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Enquiries to: Michelle Flay

Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240, NZ

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waikatoregion.govt.nz
0800 800 401

Proposed Waikato District Plan Hearing Panel
districtplan@waidc.govt.nz

Dear Commissioners

Hearing 21B – Landscapes - Support for s42A recommendations

The purpose of this letter is to express support for recommendations made in the Hearing 21B – Landscapes chapter 42A Report.

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) made a number of submission points relating to Landscapes. Table 1 below outlines the WRC submission points where the s42A recommendations are supported.

Table 1: Supported s42A recommendations

Submission Point	S42A Recommendation
81.24 WRC requested that WDC undertake a natural character assessment for wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins.	WRC accepts the s42A recommendation accepted – matter to be considered outside the district plan review process
81.25 & 81.26 WRC requested amendment to provisions throughout the plan that relate to natural character to recognise that a different approach is required to high and outstanding natural character to give effect to Policy 12.2 and Implementation method 12.2.1 of the WRPS.	WRC supports the s42A recommendation – schedules for ‘high’ and ‘outstanding’ NCA, areas are to be identified on the planning maps as informed by technical expertise.
81.104 81.106 81.107 81.108 81.109 81.162 81.165 81.178 81.181 81.182 81.185	WRC supports the S42A recommendation on each of these submission points.

Submission Point	S42A Recommendation
81.189	
<p>FS1277.137</p> <p>WRC supported DoC's request to amend the coastal environment line at Port Waikato to take into account the position of the boundary for the coastal marine area as shown in the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan and make any consequential amendments.</p>	WRC supports the S42A recommendation
<p>FS1277.149 & FS1277.151</p> <p>WRC opposed NZTA's request to amend the Outstanding Natural Landscapes overlay by reviewing and removing any such areas from existing New Zealand Transport Agency designations.</p>	WRC supports the S42A recommendation.

There are also two submission points where WRC support the s42A recommendations but would like clarification or slight amendments. These are outlined in table 2 below.

Table 2: s42A recommendations - clarification or amendment requested

Submission Point	S42A Recommendation
<p>81.105</p> <p>WRC requested amendment to Section 3.3 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes to require that adverse effects of activities on the values and characteristics of Outstanding Natural Feature Landscapes are avoided in the coastal environment.</p>	<p>The s42A reporting officers considers that Objective 3.3.1 and Policy 3.3.3. are applicable to ONF/ONL sites within and outside of the coastal environment. Neither this objective or policy make reference to the coastal environment.</p> <p>WRC support the proposed revised Policy 3.3.3 (a)(i) but would request the inclusion of a reference to ONFL <u>within</u> the coastal environment, in accordance with WRPS implementation method 12.1.1(a)(i).</p>
<p>81.183 & 81.184</p> <p>WRC requested clarification of the approach taken to the extent of the outstanding natural feature for Mount Karioi.</p>	<p>In relation to Mount Karioi – ONFL, WRPS Table 12.1 identifies the “Cliffs and headlands along the coastal edge” as ONFL characteristics which the district plan shall identify and provide protection for (WRPS Implementation method 12.1.1). However, the Mount Karioi overlay does not appear to extend to the coastal edge. WRC acknowledge that WRPS also encourages territorial authorities to undertake their own district level assessment, which in this case has been provided by Boffa Miskell. While WRC submission point 81.183 has been accepted by Boffa Miskell, the overlay still does not extend to the coastal edge (within WDC's jurisdictional boundary) and there is no commentary provided by Boffa Miskell as to reasoning behind this exclusion. WRC suggest that the panel seek</p>

Submission Point	S42A Recommendation
	further technical clarification from Boffa Miskell to ensure that the proposed district plan gives effect to the WRPS.

If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Flay, Policy Advisor, Policy Implementation on (07) 859 0961 or via email michelle.flay@waikatoregion.govt.nz.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Tamura', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Tamura
Manager, Integration and Infrastructure