



**07 January 2011**

## **McDonald's welcomes Court decision on Balmoral**

McDonald's New Zealand has welcomed the Environment Court decision to approve a new McDonald's restaurant in Balmoral and looks forward to being part of the community.

The result of a three year process, the decision imposed certain conditions, such as restaurant trading hours to be amended to 6am – 10pm Sunday to Thursday and 6am – midnight Friday and Saturday. Auckland Council was also directed to prepare a revised set of conditions on matters, such as signage, security and a resident liaison committee.

McDonald's Managing Director Mark Hawthorne says the company is pleased to have the decision and looks forward to working with the community.

"McDonald's is committed to being a good neighbour in all the communities in which it operates and Balmoral is no exception. We have worked hard to design a restaurant that meets the needs of key parties including residents and we have adjusted the store design as a direct result of neighbours' comments. We look forward to building a good relationship with the residents, as well as the wider Balmoral business and resident community," he says.

McDonald's lodged its application for resource consent with the then Auckland City Council in mid 2007. Following consultation with neighbours and some amendments, the application was heard by a panel of independent commissioners and consent was granted July 2009. This consent was appealed and an Environment Court hearing was held in August, 2010.

Mr Hawthorne says the future franchisees for the restaurant, Sam and Angela Maharaj, are determined to make a positive contribution to Balmoral.

"Sam and Angela already own and operate four McDonald's restaurants in Central Auckland including St Lukes and have done a terrific job in engaging with their communities - employing quality local people and supporting local activities and events. Sam is also a top performer with more than 20 years experience in the business and will be a real asset to the community and perfect franchisee for McDonald's Balmoral," he says.

McDonald's invests considerable research into the choice of a suitable location for its restaurants. Finding sites which are suitably zoned is critical, as is ensuring the site is visible, easily accessible for customers and on or, adjacent to a busy traffic route. It can also be beneficial to locate in an area which has already attracted a range of food outlets.

McDonald's will start construction of the new restaurant once it has a building consent from Auckland Council. Timing will also depend on fitting the new store into the company's current and very busy development schedule.

(Ends)

**Notes to the editor:**

**About McDonald's New Zealand**

New Zealand's first McDonald's restaurant opened in Porirua in 1976. Today there are 159 McDonald's restaurants across New Zealand, 80 per cent of which are franchised and run by local business men and women. The organisation employs more than 10000 people in restaurants nationwide. In 2009, McDonald's spent \$145 million with New Zealand suppliers, buying produce and products for its restaurants. For more information visit [www.McDonald's.co.nz](http://www.McDonald's.co.nz)

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