

Proposed Waikato District Plan - Hearing 3

To: The Hearings Panel **Date:** 4 November 2019
From: The Ministry of Education (Keith Frentz) **Our Ref:** 4263529
Copy: Alan Dibley
Subject: Overview of the Statement of Evidence of Keith Frentz on behalf of the Ministry of Education on the Proposed Waikato District Plan – Hearing 3: Strategic Objectives

Summary

My statement of evidence sets out a summary of planning evidence on behalf of the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) in relation to the Ministry's submission point 781.3 to Policy 4.1.6 Commercial and Industrial Zones.

The intent of the Ministry's submission is to ensure that the objectives, policies and rules of the Proposed Waikato District Plan (PWDP) facilitate the development of a range of education facilities within the District that will enable the community to meet its educational needs.

The Ministry's Submission Point 781.3 seeks to amend Policy 4.1.6 in order to recognise the appropriateness of education facilities in the Business Town Centre Zone, Business Zone, Industrial Zone and Heavy Industrial Zone at a strategic level.

The section 42A Reporting Officer considers that the purpose of this policy is to direct commercial and industrial activities to the respective zones only and that subsequent policies provide for community and other activities within the commercial and industrial zones. Accordingly, no change was considered necessary as a result of submission point 781.3. The section 42A Reporting Officer does however recommend amendments to Policy 4.1.6 to clarify that its purpose relates to the location of commercial and industrial activities in their respective zones.

I accept the recommendation that Policy 4.1.6 be amended to clarify that its purpose relates to the location of commercial and industrial activities. However, I do not agree with the section 42A Reporting Officer that the subsequent policies in the PWDP provide support for Education Facilities in the commercial and industrial zones. For these reasons I do not agree with the section 42A Reporting Officers recommendation to reject submission point 781.3.

I consider that an alternative response to the submission point would be to include a new policy within section 4.1 Strategic Direction to recognise and provide for Educational Facilities in commercial and industrial zones to give effect to the intent of the Ministry's submission point 781.3.

I have provided a suggested alternative as follows:

4.1.(new) Policy – Education facilities

(a) Provide for education facilities in the following zones:

i. Business Town Centre;

ii. Business;

iii. Industrial; and

iv. Heavy Industrial

Rebuttal Response Summary

A statement of rebuttal evidence of Mark Nicholas Arbuthnot for Ports of Auckland Limited in relation to Hearing 3 – Strategic Objectives has been received following primary evidence submitted by the Ministry.

Mr Arbuthnot disagrees with the Ministry's primary evidence that it is appropriate to provide for education facilities within the Industrial and Heavy Industrial zones based on; the proposed amendment being inconsistent with Policy 4.7.11 – Reverse sensitivity; that no analysis has been provided with reference to section 32 of the RMA in respect of the benefits and costs of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the amendments to Policy 4.1.6; and no examination as to whether the amendment to Policy 4.1.6 is the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives of the Proposed Plan, particularly in respect of reverse sensitivity.

In the Ministry's experience, it is not common, but reasonable to expect education facilities in the Industrial Zones for the convenience of parents, students and industrial activities in relation to the studies provided and that these need to be provided for. These facilities may include schools, trade related facilities and early childhood education. As outlined in my primary evidence, the Ministry are also seeking a Restricted Discretionary activity status in the Industrial Zones to ensure that Council have the discretion over what activities are deemed acceptable to be located in these zones on a case-by-case basis.

I have acknowledged above the proposed changes to Policy 4.1.6 and proposed a new policy that is specific to the need for Education Facilities in these zones and I am happy to discuss the wording of the policy further. However, in my opinion, a policy confirming the intent to provide for education facilities in these zones is essential and that Education Facilities as an activity should be provided for as a Restricted Discretionary activity.

Thank you for your consideration.



Keith Frentz
Technical Director – Planning
Beca Ltd

4 November 2019