

Before the Independent Hearings Panel  
at Waimakariri District Council

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*under:* the Resource Management Act 1991

*in the matter of:* Proposed private plan change RCP31 to the Operative  
Waimakariri District Plan

*and:* **Rolleston Industrial Developments Limited**  
*Applicant*

Supplementary evidence of Laura Drummond

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Dated: 4 September 2023

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## SUPPLEMENTARY EVIDENCE OF LAURA DRUMMOND

- 1 My full name is Laura Rose Drummond.
- 2 My qualifications and experience are set out in my evidence in chief dated 7 July 2023.

## ADDITIONAL SPRING PRESENCE

- 3 During the hearing, a submitter (#105, Ms L Joris) raised concerns about the potential for spring presence on the PC31 site, which was not captured in the aquatic ecology technical report<sup>1</sup>, Outline Development Plan (ODP) or the aquatic ecology evidence (Mark Taylor and Laura Drummond). The areas of concern were located in the northeastern side of the site, where a submitter had observed areas of water (shown in **Figure 1**).
- 4 On 8 August 2023, I undertook a site walkover of the area raised as having potential spring presence. I observed several areas of ponded water in depressions in the general area identified, which can be expected with the recent rainfall from July 22 to 24. However, none of the areas are considered 'springs' as there was no signs of flow rising from groundwater (bubbling, sediment movement, flow channels) and the dominant vegetation was pasture grasses.
- 5 Discussion on site with the landowner indicates that during dry conditions, these areas have no standing water. This was confirmed through review of aerial imagery. However, when it rains heavily water will sit in depressions in the land due to the clay layer reducing infiltration to ground. In addition, two of the areas (shown in **Figures 2 and 3**) are likely to be depression areas caused by the placement of past feed racks for stock in this paddock. These racks are placed in the paddock and stock movement around them can lead to depressional areas.
- 6 There is also a larger area of ponding near an internal farm road (shown in **Figures 4 and 5**). This area of ponding has likely resulted from the farm track intercepting overland flow runoff through an old stream braid towards Whites Road.
- 7 As these wetted areas are not considered springs, they do not require the protection of spring setbacks at this stage under the ODP. The PC31 area will require field surveys during the subdivision consent stage to confirm the presence and extent of natural inland wetlands on site. Any natural wetlands delineated on site will then

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<sup>1</sup> Land Use Change, 535 Mill Road, Okoha; Aquatic Ecology Report. Prepared for Rolleston Industrial Developments Ltd. AEL Report No. 192. M Taylor and R Payne. November 2021.

require an assessment as per the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NSPFM 2020).

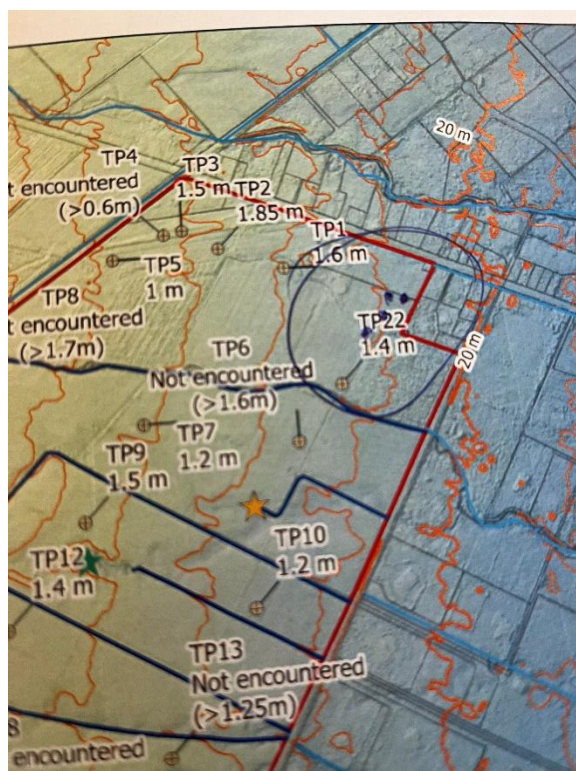
- 8 I have reviewed and support the updated ODP text, which has (with our submitted evidence for the hearing) been amended to clearly allow for the future identification and protection of any new springs subsequently found within the PC31 site.

### **CONCLUSION**

- 9 In summary, although the walkover during wet site conditions confirmed the presence of surface ponding within the site, these areas are not considered to be springs. Further assessment of the area will be required as part of the subdivision consent stage, and is also provided for in the updated wording in the ODP text.

Dated: 4 September 2023

**Laura Drummond**



**Figure 1: Submitter mark-up showing areas of potential spring presence (dots in circled area).**



**Figure 2: Surface water ponding in a depression area.**





**Figure 3: Surface water ponding in a depression area.**



**Figure 4: Surface water ponding associated with farm track.**



**Figure 5: Surface water ponding within the farm track.**