

Tena koutou and greetings to the commissioners.

My name is Anne Ferrier-Watson I live in Riverlea, and I am a member of RESI.

You've heard a lot of evidence in support of protecting the habitat of the endangered long tailed bat. I'm really grateful for the hard work of many paid and unpaid submitters.

Today I'm here to speak on behalf of the habitat of people.

My husband and I moved to Riverlea from our rural property 7 years ago. We chose this area precisely because of the precious 'hidden' ecological gem that is Hammond bush. Our modest house is down a right-of-way surrounded on all sides by neighbours. The proximity to Hammond bush made it possible to forgo the privacy and stunning views that we left behind.

I am one of many hundreds who regularly visit Hammond bush, to experience the life enhancing, well-being promoting, rejuvenating properties that this wonderful remnant provides.

This bush was left uncleared by accident, not by design, and it thrives today because of the care and hardwork of the local community and the council. In return, locals ~~community~~ and visitors enjoy the thrill of gazing up at the mature canopy, hearing native birdsong and just being in a place of untamed nature.

The developers of Amberfield have a unique opportunity to recreate **by design** this environment for the good of the new Amberfield community, and for the good of Hamiltonians in general.

Our regular working bees in Hammond bush enable young, old, local and international residents, students, and volunteers to connect with each other and with nature, something that has no monetary value, but contributes enormously to community and personal wellbeing.

One would hope that we are past the stage where developments are created merely to maximise building spaces, but rather, that they seek to maximise living spaces, that is, spaces for living. Amberfield has the chance to create for the Amberfield community, the feeling of 'not being in a city' while being in a city.

I lose nothing by the Amberfield development as it stands, but I am advocating for future Amberfield residents that they may benefit from the gift that Hammond has bestowed on us. There is too much at stake to leave this reserve to develop by accident. This is a one time chance to get it right.

As native habitat reduces, pockets of publicly accessible greenspace have become even more precious. Here, on our back door step, is an opportunity for the developers to help generate community connectedness, and to assist in the creation of a taonga for generations to come.

Nau mai, haere mai ki

Hammond Park



 Hamilton City Council
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri



Lookout 2011



Lookout 2016



Lookout 2011



Lookout 2015



2014



Goat Paddock 2014



Goat Paddock 2016



Learning how to plant seedlings, never mind the rain!







Hammond Park Community Fun Day

Saturday 29 October 1.00 - 3.30 pm

Hammond Park, Malcolm Street, Riverlea

Games & nature
activities for kids

Sausage sizzle

Bring a weed for
identification & get
a free native plant

Learn about
suburban
restoration &
weed control



Meet
Woody Weed &
Peka the Bat

Discover where
the bats and
glow worms
live!

Before & after photos
of 10 years of work

Guided swamp tours
& bush walks
(BYO gumboots)

Celebrate Hammond Park!

It's alive with native flora & fauna thanks to community & council efforts.









Neighbouring garden







Making tunnels for predator traps 2017

















Relaxing after winter working bee











