for inspection or complaints etc. In the decades to come would be important.

Once again would like to reiterate our support for this project.

Sincerely

David Whyte
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