

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

UNDER the Resource Management Act 1991 (“**RMA**”)

IN THE MATTER OF hearing submissions and further submissions on the
Proposed Waikato District Plan (Stage 1)
Topic 22: Infrastructure and Energy

BY **WATERCARE SERVICES LIMITED**
Submitter

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE ILZE MARGARET GOTELLI

20 October 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 My full name is Ilze Margaret Gotelli. I am the Head of Major Developments at Watercare Services Limited (**Watercare**).

1.2 I prepared a statement of primary evidence dated 29 September 2020.

2. ABOUT WATERCARE

2.1 Watercare is a CCO which is 100% owned by Auckland Council that:

- (a) Is responsible for the provision of essential water and wastewater services to existing and future urban reticulated communities in Auckland.
- (b) Supplies water and drinking water services to the Tuakau and Pokeno communities through a Bulk Supply Agreement with the Waikato District Council (**WDC**).
- (c) Is responsible for the operation and maintenance of WDC's Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Services (including consenting). However, my evidence is presented in Watercare's capacity as the supplier of water and wastewater services in Auckland, and the supplier of bulk water and wastewater services to Tuakau and Pokeno only, not in its capacity as manager of WDC assets.

2.2 Watercare owns and operates \$8.4 billion of water and wastewater infrastructure assets, making it NZ's largest water and wastewater company.

2.3 Watercare has a statutory obligation to manage its operations efficiently with a view to keeping the overall costs of water supply and wastewater services to its customers (collectively) at the minimum levels consistent with the effective conduct of its undertakings and the maintenance of the long term integrity of its assets.¹

2.4 Watercare's Vision is to be: "Trusted by our communities for exceptional performance everyday."

3. WATERCARE'S WAIKATO ASSETS

3.1 Watercare owns and operates a number of important assets located in the Waikato District used to service Auckland the North Waikato, these include:

- (a) The Pukekohe Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- (b) The Waikato Water Treatment Plant; and
- (c) The Mangatangi and Upper Mangatawhiri dams.

¹ Section 57(1)(a) of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009.

4. FUNCTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF WATER AND WASTEWATER

4.1 Water and wastewater infrastructure has a functional and operational need to locate in certain areas:

- (a) With takes of surface water for municipal supply this is in the bed of the relevant water source such as a lake or river, to enable the take.
- (b) Where the take of water is from a storage lake or reservoir, it is preferable it is in a forested catchment with good water quality.
- (c) With wastewater, there is a functional requirement for the wastewater outfall to be located in the coastal marine area, and on or in a river or lake (unless it is discharged to land).
- (d) Water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants are often located close to the point of take or discharge for engineering and cost related reasons.

4.2 Areas located next to rivers, lakes, the coastal marine area or forested catchments are often associated with values recognised under the RMA. The PWDP has proposed many such areas be mapped as Identified Areas.

4.3 Watercare recognises the appropriateness of such areas being generally identified for protection in the PWDP.

4.4 However, given the functional need for key water and wastewater infrastructure to often be located in such areas it is important that the PWDP provides:

- (a) appropriate recognition in its policy framework of the functional need for water and wastewater infrastructure to locate in Identified Areas; and
- (b) an appropriate activity status of water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants and above ground reservoirs in Identified Areas.

4.5 Without these changes I consider there could be significant hurdles to water and wastewater infrastructure in the Waikato District being consented.

4.6 To address this, Watercare seeks the changes to the planning provisions proposed in the evidence of Mr Christopher Scrafton.

Ilze Margaret Gotelli

20 October 2020