

**BEFORE** Kapiti Coast District Council

**Under the** Resource Management Act 1991

**and**

**In the matter of** Proposed Kapiti Coast District Plan – Chapter 7 - Rural Environment

**Date** 16 May 2016

## **STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE BY CAROLINE WATSON ON BEHALF OF THE SUBMISSION MADE BY GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **Introduction**

My name is Caroline Watson. I am a policy advisor for Greater Wellington Regional Council. I have been employed by Greater Wellington Regional Council in this capacity since 2009.

I have a Bachelor of geography and environmental studies and a Masters of Environmental Studies from Victoria University, Wellington. I have processed resource consents, provided regional policy advice on notified resource consents and district plan changes, presented evidence at hearings and have resource management policy development experience.

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### **1. Scope of evidence and Greater Wellington Regional Council's submission**

- 1.1.1 The following evidence relates to a submission from Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) on 01 March, 2013 on the Proposed Kapiti Coast District Plan (PDP).
- 1.1.2 GWRC's submission assessed the PDP for consistency with the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (2013) (the RPS). The assessment focussed on how the PDP fits within the regional policy framework for issues around managing urban growth whether these issues have been adequately addressed through the PDP process.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this evidence is to provide responses to the recommendations in the Officer's Report.

- 1.1.4 My evidence today will:
- (a) outline the policy and strategic context of this evidence,
  - (b) summarise GWRC's submission,
  - (c) respond to the Officer's Report recommendations on the matters covered in GWRC's submission, and
  - (d) request decisions on the PDP.

## **2. Policy and strategic context**

- 2.1.1 The RPS is a regional document that identifies significant resource management issues within the region and sets out the objectives, policies, and methods to achieve the integrated management of natural and physical resources for the Wellington region.
- 2.1.2 The RPS sets out objectives and policies that provide local authorities with direction and guidance on resource management issues that must be given effect to when making changes to district and regional plans (in accordance with section 75 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA)) (policies 1-34). The RPS also provides direction on policies that must be considered as part of resource consent application (policies 35-60).
- 2.1.3 GWRC is particularly interested in how the PDP will support and contribute to achieving the integrated management of natural and physical resources in the Wellington region.

## **3. Summary of submission**

- 3.1.1 GWRC made a submission largely in support for the provisions related to managing urban growth in the Rural Environment Chapter of the PDP.
- 3.1.2 The submission made comments and sought amendments on some policies and rules included in the Rural Environment Chapter in the PDP.

## **4. Response to the Officer's Report recommendations**

### **4.1 Policy 7.17 – Rural Eco Hamlet Zone**

- 4.1.1 GWRC supported Policy 7.17.
- 4.1.2 I support the recommendations in the Officer's Report which include amendments and additional clauses and ask that the recommendations be accepted.
- 4.1.3 The reason for my response is that the recommendations:
- (a) support the purpose and principles of the RMA, and
  - (b) give effect to the RPS, specifically Policy 42.

## **4.2 Rules and standards in the Rural Zone**

- 4.2.1 GWRC sought that ‘stormwater management’ be included as a matter of discretion for subdivision activities that are restricted discretionary activities.
- 4.2.2 This point was rejected in the Officer’s Report with the reason given that it is considered unnecessary to add ‘stormwater management’ as a matter for discretion as it is already addressed in the Kapiti Coast District Council Subdivision and Development Principles and Requirements 2012 (Principles and Requirements). These Principles and Requirements are already a matter of discretion.
- 4.2.3 I support the fact that stormwater management is addressed in the Principles and Requirements (page 51); however I was concerned about the phrase “degree of compliance” with these Principles and Requirements used in the matter for discretion and what the implications of this for stormwater management would be. This phrasing appeared not to give sufficient guidance to an applicant on what they had to comply with in their subdivision application and what the implications of this for stormwater management would be.
- 4.2.4 I understand a consent assessment would be undertaken on a case-by-case basis on the degree of non-compliance with a principle or requirement. This assessment would consider what the effects of the non-compliance would be and either include appropriate conditions of consent or decline an application.
- 4.2.5 This approach is dependent on strong policy direction in the PDP which make it clear what outcomes are sought to support consent processing officers when determining applications.
- 4.2.6 I appreciate that having a degree of flexibility when assessing applications on a case-by-case basis is appropriate to allow for activities where effects can be mitigated by using conditions.
- 4.2.7 I therefore accept the Officer’s recommendation to reject this submission point.

## **5. Decisions requested**

- 5.1.1 I request that KCDC notes GWRC’s support for the recommendations related to Chapter 7 – Rural Environment.



**Caroline Watson**