

Residents fed up with big truck shakes

By John Maslin

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Heavily-laden logging trucks traversing one Wanganui East street have residents up in arms.

The trucks are using Rangitikei St as a thoroughfare from Anzac Parade to Eastown Rd and, eventually, into a storage depot at the Eastown railway yards.

Rick Warren, who lives at 24 Rangitikei St, says the ground shakes every time trucks pass.

The problem was the “huge number” of fully-laden logging trucks using the street to get to the rail siding.

“There have been days when we’ve had up to 40 big trucks go up and down our street.”

Pictures on his walls swing and the floorboards creak.

“These are old houses around here for sure, probably 100 years old in some cases. But since the trucks started coming up and down Rangitikei St our floorboards have started creaking — they never did that before.

“Our houses are shaking as each one of these big trucks goes past. One woman told me items have fallen off the top of her fridge the shaking is so violent.”

And it is not just the impact on homes — Mr Warren said the heavy transport posed a danger to pedestrians and cyclists in what was a narrow, urban street.

He has organised a petition to try to get the vehicles banned from the street or at least restricted to a 30km/h speed limit.

He took a petition around at the weekend and, while there are only 28 houses in the street, the majority of residents signed it.

“One elderly lady was so happy to sign it because at last someone was trying to do something about the problem.”

Mr Warren said he had approached Wanganui District Council, which had put a 30km/h speed restriction sign in place.

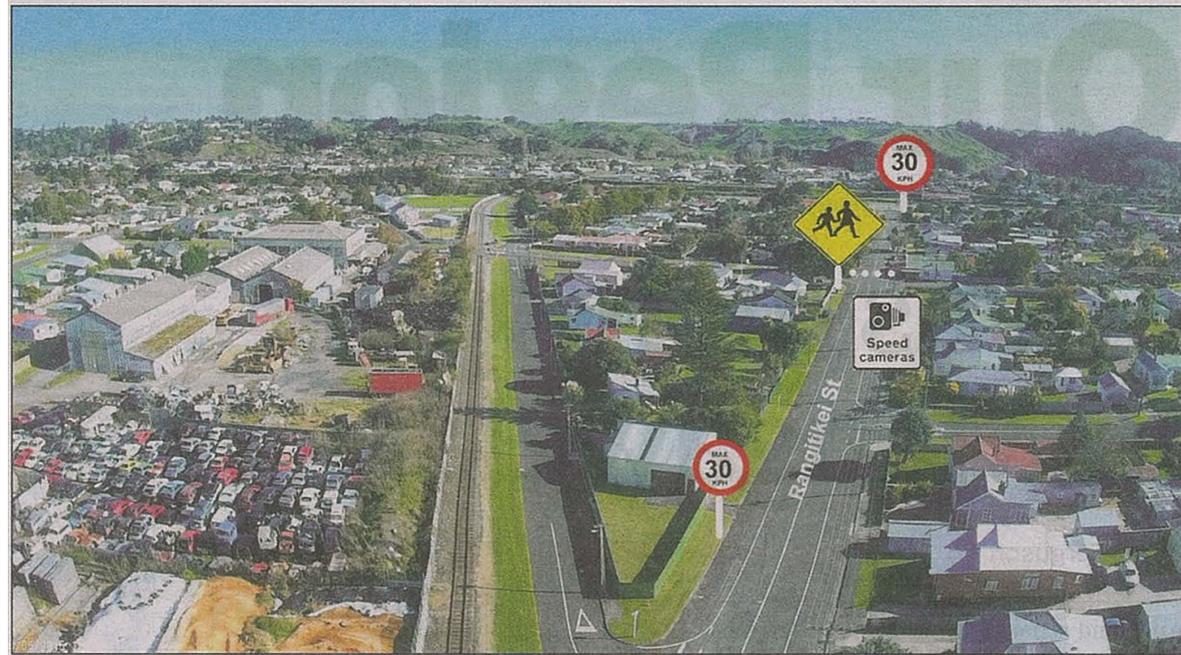
“The majority of trucks slow down at the sign but a heck of a lot them don’t,” he said.

He said locals would prefer to see the street barred as an access for the trucks altogether.

“We’re at our wit’s end as to what to do — it’s taking a toll on our health and well-being.”

Mr Warren said he had spent a considerable sum upgrading the family home and was concerned the increasing heavy traffic would affect its value.

Last September, the *Chronicle* reported that a section of the



NEW APPROACH: Rick Warren suggests speed restrictions along Rangitikei St could mitigate the problem caused by heavy trucks.

PHOTOS/SUPPLIED 18052015WCSUPSTREET

Eastown rail yards was being upgraded to handle an influx of logs being harvested around the region.

An area of the marshalling yards between Eastown Rd and Salisbury Ave is being used as a storage area for logs delivered by truck, loaded on to wagons and moved to various ports by KiwiRail.

A KiwiRail spokeswoman said the depot would allow forestry companies east of the Whanganui River to use rail instead of road to shift logs to ports. KiwiRail viewed the depot as a long-term investment to meet projected growth in forestry over the next 10 to 15 years.

A private yard and siding on the other side of the river at Aramoho will remain open.

While forestry companies and



BIG RIGS: Fully laden logging trucks are getting on the nerves of residents in Rangitikei St.

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their contractors will unload logs from trucks and load them on to rail wagons, KiwiRail will manage the train operations.

Trucks will deliver to the site

between 7am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday. KiwiRail said truck numbers would vary depending on the season and were likely to range between 10 and 40 a day.