



## Living Streets Hamilton

### Further submission on Variation 1 to the Hamilton City Proposed District Plan: Ruakura Variation

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**If a hearing is planned I would welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission.**

Living Streets would like to support the previous submissions by Cycle Action Waikato calling for safe access for cyclists and pedestrians across Ruakura Rd at the Ruakura campus, and for safe pedestrian and cycle access at the intersection of Wairere Drive and Fifth Avenue. We also support Cycle Action Waikato's call for widening of the current pedestrian-only path on the south side of Ruakura Rd between Wairere Dr and Knighton Rd to a full 3m shared pathway, and for the provision of a 3m shared path on the present grass berm, connecting between Transpower and the Innovation Park, although the extent of this could be affected by our suggestion regarding the relocation of the entrance to Ruakura Lane (see map below).

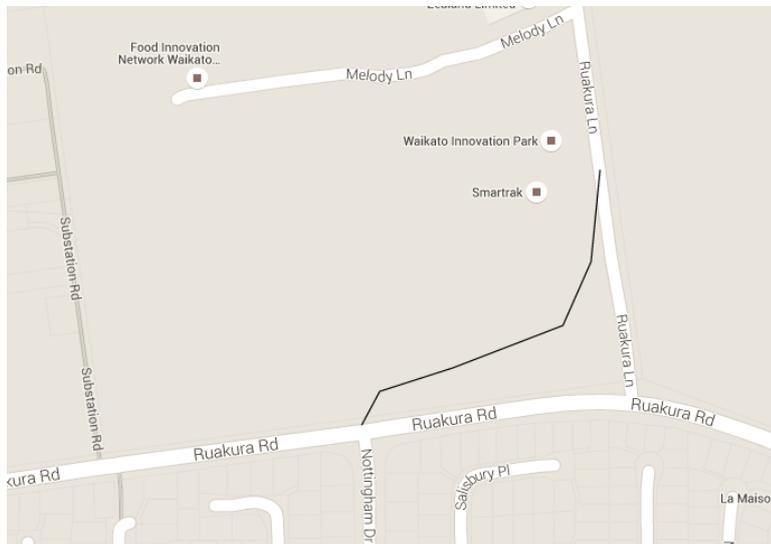
#### **Ruakura Rd crossing at the Ruakura Research centre**

At the time of the initial hearings there was sufficient public concern about the dangers of Ruakura Rd (a young man was killed crossing the road on his way to school) that a petition with numerous signatures was presented by Claire Dowsett, a staff member at Ruakura Research Centre. The only outcome was a refuge, which while better than nothing, is a long way short of being able to be called safe access, especially since it is on a bend and visibility is not ideal.

We have always maintained that a light-controlled crossing is essential on this road, especially given the 60kph speed limit. We would like to suggest an alternative solution to a light controlled crossing at the current Ruakura campus entrance, as follows:

There are two hazardous points at present on this road, very close together. People trying to enter and leave the Sherwood Park subdivision via Nottingham Drive onto Ruakura Rd face considerable obstacles, and the intersection has always seemed like an accident waiting to happen. Just down the road is the Ruakura entrance. How about considering diverting the section of Ruakura Lane closest to Ruakura Rd (ie before the Innovation Park) across the existing paddocks to enable it to meet Ruakura Rd opposite Sherwood Park at Nottingham Drive? This would enable the installation of a single set of normal traffic lights, making the entire area safer for all road users. Pedestrians and cyclists could use the pedestrian phases to safely access Ruakura from either direction, and vehicles would be assured safe movement between Nottingham Drive

and Ruakura Rd. Since the paddocks in question on the Ruakura campus are Tainui-owned there should be no major issues in obtaining permission to alter the course of the internal Ruakura road. A general indication of the proposed deviation on Ruakura Lane is shown as a black line on the map below



#### **Pedestrian and cycle access at the intersection of Wairere Drive and Fifth Ave**

Given the likely volume of traffic that will be entering and leaving the proposed industrial park at the end of Fifth Ave we believe it is crucial that appropriate underpass facilities or light-controlled crossings be provided for cyclists and pedestrians at this point. Again, it would be safer for all concerned if the intersection was converted to traffic lights, as exist at the intersections on either side of it on Wairere Drive (at Ruakura Rd and back at Powells Rd).