

**Before the Hearings Panel
At Waimakariri District Council**

Under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan

Between **Various**

Submitters

And **Waimakariri District Council**

Respondent

**Council Officer's Speaking Notes on the Light Chapter on behalf of
Waimakariri District Council**

Date: 21 August 2023

Introduction

- 1 My name is Jessica Manhire. I am employed as a Policy Planner for the Waimakariri District Council. I prepared the s42A report on the Light Chapter and can confirm that I have read all the submissions, further submissions, submitter evidence and relevant technical documents and higher order policies.
- 2 First by way of introduction to the Light Chapter, I will provide a background to the Chapter, submissions received, the s42A report, and then I will highlight the submitter's evidence. Then I will go through the questions from the hearings panel and my preliminary written responses. After which, I will be happy to take questions on the s42A report.
- 3 I anticipate that there may be questions of clarification on my answers to your pre-circulated questions, so I will take a pause between my responses for this purpose.

S32 Report - Key issues

- 4 As outlined in the s32 evaluation report for light, the key issues the Light Chapter seeks to address are:
 - amenity values (including cultural amenity values), health (particularly sleep disturbance), and safety. At the same time, outdoor light needs to be provided for safety, security, and to enable a range of activities to take place when it is dark; and
 - Sky glow effects from light spill can reduce visibility of the night sky, both for casual observation and for astronomical observatories.

Proposed District Plan Approach

The main changes introduced for management of light in the Proposed District Plan are:

- (a) specific objectives, policies and methods for light are contained within a separate district wide chapter;
- (b) updated standards and terminology that relate specifically to light spill and glare effects within zones; and
- (c) specific management of dark sky qualities through general light controls and identification of a protection area in the vicinity of the Oxford Observatory.

S42A Report – Key Points

- 5 The Light Chapter received 52 submission points from 12 submitters, and three further submissions with 15 further submission points. Most submissions generally support the Light Chapter’s provisions, while some seek amendments, and one submitter opposes three of the provisions.
- 6 As identified in the s42A report, the key issues raised in submissions were:
 - Lack of recognition and enablement of artificial outdoor lighting for primary production. Two submitters (HortNZ and NZPork) considered the chapter introduction had an urban focus and should recognise and enable artificial outdoor lighting for primary production. They seek objective LIGHT-O1 refer to intensive primary production. They considered LIGHT-S1 and LIGHT-S2 is

unreasonable to apply to existing primary production activities.

- Amendments sought to ensure outdoor lighting does not adversely affect the safe operation of the transport system. Waka Kotahi seek amendment to LIGHT-P1 so that potential adverse effects on transport safety can be considered more broadly. They seek clarification on how LIGHT-S1 applies to roads and seek LIGHT-S2 applies to all artificial outdoor lighting sources as the effects of glare are not limited to fixed lighting.

S42A Report – recommended amendments

- 7 Upon weighing up all submissions, my recommended changes are contained within Appendix A of my s42A report.

Submitter evidence

- 8 I have read the submitter evidence received on the Light Chapter. The only evidence was received from Stuart Pearson on behalf of Waka Kotahi. Mr Pearson agrees with the recommendations in the s42A report.

Hearing panel questions

- 9 In preparing my reply to the questions from the Hearings Panel, my opinion has not changed with respect to my recommendations on the Light Chapter except for a minor matter in LIGHT-P1(2). I will revisit my recommendations again in my right of reply should my opinion be moved through the course of the hearing.

Date: 21/08/2023

Samanthi

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