BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
FOR PROPOSED PRIVATE PLAN CHANGE 31 TO THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT PLAN

UNDER the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

AND

IN THE MATTER of an Application by Rolleston Industrial Developments Limited for a private plan change to the Waimakariri District Plan pursuant to Part 2 of the Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF BEN WILKINS ON BEHALF OF THE CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL

8 AUGUST 2023

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WYNN WILLIAMS

1 My evidence describes the groundwater levels at the Plan Change 31 (PC31) area and the potential issues this could create for stormwater management. I also review the groundwater levels that the applicant has presented and the proposed stormwater design.

2 Groundwater levels are close to the surface across the PC31 area. The Canterbury Regional Council (CRC) monitors groundwater levels monthly at CRC monitoring well M35/0596, located within the boundaries of the PC31 area. The highest recorded groundwater level at this well is 0.12 metres below ground level, which was measured in March 2023. Two springs and a groundwater seep are also recorded within the PC31 area, further supporting the conclusion that groundwater levels are close to the surface.

3 The PC31 area is within the Eyre groundwater allocation zone, which is over allocated. It is my understanding that the stormwater designs do not currently have a pathway for obtaining resource consent if they intercept groundwater.

4 I have read the Evidence of Mr Veendrick dated 3 August 2023 and the Summary of evidence of Mr O'Neill dated 3 August 2023.

5 Mr O'Neill has clarified that the stormwater detention basins will be constructed above ground level in areas where groundwater levels are near the surface within the PC31 area.[1] Therefore, the take and use of groundwater will not apply to the stormwater detention basins.

6 High groundwater levels are a constraint on stormwater design in the PC31. The effectiveness of the stormwater design is uncertain as there are no detailed designs to review. Mr Roxburgh has raised similar concerns about the difficulty of assessing the stormwater design in his Statement of Evidence for Waimakariri District Council dated 15 June 2023.[2]

7 It is difficult to accurately comment on what effects of the proposal will have on spring flows and groundwater flow paths until pre and post monitoring occurs. Mr Veendrick indicates that appropriate monitoring and mitigation is proposed to reduce the re-direction of groundwater flow

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1 Summary of Evidence of Eoghan O'Neill dated 3 August 2023.

2 S42A Report – Appendix 6: Three Waters Servicing Evidence, paragraphs 38 and 42.

paths[3] and springs.[4] I generally agree that the monitoring and mitigation proposed will reduce the effects but that changes to the hydrological system are still likely to occur as a result of the development. I note that it is difficult to replace excavated material with material that has the same permeability due to inherent variability in the subsurface.

8 The monitoring of groundwater and springs before, during and after construction to identify potential changes in groundwater levels or spring flows will provide useful information. If issues are identified, I am unsure what practical measures are available to improve these issues after construction has occurred.

Ben Wilkins

8 August 2023

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3 Evidence of Bas Veendrick dated 3 August 2023, paragraph 36.

4 Evidence of Bas Veendrick dated 3 August 2023, paragraph 37.