Statement of Frank Saxton and Jennifer Christall (FS06) with regard to proposed state highway acoustic controls

1. My name is Frank Saxton and I live at 417 Wakefield Quay. This statement is also on behalf of my wife Jennifer Christall." We have lived in our house for the last 26 years.

2. I am annoyed that I did not know about this proposed acoustic imposition on our house before it was almost too late to have a chance to be here before you today.

3. Rod Witte was a new member of a mountain biking group that I am in and he told me about this provision of Plan change 29. It was the first I knew about it. I was gobsmacked. My wife and I get the Nelson evening mail delivered each morning and I largely rely on that to keep me informed as to what is going on around me. And I had read nothing there.

4. I talked to a couple of neighbours and they knew nothing about it; and one of them had been to an official public meeting on Plan Change. It just seemed astounding to me that there was a silence on the topic.

5. One day, shortly after, about 1st March, with the help of Jenni my wife I wrote a short dissertation on the subject such that it took up half a page of A4 so that I could print two copies on just one page on my home printer. When cut in half it generated about 250 copies which I then went out on the same day on my bike and delivered into letterboxes along State Highway 6. (copy below.) Also, that day I wrote a letter to the editor of the Nelson Mail on the subject asking for it to be printed ASAP to meet the March 8 deadline but it took longer that that to appear in print. At some stage about then a reporter from the paper phoned me while I was out of town and I put her onto Rod Witte and he posed for a photo to go with a story that went into the paper but that was after the 8th March deadline. Its headlines included the words “Lost in the fine print”.

6. To be honest, I have never really thought of noise from our road as being of a health hazard (separate from it being a social annoyance like disturbing conversations on our deck). I have worried about air pollution into my lungs

from the road. I'm not sure why our road is picked out as being a problem when you've got other noisy roads and busy roads like Waimea Road and so on. I guess road noise can be a health hazard when you think about it disturbing sleep and does it lead to tinnitus and so on?

7. But I think that if the City Council wants to make such a big move against road noise on highway 6, then there needs to be an argument laid out for those affected by the problem in the first instant. In the way that I know that the shortage of housing is a problem and so the reason for plan change 29, and I know that air quality is a problem and so fires are controlled, I never really knew that noise was a problem that might require me to spend money and affect the value of my property. So that would be the first thing to make a case for the change on our road, and then the second and most important thing is to tell us individual properties that the proposed change is coming by giving us a letter in the letter box. We get one when they're going to do the road works on the road and restrict the road hours and so on but we affected residences never got anything individually except my little flyer that I put in my neighbour's boxes and the news media never picked up on it until I prompted them - and it was too late anyway. The informative public meetings that I heard from people that went to them? it was never discussed or in the Nelson City Council documentation promoting and explaining plan change 29 I never saw a thing about it: There has been a lack of engagement with us affected parties. There will be many other people along highway who are still blithely unaware.

8. There are unique challenges in acoustic attenuation of an old house. I don't think the City Council have put their minds to the full ramifications of this proposal. It may have the effect of freezing existing houses in their current configuration leading to dilapidation and because of the added costs of the acoustic rules on the constructing of new ones, then that natural demolition and transformation into new buildings over time that one might expect, also being inhibited leading to kind of a slum along the highway.

9. The roading authorities can influence the noise from their roads with speed limits, road surfacing and better WOF enforcement on noisy exhausts: and in a more cost/benefit way than making the victims pay.

10. I think that for all these reasons the whole idea should be put to one side and forgotten about.

11. In any case, the effects of climate change and sea level rise are much bigger problems on which to expend Nelson's limited management resources and capital.

A5 Flyer that went into letterboxes:

Dear Property owner.

Hi I'm Frank and I, like you, live near Highway 6 and so am caught by the "100 meter from Highway 6 rule" that is proposed in the new Nelson Council "PLAN CHANGE 29 HOUSING AND HAZARDS"

Why are they picking on just this one road, there are plenty of other noisy roads in Nelson.?

This rule has had virtually no publicity that I am aware of and I myself have only just last week become aware of it. It Imposes a rule for every property within 100 metres of state highway 6. If such property owners want to make an alteration to their house It will require them to have a professional acoustic engineer measure their house and if it fails the prescribed tough noise test to then design soundproofing of the entire house which is likely to be with the windows and doors closed. This will then trigger ducted fan ventilation for fresh air. This rule would add significant costs to renovations or builds, and put downward pressure on affected property valuations.

Surprisingly there have only been two submissions on this provision (both opposing) and now people can only make further submissions on these two existing submissions **and** the deadline is **just** next Friday 8 March. I am urging people to make themselves familiar with this rule (REr 43A) and make a further submission in support to number 333 (Rodney Witte) or 513 (Ray Barley) This can all be done on-line under the city Council Shape Nelson website