

**BEFORE AN INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL**  
**THE PROPOSED WAIKATO DISTRICT PLAN (STAGE 1)**

**UNDER** the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

**IN THE MATTER OF** Hearing 21B: Landscapes (Proposed  
Waikato District Plan) submissions and further  
submissions

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE FOR MICHAEL WOOD FOR WAKA  
KOTAHI (THE NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY) - CORPORATE AND  
PLANNING**

**DATED 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020**

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## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Waka Kotahi (the Transport Agency) is a submitter and further submitter on the Proposed Waikato District Plan (PWDP).
- 1.2 The Transport Agency lodged several submission points (742.186, 742.187, 742.188) in relation to the Landscapes topic. These submissions sought the retention of the Outstanding Natural Feature, Outstanding Natural Landscape and Outstanding Natural Character overlays in the PWDP; except in those locations where these crossed over NZTA designations. I have reviewed the s42A report and support the author's recommendations in relation to the Transport Agency's submission points.
- 1.3 I confirm that I am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses as set out in the Environment Court Practice Note 2014. I have read and agree to comply with the Code. Except where I state that I am relying upon the specified evidence or advice of another person, my evidence is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions I express.

## **2. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- 2.1 My full name is Michael Blain Wood. I am a Principal Planning Advisor with the Transport Agency where I have been employed since June 2014.
- 2.2 I hold a Masters' in Resource and Environmental Planning (MRP) from Massey University in 2001. I am a full member of the New Zealand Planning Institute. I have 17 years' planning experience both within the public and private sector.
- 2.3 My key responsibilities at the Transport Agency, include working with local councils on district plan reviews and plan changes, assessing land use development applications and contributing to business cases for capital works.
- 2.4 I am also involved in the delivery of the Transport Agency's capital works programme through the statutory consenting process. This involves stakeholder engagement and reviewing notices of requirement and resource consents prepared on behalf of the Transport Agency.
- 2.5 I have authority to give evidence on behalf of the Transport Agency.

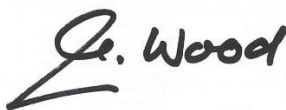
### 3. THE TRANSPORT AGENCY SUBMISSIONS AND RESPONSE TO SECTION 42A REPORT

#### Outstanding Natural Features Overlay

- 3.1 The Transport Agency supported the retention of the Outstanding Natural Features (ONF) Overlay in the PWDP; except in those locations where the ONF Overlay crossed an NZTA designation (742.186). The ONF overlay covers parts of the Huntly bypass section of the Waikato Expressway (SH1). The Huntly section has now been completed and as a result the extent of the ONF overlay has already been heavily modified in these locations (see paragraph 408). To that end, I support the s42a author's recommendation in paragraph 414 to remove the extent of the modified ONF overlay along these sections of the Huntly section of the Waikato Expressway. The extent of the ONF to be removed from this section of SH1 is shown on Attachment 8 Recommended Map Amendments (Boffa Miskell). I support the extent of the ONF overlays to be removed as shown on this map.

#### Outstanding Natural Landscape and Outstanding Natural Character Overlay

- 3.2 The Transport Agency supported the retention of the Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL) and Outstanding Natural Character (ONC) Overlays in the PWDP; except in those locations where these Overlays crossed an NZTA designation (742.187, 742.188). I have rechecked the extent of these Overlays and I can confirm that these do not cross any NZTA designations. On that basis, I support the officer's recommendations under paragraphs 468 and 527 to reject that part of the Transport Agency's submission seeking the removal of the extent of these Overlays over NZTA designations.



**Mike Wood**

Principal Planner

Waka Kotahi (The Transport Agency)

17<sup>th</sup> August 2020