



**BEFORE** Kapiti Coast District Council  
**Under the** Resource Management Act 1991  
**and**  
**In the matter of** Proposed District Plan – Chapter 11 - Infrastructure  
**Date** 01 August 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 The following evidence relates to submissions from Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) made on 01 March and 02 April, 2013 on the Proposed Kapiti Coast District Plan (PDP).
- 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 the management of infrastructure and whether it has been adequately addressed through the PDP process.
- 1.3 The purpose of this evidence is to provide responses to the recommendations in the Officer's Report and to highlight outstanding areas of concern.

- 1.3.1 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 of the provisions in Chapter 11 of the PDP with minor amendments.

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

### **4.1 Policy 11.1 – Recognition**

- 4.1.1 GWRC supported Policy 11.1 in that it recognised the benefits of infrastructure which is consistent with RPS Policies 7 and 8. An amendment to this policy was also sought which is recommended in the Officer's Report to be accepted.
- 4.1.2 I support the recommendation in the Officer's Report and ask that it be included in the decision.

### **4.2 Policy 11.12 – Policy 11.18**

- 4.2.1 I support the recommendations in the Officer's Report including amendments to policies 11.12 to 11.18 and ask that they be included in the decision.

### **4.3 Policy 11. 29 to Policy 11.36**

4.3.1 I support the recommendations in the Officer's Report and ask that they be included in the decision.

### **4.4 Section 11.4.3 Infrastructure and Services Rules and standards**

4.4.1 GWRC sought that 'stormwater management' be included as a matter of control or discretion for subdivision activities that are either controlled or restricted discretionary activities.

4.4.2 This submission point appears to have been missed in the summary of submissions so an assessment and recommendation has not been made in the Officer's Report on this point. However, I assume that for consistency, this point would have also been rejected.

4.4.3 In Chapter 7 – Rural Environment, GWRC sought a similar approach and this was rejected. The reason given in the Officer's Report that it was 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 control or discretion.

4.4.4 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.

4.4.5 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 either include appropriate conditions of consent or decline an application.

4.4.6 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. I believe that there is strong policy direction on stormwater management in the PDP.

4.4.7 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.

4.4.8 As discussed, I can not support or oppose the recommendation in the Officer's Report on this, as no submission point was identified. But I accept the likely assumption that the Officer's recommendation was to reject this submission point, and I accept this rejection.

## **5. Decisions requested**

- 5.1.1 I request that Kapiti Coast District Council notes GWRC's support for the recommendations related to Chapter 11 – Infrastructure.

**Caroline Watson**

**01 August 2016**