

INSPECTOR NOTE

Building: RIVERVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
Street: 446 MAIN ROAD
Suburb: WESTLAKE
Postal Code: 7945
Date: 2026-06-26
Time: 13:38
Inspector: JUSTIN DE VOS

Type: DOCKET DISCUSSION

Follow-Up Date:

Comments:

Upon consultation with the Chief Inspector, This matter has received significant social media attention, and multiple neighbours regularly contact the SPCA demanding action. My concern relates to the strength of the docket and the poor prospects of a successful prosecution for the following reasons:

1. The initial complaint referred to the alleged slaughtering of sheep. However, no evidence supporting this allegation was found by the SPCA or provided by the complainant.
2. Subsequent complaints from neighbours related to a dog allegedly barking constantly, which is a matter more appropriately dealt with by Law Enforcement.
3. The primary welfare concern involved a dog that had allegedly been chained. Sivu issued several NTCs and subsequently obtained a warrant to remove the dog. However, the available evidence appears limited:
 - a. The photographs and videos provided by the complainant do not depict the dog being chained, and shelter is visible in the images.
 - b. Inspector Sivu's photographs depict the animal attached to a makeshift running chain (see attached).
 - c. The respondent states that the dog is only chained during the day due to the dog allegedly being aggressive.
 - d. The remaining dogs on the property were free-roaming and displayed no apparent welfare concerns. These animals were therefore not seized.
 - e. The neighbours submitted three (3) affidavits; however, the contents are largely circumstantial and are not supported by photographic or video evidence. In my opinion, this matter may be a Nolle Prosequi case due to insufficient evidence. The respondent attended the SPCA offices on multiple occasions, and I met with him yesterday. He provided photographs of the two (2) kennels and explained that the dogs were being chained after their fencing had allegedly been stolen. He further advised that a case has been opened with SAPS in this regard. We are still awaiting the veterinary report to determine whether there are any clinical welfare concerns. The respondent has requested the return of his dog. I explained that this decision is not mine to make and that, should the return of the dog be considered, the respondent would first need to secure the fencing, ensure that the dog is no longer chained and pass a SPCA inspection. Lastly, due to the significant attention this matter has received from neighbouring residents, the return of the dog will likely result in further complaints being lodged with the SPCA. At present, this matter appears to be heavily influenced by an ongoing dispute between neighbours. I am also aware that eviction proceedings are pending, as the respondent and his family are allegedly unlawfully occupying church property.

CASE TO BE CLOSED - NFA
Justin De Vos 2026-06-26 13:38

Captured By: