

**‘THE VIEW FROM WITHIN:
REFLECTIONS OF A
COMMUNITY ON THE
PERIPHERY’**

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- This is a sub-section of a multi-tiered research project being undertaken by the BrownHood Collaborative Research Group which is made up of three UC academic staff.
- Today's presentation will focus on one particular community in the East of Christchurch.
- Key themes for today are:
 - Community responses
 - Ongoing issues in the 'Hood
 - The application of coloniality to the Eastside 'crisis' and how previous conceptions of the 'Hood are affecting current initiatives

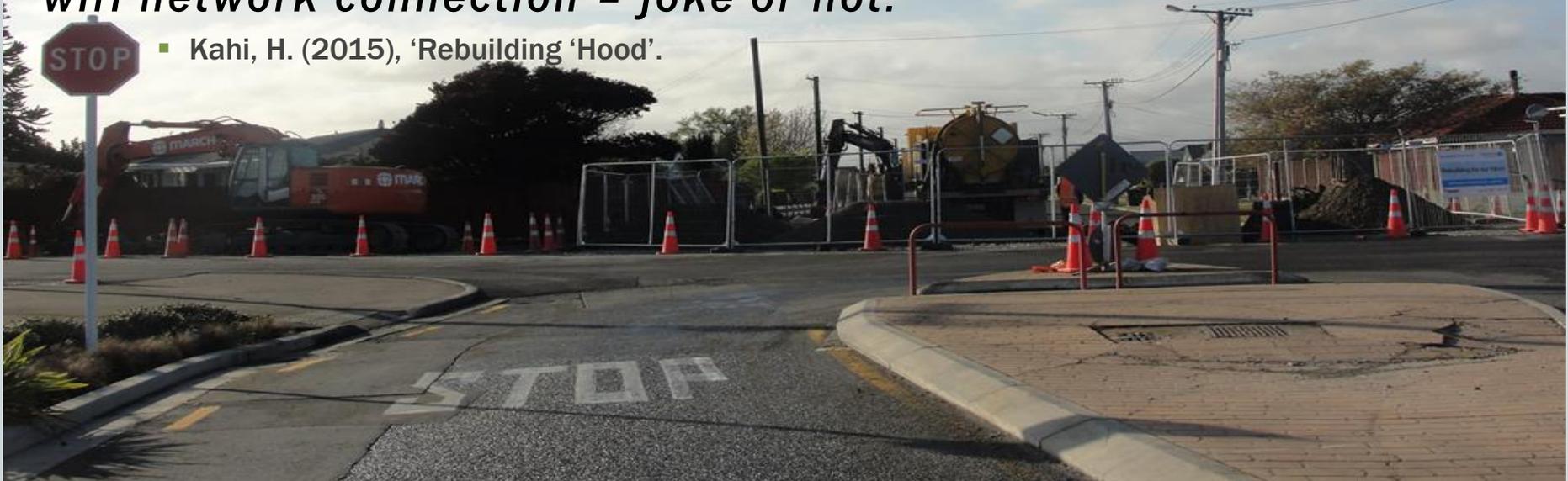
SETTING THE SCENE

- Over 5100 homes in Christchurch deemed unsafe for habitation
- Many of these are in Christchurch's Eastern suburbs
- Māori are often not directly represented in post-quake statistics, however areas that contain large Māori demographics are. (Lambert, 2014)
- Community resilience is more 'process than outcome'. (Aho and Rawson, 2013)
- CERA Wellbeing Surveys suggest that impacts experienced by Māori and Pākehā are similar. (CERA Wellbeing Survey 2014)
 - This suggests that either the data set is too small, or more research needs to be done taking 'communities' into consideration
- However, Māori are more likely to have experienced loss of employment or poor health

ENTER THE 'HOOD

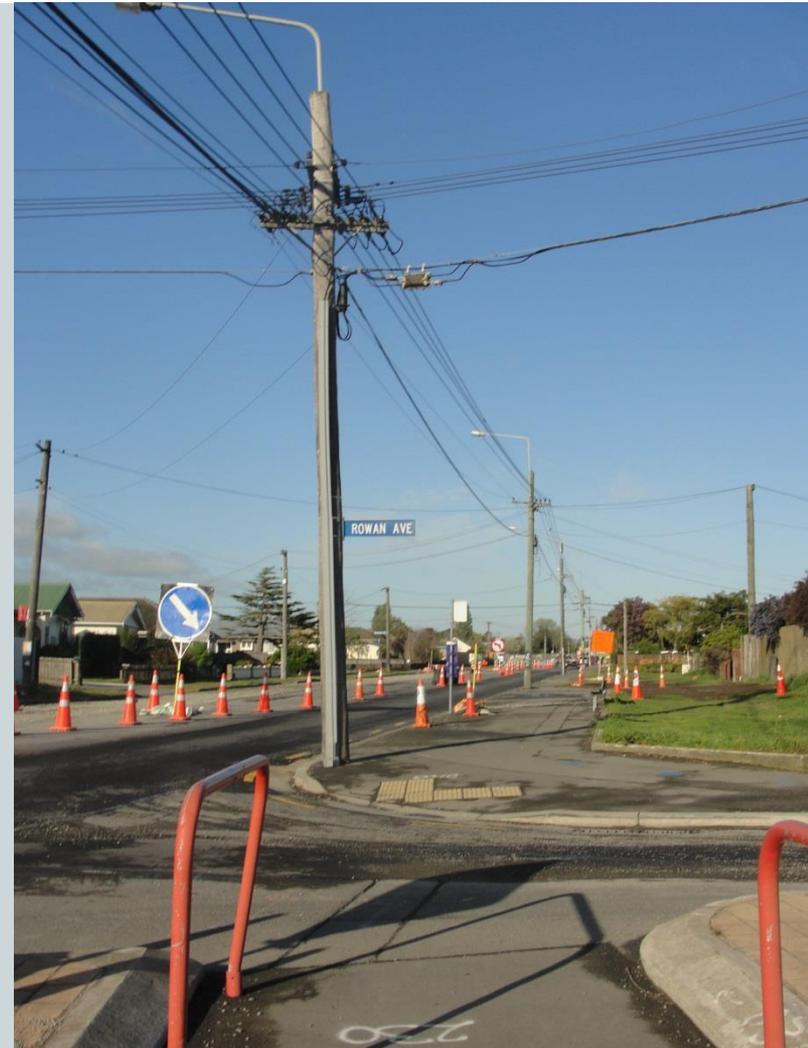
- *In my opinion, Aranui is more monitored and surveilled than any other place in Christchurch. It is the only area where Police regularly set up roadside checks within the suburb, rather than connecting throughways. It is the only community I've lived in where those road checks are carried out at 2.30pm, when parents are moving to pick up their kids. And it is the only place where a 'police van' title appears on your wifi network connection – joke or not.*

■ Kahi, H. (2015), 'Rebuilding 'Hood'.



KEY THEMES THAT EMERGE FROM COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

- **Pride**
 - Place
 - Identity
 - Community
- **Ongoing Difficulty/issues**
 - Access
 - Housing
 - Support
 - Voice
- **Lack of information**
 - Decision making
 - Futures



PRIDE

- One clear theme that emerges from community based responses is pride.
- *“The layout of the hoods changed but the people inside are still the same, behind everything that has happened after the earthquakes the PRIDE that the people of our community has is priceless.” (D, 2015)*
- *“We are proud and love where we come from but sometimes all our suburbs look the same with the Orange cones.” (C, 2015)*

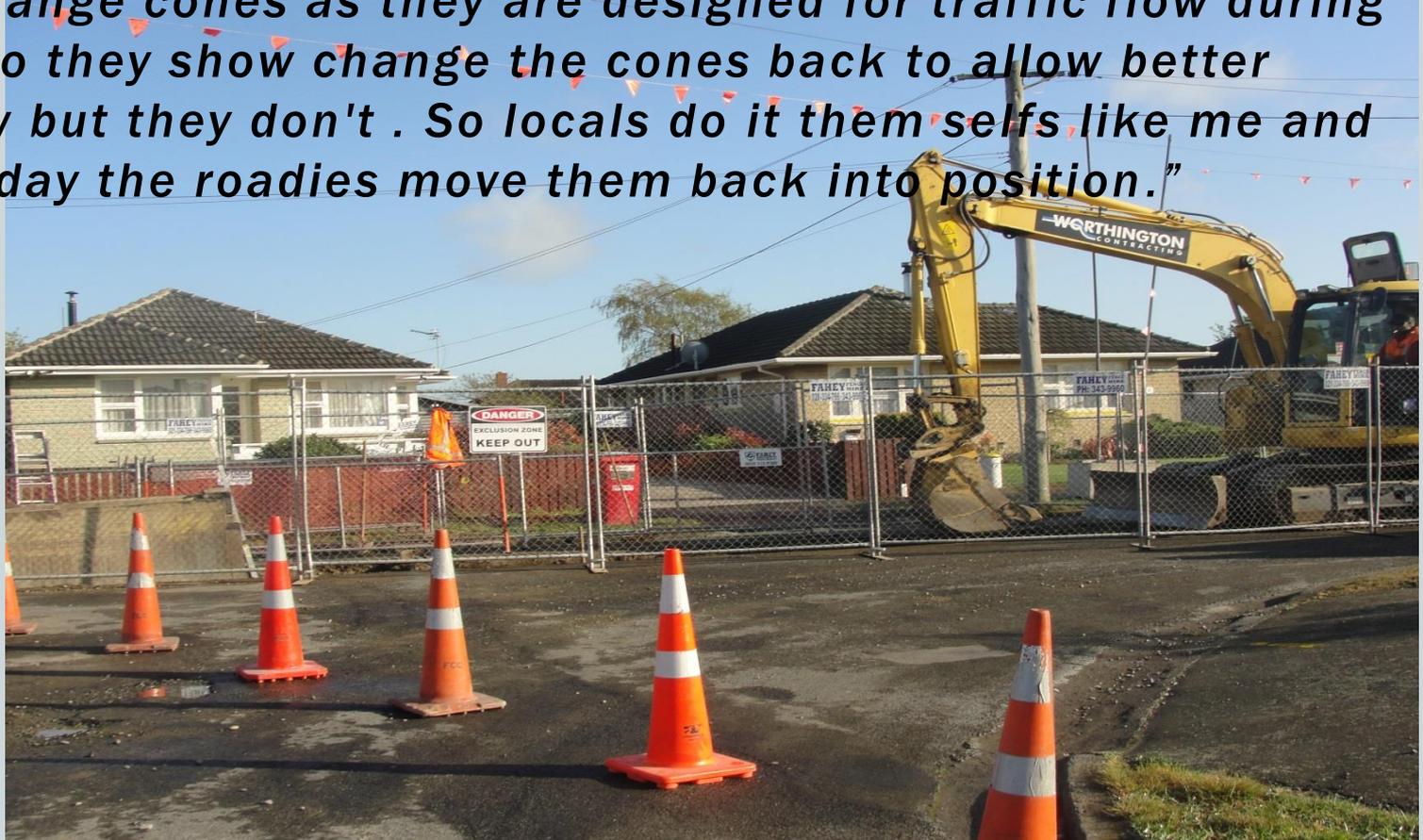
ONGOING ISSUES IN ARANUI

- Constant road works and realigned travel
 - Access
- Lack of support from outside of the community
 - Internalised notions of survival
- Lack of housing
 - Enter medium density 'solution'
- Closure/merging of schools
 - Super school debate



ONGOING ISSUES - TRAFFIC

- *“Our roads are absolutely shit with traffic flow as roadie logistics are mudski, I'll take a photo this Friday and show the road works with the orange cones as they are designed for traffic flow during mon -Fri so they show change the cones back to allow better traffic flow but they don't . So locals do it them selfs like me and come monday the roadies move them back into position.”*
 - (B, 2015)

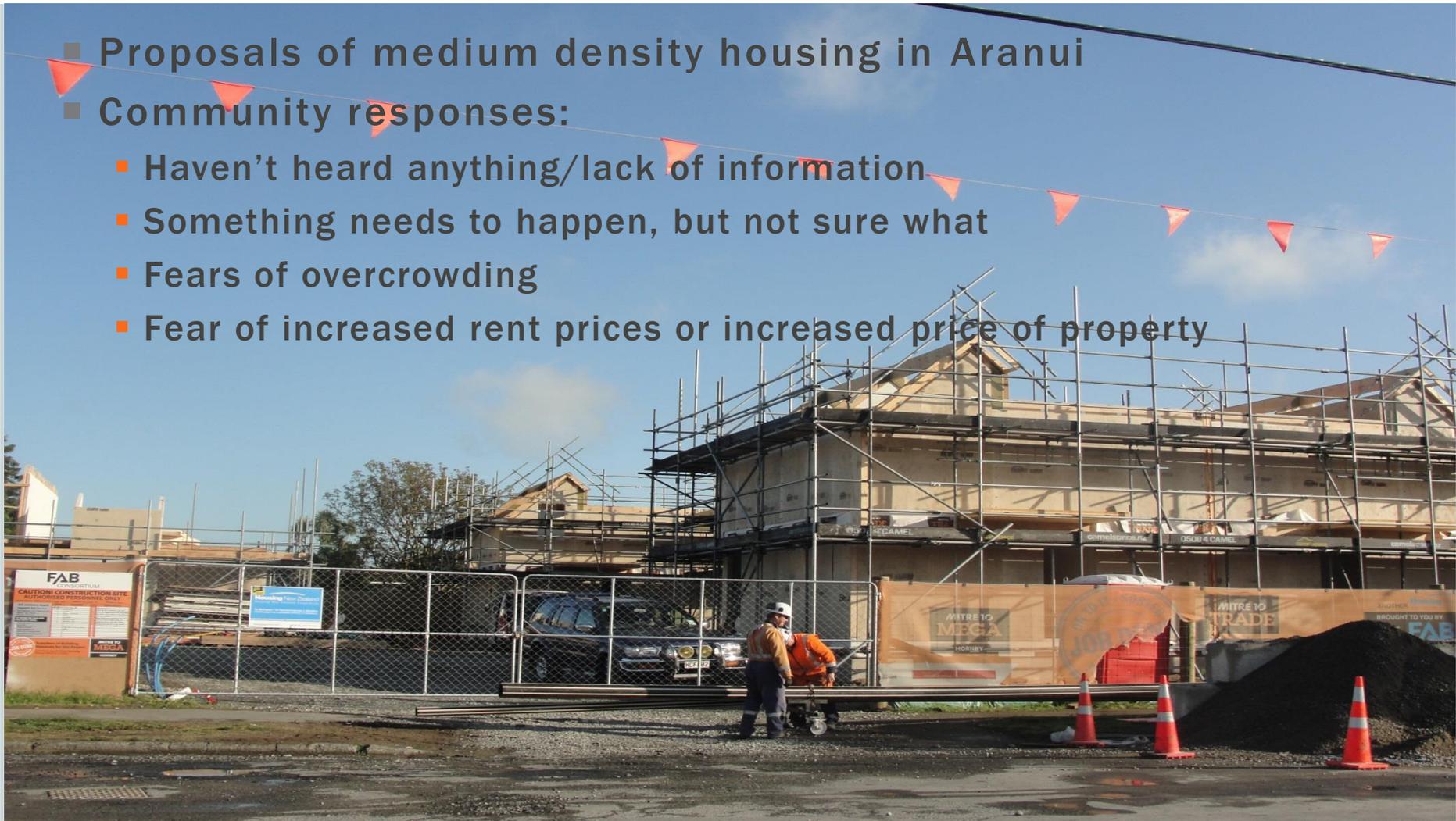


ONGOING ISSUES - LACK OF INFORMATION

- Discussions with community members show that there is a major lack in information given around developments that will affect their 'Hood'
- *“Decision and information seem to breakdown with the East. We know nothing, so how can peeps make informed decisions without the right information? People who make OUR decisions should come live in our Hood for a bit to feel how we feel.” (C, 2015)*

PROSPECT OF MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING

- Proposals of medium density housing in Aranui
- Community responses:
 - Haven't heard anything/lack of information
 - Something needs to happen, but not sure what
 - Fears of overcrowding
 - Fear of increased rent prices or increased price of property



MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING

- *The existing housing situation in aranui should be reviewed again to make sure the current residents needs are being attended to before any expansion takes place. Community voices need to be heard otherwise adding more housing to Aranui suburb might create more conflict especially with increase of housing which in turn could mean increase of rent (A, 2015)*
- *Haven't heard a peeps about the housing plans in Aranui but kind sounds like building USA projects.... Only a assumption.... If it is how it sounds then, are we following a US model? More info needed. (C, 2015)*
- *I feel like as far as the people were forgotten! Investors come in buy property and land and over price it so the people are forced to move! (D, 2015)*

JUSTIFICATIONS OF MEDIUM DENSITY

- -Medium density design which fits more people into the same unit of space which reduces infrastructure and land costs
- -More efficient and flexible housing design allows a home to take on other uses thus being more adaptable
- -Small home design keeps building costs down
- -Attached housing reduces construction costs and provides better thermal insulation than a detached house
- -Building houses to two or three storeys provides density with ample open spaces
 - Wines (2014)

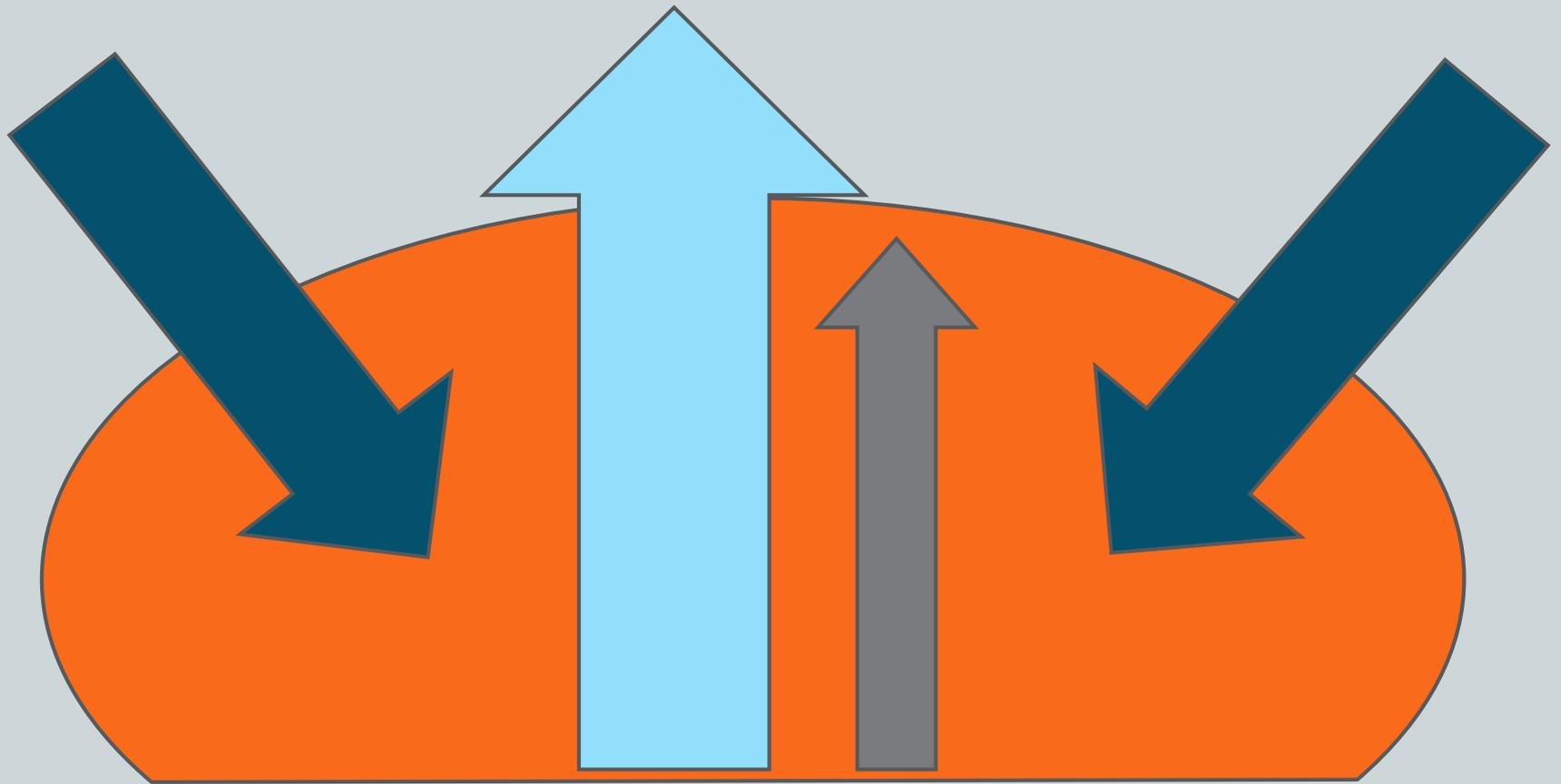
PROBLEMS WITH MEDIUM DENSITY

- In an area that is already considered 'low socio-economic' this will increase population in particular areas.
- This could lead to:
 - Overcrowding
 - Lack of space
 - Lack of choice
- Further 'ghettoization' of, an already perceived, 'ghetto'/rough neighbourhood
- Appears to be a quick fix, more so than a solution.
- Key themes in discussion:
 - Diversity
 - Quality of 'street life'
 - Affordability
 - Sustainability
 - Choice
 - Identity

COLONIALITY AND THE CURRENT 'CRISIS'

- Coloniality refers to continued patterns, and practices, of colonisation
- The current situation in Eastern Christchurch is reflective of the power dynamics that drive coloniality; although this is not, necessarily, a colonial project
- We can see intersections between power, socio-economics, and ethnic demographics

APPLYING THE COLONIAL DOME



- *There are a range of social/economic developments happening in the Christchurch rebuild. There are two Ministry proposals being carried out in Aranui, and both warrant derision and suspicion. The collective response of Government Ministries – medium density housing and a Super School. Medium density housing does not seem like the answer to the threat of housing crisis. It is a plan to house people so they live in crisis. And what makes the idea of having a year 1-13 school, super? Both plans exhibit the traits of planning that the city has refined in its practice. It identifies it's 'Hood, and fences it. The remnants of colonial disdain in this city are never so hidden than when it comes to its 'Hood. And the fear that pre-existing marginalisation from resource, employment, education and public and private social leverage is real. Resilience is a constant for those who live 'Hood – we didn't need a natural disaster to understand that.*
 - Kahi, H. (2015), 'Rebuilding 'Hood'.