

**BEFORE THE DECISION MAKERS  
AT NEW PLYMOUTH**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource  
Management Act 1991  
("RMA")

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** an application to renew  
existing resource consents  
associated with a  
composting operation at  
Uruti

**BETWEEN** **Remediation New Zealand  
Limited**  
Applicant

**AND** **Taranaki Regional Council**  
Consent Authority

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF  
JENNIFER UNA BAKER  
Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. I lived at 1358 Mokau Road, RD 47, Urenui, with my husband Sydney Arthur Baker and lived there for 20 years.
2. As a family we have appeared at previous hearings for remediation consents dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Our key concerns were and still are Odour, Contamination of Waterways, lack of concern for my family and wider community, lack of action from TRC.
3. It has been extremely distressing over the last 20 years as I loved flower & vegetable gardening, it was my passion. Due to the odour and constant smell I stayed indoors neglecting all my garden duties. Before my daughters came to stay I would phone TRC to ask them to make sure there was no smell when they came. Friends would come out for a BBQ on our deck and the smell would be that bad we would have to move inside and shut all the windows before eating dinner. It used to make my husband and I upset.
4. Odour is more present on hot days and on cold nights it is really strong. Cold nights causes fog then blows down RLTDs valley following the roads splitting South to 1358 Mokau Road and North to 1540 Mokau Road. Windy days it wafts and you can still smell it but it is less strong.
5. When I lived at 1358 Mokau Road I could smell the site nearly every day, this is the same at 1540 Mokau Road. I have also smelt odour at Uruti School on a number of occasions (more than 10 times) and at 1415 Mokau Road, Johnny Oxenhams place more than 40 times over 20 years.
6. My husband Sydney Arthur Baker used to suffer nausea, headaches, difficulty breathing and reduced appetite. I have suffered similar effects. I find that when I leave the Uruti valley these symptoms ease up.

7. When RLTD first started Syd and I went up and was a very small operation with only two pads that had minimal odour. When I went up recently in 2020, I was shocked to see the expansion. It was also upsetting to see all the plastic in the dirt which we see down Haehanga Stream and in the trees in the river passing my property. It was also distressing to see the mountain of drilling mud when we were told this was going to be a worm farm.
  
8. I have been under Mental Health Act for the past two years and find when it stenches it elevates my moods and need to assess increasing my medication. I find myself talking to my mental health officer Doug Love a lot about RLTD and how the smell affects me and my family.

**JENNIFER UNA BAKER**

**Date 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2021**

