

12th June 2025

(P1)

To the New Zealand Transport Agency
Waka Kotahi,

My name is Dave Whalley, and together with my wife Andrea, we have proudly been McDonald's Franchisees for 22 years. For the past 12 years, we have owned and operated McDonald's Rolleston, a business we built from the ground up and remain deeply committed to.

We've recently been informed of the major works planned for State Highway 1 and the surrounding roads in Rolleston. I want to express my deep concern about the impact these changes will have on our business, our staff, and the wider community. This includes the disruption we expect both during construction and after the project is completed.

Both entrances and the exit to our site will be affected by these road works. This will significantly disrupt our customers ability to easily enter and exit, which is critical to our operation. We are a busy, high-performing site that relies on convenient access for families, school groups, locals and travellers. If access becomes difficult or unclear, many people simply will not come.

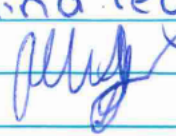
I am also very concerned about the proposed location of the contractors yard being directly next to our restaurant. Aside from the visual disruption, there is a real risk of unpleasant smells and dust being carried into our site. This will affect the experience we offer our customers, the atmosphere we have worked hard to create, and ultimately our reputation.

McDonald's Rolleston employs over 150 local Selwyn residents. We are one of the top performing stores in the New Zealand market, and we are incredibly proud of the jobs and development opportunities we provide. The thought of having to reduce hours or cut roles due to the impact of these road changes is devastating. However, if sales drop as we expect, it may be a decision we are forced to make.

Rolleston has supported us from day one, and we have always taken pride in giving that support back. Whether it is sponsoring local events, employing locals, or being a consistent, welcoming place for the community to gather, we are proud of the part we play. The idea of our store becoming isolated or difficult to reach is honestly gut-wrenching.

I am not opposed to progress, and I understand the need for infrastructure improvements. But I am asking sincerely that you consider the very real impact this will have on our people, our customers, and our business. Please take our concerns seriously and work with us to explore potential solutions that could reduce the impact. Whether that means rethinking access points, improving signage, or relocating the contractors yard, we are open to conversations and want to find a way forward that works for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards, Dave Whalley


Franchisee-McDonald's Rolleston