

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS  
IN WAIKATO DISTRICT**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991 (“**the Act**”)

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Waikato District Council Proposed District Plan –  
Strategic Objectives (Hearing 3)

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**SUMMARY STATEMENT  
JORDYN LANDERS FOR HORTICULTURE NEW  
ZEALAND**

**1 November 2019**

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1. Good Afternoon. I am Jordyn Landers, Environmental Policy Advisor at Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ). My role in this hearing is as the HortNZ representative.
2. The purpose of this summary statement is to provide an overview of the matters addressed in my evidence, summarizing HortNZ's key concerns and addressing matters that have been raised in rebuttal evidence.

***The importance of horticulture in the Waikato in a national setting***

3. Horticulture in the Waikato District affords a range of social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits to the Waikato District but also has a significant part to play in domestic food supply and food security.
4. Vegetable growing in the District is generally concentrated around Tuakau (part of the Pukekohe Hub) and fruit production is more widespread.
5. Within the Waikato District, high class soils account for 35% of land; this is a finite and important resource.
6. National policy in various stages of development (including the draft National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land) indicates, what is in HortNZ's opinion a shift towards a greater national recognition of the need to protect our domestic food production systems, while operating within environmental limits.

***Key issues for HortNZ in Hearing 3***

7. The key issues, as summarised below, are:
  - Recognition of the need to avoid the location of development on high class soils in strategic objectives.

- The need to plan for future development and growth that supports the district's rural communities and rural economy.
- Effects of urban growth on rural production activities are considered, in particular reverse sensitivity effects on horticulture are managed (rather than limited to intensive farming, extraction industry or industrial activity and strategic infrastructure).
- Strengthening of the rural policy is by also addressing Countryside living and the effects of scattered countryside living.

***Expert caucusing on Strategic Objectives***

8. I note that Mark Tollemache acting on behalf of Havelock Village Limited suggests in his rebuttal evidence that caucusing by planning experts could assist in seeking clarity as to the location, role and function of the Strategic Objectives and how the policy cascade is intended to operate. HortNZ is supportive of this recommendation as we believe that the strategic provisions need to be clearly and consistently articulated within the PWDP, and we agree that the structure as notified is unclear.
9. Thank you, we are available to answer any questions you may have.