

Hearing Closing Statement

# Hearing 27F: Natural Hazards and Climate Change – Fire, Climate Change and Definitions

Prepared by Neil Taylor

Date: 21 May 2021





## I Introduction

1. My name is Neil Taylor. I am the author of the s42A report 27F, Natural Hazards and Climate Change – Fire, Climate Change and Definitions, and subsequent rebuttal report.
2. This closing statement follows the hearing held on 10, 11 and 12 May 2021.
3. No new issues emerged at the hearing. I have no further or changed recommendations to make following the evidence and presentations made by submitters at the hearing.
4. A consolidated version of Chapter 15 has been prepared, reflecting recommended changes from all Hearing 27 reports. Copies have been circulated to the Hearings Panel and placed at the same website location as this closing statement.

## 2 Evidence presented

5. Four hearing presentations referred to report 27F:
  - a. Waikato Regional Council (Summary statement of J Beban and S Gunnell, section 6.)
  - b. Kāinga Ora - Homes and Communities (C Sharman, para 2.10-12)
  - c. Genesis Energy (Evidence summary – R Matthews, para 8-12.)
  - d. Transpower (Letter R Eng, pages 4-7.) (Transpower accepts my recommendations on five submissions [2101.12, 2101.13, 2101.14, 2101.25 and 2101.26].)
6. While I do not change any earlier recommendations, I make two comments in the relation to the evidence.
7. Kāinga Ora’s summary statement clarifies that it supports my recommendation to delete Objective 15.2.3(b), while continuing with its submission to amend (b), if (b) is not deleted. (Submission [2094.17] refers.)
8. Genesis’ evidence summary (para 8-12) refers to submission [2104.10] to amend the definition of “minor upgrading” to include infrastructure as well as utilities. The practical outcome sought is to allow minor upgrading of Huntly Power Station.
9. My rebuttal (section 4) concluded that upgrading of Huntly Power Station is not controlled under Chapter 15 as Genesis assumed, and the amendment sought would have no practical value. Genesis’ evidence summary did not discuss that point. Nothing has changed and I stand by my recommendation to reject submission [2104.10.]
10. I note now that the issue raised in [2104.10] may be resolved separately. That would be the effect of a recommendation on another submission, addressed in the Closing Statement related to Report 27C – Flood Hazard and Defended Areas. This recommendation is that the definition of “utility” be amended so that it effectively includes Huntly Power Station. If that recommendation is accepted, the submitter will incidentally obtain the outcome they seek under submission [2104.10] of being included in Chapter 15 rules relating to minor upgrading of utilities in natural hazard overlays, with no change to the definition of minor upgrading.