

Temporary activity application for noise testing of private helicopter activity, 74 Paratai Drive, Ōrākei

Ōrākei Local Board

Section 15(2) Local Government Auckland Council Act (LGAC Act) requires Council to consider the views and preferences of the local board because this application affects the well-being of our local board area's communities.

74 Paratai Drive, Ōrākei – LUC60324964

1. The intent of this temporary activity request to fly helicopters three hours a day for noise testing is to assist a future permanent helipad facility in a residential zone.
2. Even though the application is for the sake of testing noise levels, it is nonetheless an extraordinary and unusual type of activity for any helicopter to land or take off within a residential area.
3. The Board notes the Ōrākei Resident Association view is: "Ōrākei Community Assn Committee without dissent oppose or want severely restricted private helicopter flights from suburban locations. Take-off and landing are not a quick activity unlike what we see on TV. Like everything, a single instance isn't the issue, it's when many on a street or community could have choppers taking off, landing and flying over other properties. This type of activity should be subject to the wider community's views"
4. Helicopter noise and activity are not accepted features of common residential zoned areas or amenity values and must be considered extraordinary.
5. Other sorts of adverse effects can be anticipated from helicopters in residential areas, such as wind gusts from the helicopter blades, dust nuisance etc.
6. The Board also notes certain types of Helicopter have safety reputation concerns. Generally, the Board sees this sort of helicopter activity over roads and houses in residential zones, and over Tamaki Drive, bringing a new and unnecessary additional safety risk to people and their insurable home assets.
7. The Board notes there are no assessment criteria for the activity in the unitary plan. This raises the relevance of exercising discretion to notify this sort of temporary application as well as any subsequent substantive application. It is inconsequential that the duration of the activity may be of short duration or in a series of short duration effects.
8. The Board is aware there are wider community and public interest concerns with the effects from a range of air space traffic around and over residential areas. The Board is concerned this sort of application could have precedent value for more private helipads in residential areas. As an activity for residential areas, it is not included in the unitary plan nor anticipated under resource management law.
9. Overall, the majority Board view pursuant to section 15 LGAC Act is this sort of activity negatively affects the well-being of our communities in Ōrākei and should not be permitted.

Ōrākei Local Board

23rd August 2018