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## Submission on Napier City Proposed District Plan

### Form 5 Submission on publically notified proposal for policy statement or plan, change or variation

*Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991*

**To:** Napier City Council - Planning Unit

**Date received:** 18/10/2023

**Submission Reference Number #:**9

This is a submission on the following proposed plan (the **proposal**): Napier City Proposed District Plan

**Submitter:**

Sharon Rose

**Address for service:**

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**I wish to be heard:** No

**I am willing to present a joint case:** No

Could you gain an advantage in trade competition in making this submission?

- **No**

Are you directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that

(a) adversely affects the environment; and

(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

- **Yes**

## Submission points

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### Point 9.1

**Section:** GRZ - General Residential Zone

**Sub-section:** GRZ - General Residential Zone - Standards Table

**Provision:****GRZ-S8: Fences and walls**

**Purpose:** *to provide for privacy of residential units while enabling opportunities for passive surveillance of the street and public open spaces; to minimise visual dominance effects to immediate neighbours and the street.*

1. Fences or walls (or a combination of these structures) must not exceed the height specified below, measured from the ground level at the boundary:
  - a. within the front yard, and within a side or rear yard adjacent to a common boundary with an Open Space Zone, either:
    - i. 1.2 m in height;
    - ii. 1.8 m in height for no more than 50% of the length of the boundary and 1.2 m for the remainder, or
    - iii. 1.8 m in height if the fence is at least 50% visually open as viewed perpendicular to the front boundary.
  - b. Within the side and rear yards: 2 m.

**Matters of discretion are:**

1. Purpose of the standard;
2. Neighbourhood character;
3. Safety, attractiveness, and connectivity of streets and public open spaces, and
4. Quality living environments.

**Sentiment:** Oppose

**Submission:**

Re: **GRZ-S8: Fences and walls**

I absolutely oppose the low fencing height and the open top on them and also have a question - if I replace my current fences would the height be able to stay the same or would it need to be the new lower height? It's not clear in the plan!

I oppose the proposed fencing plan as I live on a back section with 6 properties bordering us. The lower/more open fences would give us and our neighbours NO privacy at all! The property isn't big enough to have internal high fences around a courtyard or some such. One of the homes is a rental and they have semi regular loud parties - the 2 metre fence we currently have means we can't see them and aren't so affected by all the outside lights, swearing etc that goes on into the night!

The high solid fences also keep my cat on our property so she is safe from the cat hating dogs in two of the homes! The type of fences proposed would be easy for cats to climb and also large dogs. Roaming dogs are already a serious issue in Napier and **GRZ-S8: Fences and walls** would make that hugely worse!

I am assuming the purpose is to stop crime but making properties more accessible would achieve the opposite. It would also make garden furniture and ornaments etc easy to see and the inside of homes visible. We are told not to leave things where criminals can see them - how are we supposed to do that when our entire property including the inside of our homes is visible through the fence?

I also assume the fences supposedly give a more community feel. We already have a great community mostly even with the high fences as we can visit the neighbours and they can visit us. We don't want or need to see into their properties and vice versa!

**Relief sought**

I want the council to remove or in the very least amend this clause so all fences that border neighbours' properties can be a solid 2 metres! I oppose the following absolutely as it would seriously impact on my enjoyment of my gardens/property, my and my pets' safety, and my quality of life generally! **GRZ-S8: Fences and walls**