BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
AT KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER	**of the Resource Management Act 1991 ("RMA")**
AND	
IN THE MATTER	**of Private Plan Change 4 ("PC4") to the Kāpiti Coast District Plan ("Plan") - 65 and 73 Ratanui Road, Otaihanga**

Statement of evidence of Astrid Cora Dijkgraaf on behalf Kāpiti Coast District Council
(Ecology)

Date: 1 February 2026

INTRODUCTION:

1 My full name is Astrid Cora Dijkgraaf. I am an independent ecologist trading as Astrid.Ecology.

2 I have prepared this statement of evidence on behalf of the Kāpiti Coast District Council (**Council**) in respect of technical related matters arising from the submissions and further submissions on the Private Plan Change 4 (PPC4) to the Kāpiti Coast District Plan (District Plan).

3 Specifically, this statement of evidence relates to the following matters:

a. whether all natural inland wetlands have been identified within the site which affects the size and quality of the proposed offset wetland.

4 I am authorised to provide this evidence on behalf of the Council.

SUMMARY

5 My name is Astrid Cora Dijkgraaf.

6 I have been asked by the Council to provide Ecological evidence in relation to terrestrial ecology.

7 My statement of evidence addresses whether all natural inland wetlands have been identified within the site which affects the size and quality of the proposed offset wetland.

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE PLAN CHANGE 4

8 I have been involved in the PPC4 since October 2024 on behalf of the Council

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

9 My statement of evidence addresses the following matters:

9.1 Whether all natural inland wetlands have been identified within the site this is relevant as it affects the size and quality of the proposed offset wetland.

10 As set out in the evidence of Dr Vaughan Keesing we agree on most of the terrestrial ecological matters and the ecological values of the site. Where we currently differ is on whether all natural inland wetland have been included.

11 This point is pertinent to the potential size of offset that may be required for loss of wetland features. That is the size and complexity of the centralised indigenous wetland that is proposed as part of the hydrology management of the site (so as to maintain wetland hydrology).

12 Dr Keesing[1] (2024) excluded wetland 2 and 17 as natural inland wetlands because he considered they were either purposefully created wetland or are a result of a deliberately created waterbody.

13 In my opinion, given the similarity of how they look in the various historical photographs to other areas that were classed as natural inland wetlands by Dr Keesing, I believe these two areas to also be natural wetlands rather than created features. Additionally, most of the historic aerial photographs indicate some sort of wetland vegetation (more mottled than surrounding pasture) within these

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[1] Keesing V. (2024) Proposed Plan Change: 65 and 73 Ratanui Road, Paraparaumu. Ecological Values, Constraints and Opportunities. Prepared by BlueGreen Ecology for Welhom Developments Limited. 28 November 2024. 34 pp

areas. This is more clearly seen for Wetland 2 than wetland 17 (historic aerial sequence included in the appendix). I do not disagree that they may have been modified, however I do not think that they were initially artificially created.

14 In other words, they were not (as per NPS-FM)

14.1 (b) a deliberately constructed wetland, other than a wetland constructed to offset impacts on, or to restore, an existing or former natural inland wetland; or

14.2 (c) a wetland that has developed in or around a deliberately constructed water body, since the construction of the water body;

15 Dr Keesing also notes that these wetlands are not dominated for more than 50% of the area by wetland plant species, yet during my visit to the site wetland 2 was nearly 100% covered with Azolla rubra, an obligate wetland species that is only found in shallow freshwater systems (Figure 3).

16 It can at times be dried out as per the photo in Dr Keesing's (2024) report (included as Figure 2). But the red colouration on the bottom of the dried out pond is often indicative of dried azolla or other floating wetland plants.

17 I do not have a photograph of wetland 17 from the site visit and can therefore not absolutely confirm it was dominated by aquatic plant species but given that it is possible to locate this wetland on historic areas photographs (although not as robustly as wetland 2) I am not convinced that is solely a constructed or artificial wetland.

18 I agree with Dr Keesing's statement at point 8.3 of his evidence "It will be a matter for future debate and assessment at a resource consent process and will simply affect the effects management response and

likely the quantum of offset proposed for natural inland wetland disturbance".

RECOMMENDATIONS

19 That any future resource consent(s) requires final identification of natural inland wetlands, including size and ecological value, under the NES-F and NRP so as to adequately calculate the required extent of central restoration wetland and stormwater management area which is to offset the loss of natural inland wetlands. This may be largely a Greater Wellington Regional Council matter, but KCDC should ensure that this step is completed and that they are comfortable with the outcome.

