



18 August 2020

Hearing Commissioners
Proposed Waikato District Plan
C/- Waikato District Council
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districtplan@waidc.govt.nz

Dear Commissioners,

Proposed Waikato District Plan: Hearing Topic 21B Landscapes

Chorus New Zealand Limited (Chorus) - submitter 648, Spark New Zealand Trading Limited (Spark) – submitter 644 and Vodafone New Zealand Limited (Vodafone) – submitter 646 (*“the Companies”*) have joined together for the purposes of the Proposed Waikato District Plan process in order to provide cohesive and efficient input from the telecommunications sector. The Companies have lodged identical submissions and further submissions on all matters except in regard to Chorus designations.

The Companies substantive points mainly relate to the hearings for infrastructure scheduled to occur later in 2020. Policy 6.1.10 in the Infrastructure section directly addresses infrastructure in “Identified Areas” which requires a consideration of the values and attributes of these areas where new infrastructure or significant upgrades are required in these areas. That provision will need to be read in conjunction with the Natural Environment provisions where assessing proposals in these areas. The Companies consider that the Natural Environment provisions as drafted set out a workable framework for assessing telecommunications infrastructure in these areas, particularly where they are assessed in conjunction with Policy 6.1.10.

The Companies submissions sought that the following provisions covered by the Landscapes topic be retained as notified:

- **Objective 3.3.1 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and related Policies 3.3.2-3.3.4.**
- **Objective 3.4.1 Significant Amenity Landscapes and related Policies 3.4.2-3.4.4.**
- **Objective 3.5.1 Natural Character and Related Policies 3.5.2-3.5.4.**

The s42A report recommends that the Companies submissions are either accepted (provisions retained as notified without change) or are accepted in part with recommended changes in wording to some provisions as the result of submission by others.

Outstanding Natural Landscapes

We support the recommendations to retain Objective 3.3.1 and Policy 3.3.4 as notified.

Recommended changes to Policies 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 as the result of submissions by others are acceptable to the Companies.

Significant Amenity Landscapes

We support the recommendations to retain Objective 3.4.1 and Policies 3.4.2 and 3.4.4 as notified.

Recommended changes to Policy 3.4.3 as the result of submissions by others is acceptable to the Companies.

Natural Character

We support the recommendation to retain Objective 3.5.1.

Recommended changes to Policies 3.5.2-3.5.4 as the result of submissions by others are acceptable to the Companies.

Requested Relief

We request that the Commissioners either confirm the recommendations in the s42A report to the provisions to which the Companies submissions relate, or if further changes are made in response to submissions by others, that these do not have the effect of precluding network utility infrastructure in areas where they may need to be located or traverse for functional and operational reasons.

If the Commissioners consider it necessary, the Companies can provide written responses to any questions that the Commissioners may have.

We ask that this statement is tabled to record our position on the s42A recommendations for consideration by the Commissioners.

Yours sincerely,



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