

**Before the Environment Court  
At Auckland**

**In the matter of** the Local Government (Auckland Transitional Provisions Act 2010  
(**LGATPA**) and the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

**And**

**In the matter of** appeals under section 156(1) of the LGATPA

**Between** **Weli Yang, Zhi Lu & Jing Ni**  
(**ENV-2016-AKL-000196**)

**Okura Holdings Limited**  
(**ENV-2016-AKL-000211**)

**Appellants**

**And** **Auckland Council**  
**Respondent**

**And** **Weiti Development Limited Partnership**  
**Section 274 Party**

**And** **Long Bay-Okura Great Park Protection Society**  
**Section 274 Party**

**And** **Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Incorporated**  
**Section 274 Party**

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF AIMEE DICKENSON ON BEHALF OF  
LONG BAY-OKURA GREAT PARK SOCIETY INCORPORATED**

**28 JULY 2017**

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## Introduction

- 1 My name is Aimee Dickenson and I am a student at Long Bay College. I am currently in year 13 and have been given the opportunity to spend years of my life exploring the Long Bay Okura coastline.
- 2 I am originally from England and moved to New Zealand when I was five. Since then, Torbay, Browns Bay, Long Bay and Okura have been my childhood playground. Sitting in my English classroom day one of year nine, I've been able to see the ocean. As I moved through the school, the ocean has inspired many pieces of student writing, myself being no exception. Senior school crept up on me and I found myself celebrating finishing each exam with a swim, from school, over green hills and down to Long Bay beach, all in a matter of minutes. I caught myself thinking the other day, what other school is fortunate enough to have this on their doorstep?
- 3 My friends and I have made countless memories playing tag on haybales, seeing how close we can get to Okura from Long Bay and trying to beat that record each time. Okura has given countless Long Bay students an incredible backdrop in which they are able to play out their perfect summer. Cheesy as it sounds, it's genuinely the way it makes you feel, like you're in a movie.
- 4 When I heard about the potential development of Okura, I felt extremely saddened. The thought of the next generation of kids at Long Bay College not being offered the same beautiful, safe and natural opportunities seems unfair. The estuary would still be there, yes, but the nature surrounding it would be gone. I could not imagine the view from my Year 13 English classroom changing, however our view of the sea is slowly getting smaller as housing encroaches.
  - 4.1 Many people have not yet experienced the Okura Estuary in its wilderness setting and it should be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Aimee Dickenson  
28 July 2017