Date: 1 February 2026

Astrid Cora Dijkgraaf

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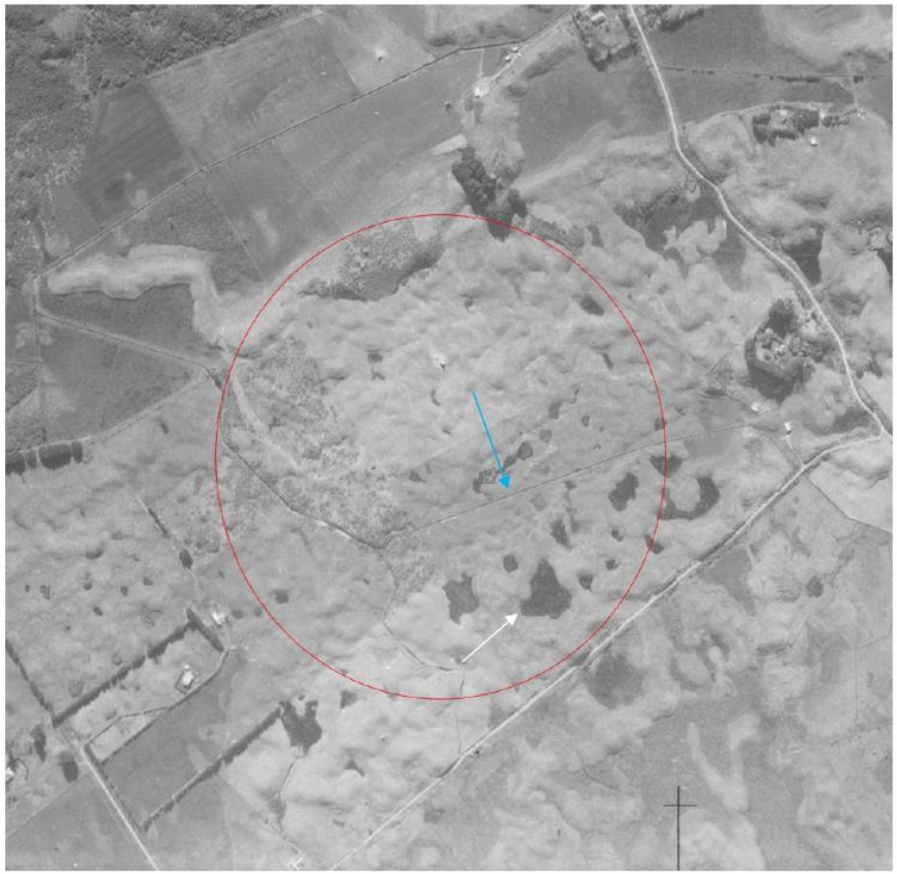
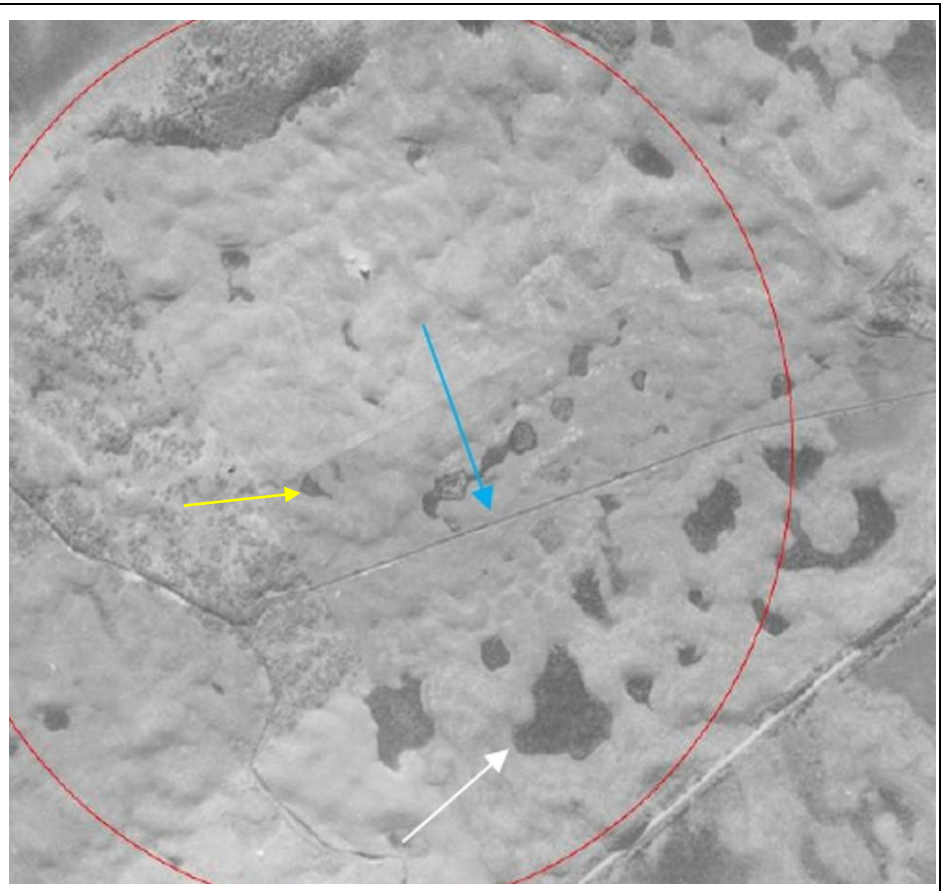


Figure 9. Aerial photograph dated 1942 (Crown 198 324 G) with the general area containing the Site circled in red, with ponds visible, but no structures present (note - the pond at 73 Ratanui Road also visible in later aerial photographs is indicated by white arrow and highly modified stream/drainage channel by blue arrow (sourced from: http://retrolens.nz and licensed by LINZ CC-BY 3.0)



Enlarged section of Clough Figure 9 with additional yellow arrow indicating wetland 17, white arrow = wetland 2.

7 May 1951 (Crown_574_A_7)

18 September 1954 (Crown_851_A_6)

15 April 1966 (Crown_1847_4084_3)

29 October 1973 (Crown_3686_B_3)

20 November 1987 (Crown_8790_R_2)

2 - pond bed	

Figure 2. image of wetland 2 from Keesing (2024)

Figure 3. View of wetland 2 on 16 December 2024. Nearly the entire surface is covered with hydrophytic plants such as azolla (Alloza rubra) which is an obligative wetland species found in shallow eutrophic water bodies.