

INTRODUCTION

1. This joint witness statement relates to expert conferencing for Stream 10A of the Waimakariri Proposed District Plan on the Christchurch International Airport Limited submission as it relates to bird strike.
2. This joint witness statement (JWS) was written following conferencing between the experts to answer the following questions for the hearing commissioners:
 - a. What are the types of activities that may generate bird strike effects?
 - b. What is the best management approach(es) in respect of those activities?
3. Conferencing was held on 13 March 2024. This witness statement was then circulated, refined and agreed between the participants.
4. Participants were:
 - a. Dr Leigh Bull (LB; for Christchurch International Airport Limited)
 - b. Dr Rachel McClellan (RM; for Waimakariri District Council).
5. In preparing this statement, the experts have read and understood the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses as included in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023.

KEY BIRD STRIKE SPECIES

6. The experts agree that the key species for consideration are southern black-backed gull, feral pigeon, and Canada goose.

KEY BIRD STRIKE ACTIVITIES

7. The experts agree that any waste management facility in the Waimakariri District needs to have a bird strike management plan. This is because any facility that deals with organic waste has the potential to attract black-backed gulls, and act as a significant food source. This also includes sewage facilities due to the management of human waste.
8. LB considers that land uses involving animal feed (e.g. piggeries, poultry, equine racecourses, aquaculture, cattle feed lots) should be regulated out to 13 km. RM considers that the existing 3 km radius in the Christchurch District is sufficient.
9. LB considers that abattoirs and freezing works should be regulated out to 13 km. RM considers that the existing 3 km radius in the Christchurch District is sufficient.
10. The experts agree that no regulation is required for wildlife refuges or conservation areas.
11. The experts agree that no regulation is required for fruit tree farms.
12. The experts agree that no regulation is required for recreational areas and golf courses.
13. LB considers that fish and commercial food processing facilities should be regulated out to 13 km. RM considers that the existing 3 km radius in the Christchurch District is sufficient.

14. The experts consider that the term waterbodies includes, for example, permanent storm water basins, waste water oxidation ponds, recreational ponds/lakes, and waterbodies resulting from quarrying remedial activities. RM considers that waterbodies are addressed sufficiently within the Christchurch District Plan out to 3 km; this deals with local movements of waterfowl and Canada goose, and is where the majority of bird strike occurs according to the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority. LB considers that regulations should be extended to 13 km for permanent waterbodies greater than 1,000 m² as waterfowl and Canada goose are known to use waterbodies of this size, and can traverse distances greater than 3 km.
15. The experts agree that no regulation is required for excavation works resulting in temporary waterbodies; LB's main concerns regarding open water are addressed in paragraph 14.

MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

16. LB considers that while all the above land uses can be managed to minimise their attraction to birds, there is currently no mechanism requiring this for the majority of those land uses. As such, LB considers the most appropriate management approach to be through regulation, with the requirement of bird management plans for all the land uses identified above.
17. RM considers existing regulation only within the Christchurch District is sufficient, except for waste management facilities as above. RM is of the opinion that population control of feral pigeon, black-backed gull, and Canada goose, particularly via multi-agency approaches (for Canada goose and black-backed gulls) is a much more powerful tool than regulation.

Signed on 13 March 2024:



Leigh Bull



Rachel McClellan