

**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 NEIL HIBELL ON BEHALF OF
VARIOUS SUBMITTERS (THE MCDONALDS, THE HIBELLS, THE BROWNS &
POPPAS PEPPERS 2009 LTD)**

4 FEBRUARY 2022

Name and situation

1. My full name is Neil Thomas Hibell. Together with my wife, Lloma Faye Hibell, we made a submission in opposition to the consent application.
2. We live on the property at 47 Airport Drive which is on the western side of the road from AFT, as shown below (orange outline):



3. We have lived here for 36 years, and have farmed the property originally as a horticultural block, before using the land as a grazing block for heifers from our dairy farm.
4. The chicken sheds were in an early form before we brought our land. Early on, we experienced odour only a very few times a year, when we smelt odour from the chicken sheds. Back then, we didn't have meal truck and chicken catching activities at various times of the night. These comings and goings now often occur at all hours of the night and early in the mornings.
5. So our sleep is often disturbed late at night, 2am, 4am. Not every "cycle" but perhaps every three or four. We are woken up, and kept up, even with double glazing. This can be from meal trucks, which seem to arrive at all hours. The don't just deliver quickly, and depart, but it takes time for the meal to be pumped into their hoppers, with the engine running, blowers operating to shift the meal into the hoppers, and the list banging shut.

6. Catching the chickens, and the cleaning out of the sheds can take hours and occur late at night.
7. The odours we smell now can vary from manure-like, to a musty smell. It can occur for a short time, hours, or even half a day or longer. Response from the Regional Council to any complaint can take hours for them to investigate.
8. The north/ north easterly winds are the ones which affect us most. Although on calm days the smell can hang around in the air, and we avoid going outside. The “worst” odours happen around 5-6 time a year (although we may miss some, as we are not always home).
9. Our visitors often notice it more than us. One recollection we have is when our daughter and friends came to visit, to pick citrus off the trees. They couldn’t believe how bad it was, and so didn’t stay a moment longer than necessary.
10. We often have to shut our windows, and will do so when we go out, so that the house doesn’t smell awful when we get back.
11. The NPDC has plans to extend Parklands Ave, through our property to join with the proposed roundabout the NZTA wish to build at the front of our land. This is shown on the following plan:



12. In order to facilitate this, they will need to remove our tall thick hedge, which means we will experience more noise and odours as we believe our hedge has helped filter out the smell from AFT.
13. We have had subdivision plans drawn up since 2013 and reviewed last year at considerable cost. If the consent is extended beyond 2026 it will jeopardise any development of our property and no doubt devalue any sale.
14. We attended the previous consent meetings, and we were told that 15 years was the time required to make the business viable. We reluctantly agreed to this, on the understanding that the consent would be final and the poultry farm would end in 2026. Our plans have been on hold until then.

Conclusion

15. We believe we have been good neighbours and we have not complained when we could have. But how long must we be expected to tolerate the unpleasantness of odours and disturbances which we frequently experience. We are finding the stress and costs that AFT is putting us through, overwhelming.
16. We respectfully request the Commissioners decline the application of AFT to extend its consent past 2026.
17. Finally, I attach a record of the odour events that Lloma had kept in her diary, and has extracted onto one page.

Neil Hibell, on behalf of Neil and Lloma Hibell

4 February 2022

Diary extracts:

Over the past 6 months my diary has shown occasions when odour has occurred and I have remembered to record it.

Strong

Sunday 1st August 11.30am - 12.00pm (visitors disgusted again 9.30pm +
 Wednesday 6th October 1.15pm - 3.15pm.
 Thursday 21st October 9.30am +
 Friday 5th November 5pm - 6pm.
 Monday 15th November 9am - 11am.
 Monday 24th January 5.45pm +
 Tuesday 25th January 8.00pm - 10.00pm. (House filled with odour. I emailed Raylene

Mild

Monday 2nd August - afternoon
 Friday 6th August 3.50pm +
 Sunday 19th September morning
 Thursday 25th November 10.30am +
 Wednesday 1st December morning
 Thursday 2nd December morning
 Wednesday 12th January 11.30am (musty smell)
 Saturday 15th January 10.45pm (musty smell)

Lloma Hhe 11