

PROPOSED WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT PLAN: HEARING STREAM 5 (EI, EW, TREE, HH TOPICS)

Graeme McCarrison Speaking Notes

1. We would like to acknowledge the work of the reporting planners to resolve most of the matters we raised in our submission. There are only 3 matters that we are focused on today, being:
 - a. Customer connections to heritage buildings.
 - b. Earthworks
 - c. Natural Features and landscapes.
2. Telecommunications providers provide critical communications infrastructure that connects communities, promotes inclusivity, supports economic and environmental objectives, and is a critical part of our response to climate change.
Telecommunications infrastructure is highly dynamic and - unlike other infrastructure sectors - our network requirements are changing and evolving constantly and at a fast pace.
3. We submitted that a customer connection to be attached to a heritage item under EI-R4 should be a controlled activity subject to the design and placement of the service connection to minimise impacts on the values and attributes of the listed area, façade or item. This form of requirement has been supported in other Plans of recent times including Marlborough Environmental Plan, Waikato, and Opotiki District Plans by Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga. Chorus has also developed in partnership with Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga guidelines for designing connections to scheduled heritage buildings.
4. We consider that a controlled activity enables existing connections to heritage buildings to be upgraded and replaced with fibre while protecting the heritage characteristics. It is our belief that if the building is not equipped with modern telecommunications infrastructure the economic value of the building will be eroded putting the future of the building at risk.
5. Undertaking earthworks is a core part of building new or undertaking repairs on existing wireless and fixed line networks. Service trenches and foundations for poles and cabinets plus works in the protected root area of notable trees are common,

especially in constrained road corridor. Some changes to or exemptions to ensure earthworks rules are more practical for network utilities are required.

6. Our preference is for the infrastructure chapter EI to be a comprehensive one stop shop for all the rules and standards related to telecommunications infrastructure. Ideally no other chapters in District Plans would apply to the EI infrastructure framework. However, where this is necessary a clear link or cross reference from the EI chapter is necessary. The NESTF 2016 under sub-part 5 matters enables to District Plans to have rules related to such matters as heritage or Natural Features and Landscapes. EI-P5 promotes management of the adverse effects of energy and infrastructure, and in our view provides an appropriate management framework to protect the NFL and other sensitive environments from infrastructure having a functional or operational need to be in these areas.