

**BEFORE HEARING COMMISSIONERS
APPOINTED BY TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Consent No: 5262-3.0

UNDER THE Resource Management Act 1991 ("**Act**")

IN THE MATTER OF an application for resource consent discharge
emissions into the air from a free range poultry
farming operation

BETWEEN **AIRPORT FARM TRUSTEE LTD**
Applicant

AND **TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL**
Consent authority

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF KEVIN MCDONALD ON BEHALF OF
VARIOUS SUBMITTERS (THE MCDONALDS, THE HIBELLS, THE BROWNS &
POPPAS PEPPERS 2009 LTD)**

4 FEBRUARY 2022

INTRODUCTION

Name and situation

1. My full name is Kevin John McDonald. Together with my wife, Glenis McDonald, we made a submission in opposition to the consent application.
2. We are immediate neighbours of the applicant, AFTL, and share their northern and eastern boundary with our 16 acre life-style block at 62 Airport Drive, as shown below (orange outline):



3. We are self-employed and run a home based business in the health field, with the office situated on the NE side of the implement shed, in a partitioned self contained studio.
4. My wife Glenis is providing evidence as well, identifying matters from her perspective, in particular her health concerns; but also speaking more generally for both of us. We have been married for 43 years, having lived on this property for 27 of them. We fully support each other with all of our evidence.

5. It is relatively common for an arriving client to ask “*What is that smell?*”. For myself it is not always too obvious, because I have become used to it. But, for the client, it is a very obvious bad odour. I have noted in my “Odour Diary” the obvious bad times over the past 6 months.
6. As I write this evidence, a very large cloud of dust has just blown through our boundary hedge heading straight towards our house 1.15 p.m. 27 January 2022. This is more common in summer time when the metal tracks are very dry, with large vehicles passing around the chicken sheds.
7. I always use air freshener in the office studio when clients are in. Bad odour from the chickens can start and stop very quickly some days. It depends on air movement – speed and direction.
8. Over the past 6-7 years, I often drop over to the Whitings for a tea/coffee (approximately every 3-4 months) and usually talk about air odour. I have always made it clear to Ed when things were extra bad – not complaining so much, rather, just communicating.
9. Noise is also an ongoing issue. Recent examples include on 5 August 2021 litter collection at midnight; 1 December 2021 very loud activity at 2.30 a.m.; 20 January 2022 loud truck movement at 10.35 p.m.; 27 January 2022 loud banging at 10.15 p.m. These are my most recent diary entries. These sorts of noise issues have been a reoccurring issue since the Whitings purchased in 2013.
10. Because of all of these issues (i.e. odour, noise, dust), this is no longer an appropriate location for a chicken farm operation – if it ever was. As I understand it, the previous consents were granted on the basis of written approvals; so effects on neighbours at that time were never really fully assessed. However, we have never given our written approval at any point in time.
11. Ed and Melissa were very aware, before they purchased the chicken farm, that both the NPDC and the TRC had publicly stated 2026 as an end date. The very first time I met them and had a conversation with them, they shared this information with me.
12. I feel that further application is very unfair and wrong that we, the local neighbours, and future residents due to urban growth, are faced with

tolerating the significant negatives effects of a chicken farm operation through until 2038 – if the application is granted. It should never have gotten to this point, having to deal with a further application for resource consent. It is a huge and stressful burden for us, and all of our neighbours.

13. AFTL have spent a substantial amount of money on their operation, but they did this knowing that 2026 was meant to be the end date. In my opinion, no weight should be given in relation to how much money the Whitings have spent. They knew before they purchased what the likely outcome would be. In addition, while odour did improve soon after the Whitings took over – compared to what we were subject to with the previous operator – the odour has been an ongoing concern for us. We certainly haven't experienced any noticeable improvements from any of the more recent improvements that might have been made.
14. I have real concerns about long term low odour effects. It is very common to have a very low odour level. If the air movement is in the appropriate direction, it is likely that the odour level will be all day and all night. Is this continual breathing in of these long term low level emissions harmful to the human body or not? And why should we be subject to it?

CONCLUSIONS

I do not give my permission for AFTL to get resource consent for emissions to air beyond 31st May 2026.

Kevin John McDonald

4 February 2022