

Tena koe and good morning Commissioners

Introduction

My name is Neil Sheerin. I am a Senior Policy Planner in the Development Planning Unit at Waimakariri District Council. My qualifications and experience are as set out in Appendix H of my section 42A report. I have been involved in the District Plan Review since July 2017. I am the author of the Open Space and Recreation Zones chapters and related section 32 and section 42A reports. I can confirm I have read all the submissions, further submissions, submitter evidence and relevant higher order documents. As the reporting planner I understand my role at this Hearing is to be of assistance to the Hearing Panel. I also understand the Hearings Panel may choose to accept or reject the conclusions and recommendations in my section 42A report and may come to different conclusions and make different recommendations, based on the information and evidence provided to them by submitters.

I confirm that Variation 1 to the Proposed Plan does not affect the Open Space and Recreation Zones chapters and no part of Variation 1 is addressed within the Open Space and Recreation Zones section 42A report.

By way of Introduction to the Open Space and Recreation Zones topic, I would like to provide you with a brief overview of the section 32 report, the submissions and further submissions received, the section 42A report and my recommendations in that report. I will then go through the written questions from the Hearing Panel and my preliminary written responses. After which, I will be happy to take any further questions on the section 42A report.

Section 32 Report

I will start by taking you through some of the key points in the section 32 report for the Open Space and Recreation Zones.

Section 3 of the section 32 Report establishes the statutory and policy context for the Open Space and Recreation Zones which includes the RMA, national instruments including the National Planning Standards, the RPS, iwi management plan, other relevant legislation, and plans of adjacent territorial authorities.

The operative District Plan does not contain Open Space and Recreation Zones. Open space and recreation land in the District is zoned either Residential or Rural in the operative District Plan. Therefore, the Open Space and Recreation Zones are new zones.

As per the National Planning Standards, there are three Open Space and Recreation Zones and the purpose of each zone is as per the National Planning Standards.

Key Resource Management Issues

Section 4 of the section 32 Report identifies the key resource management issues. These are:

- a. Ensuring each area of open space and recreation land is zoned according to its predominant character, amenity values, role and function;
- b. Ensuring actual or potential environmental effects of activities, facilities or structures are managed according to the predominant character, amenity values, role and function of each area of land and the zone as a whole; and

- c. Ensuring open space and recreation areas are, as far as practicable, accessible and safe, and provide for amenity values, cultural values, recreation, conservation and education.

Open Space and Recreation Zone Provisions

Appendices 2 and 3 of the section 32 report outline the Open Space and Recreation Zone provisions in the Proposed Plan.

There are general objectives and policies applicable to all the Open Space and Recreation Zones. A description of each zone and zone purpose is set out in the Introduction of each zone chapter. Each zone contains areas that are different in character and use and consequently each zone has a distinct purpose and the zone purposes reflect those in the National Planning Standards. Each zone therefore also has an objective unique to the zone, and a zone policy, in addition to the general objectives and policies. The general objectives and policies, and relevant zone objective and policy, are to be considered together, and no hierarchy exists between them. While some of the proposed rules and built form standards in each zone are similar, some are unique to the zone. The proposed rules and built form standards are intended to reflect the activities and types, location and scale of structures proposed to be provided for in each zone. There is one set of matters of control or discretion applicable to all the Open Space and Recreation Zones.

Submissions and Further Submissions

There were 16 submissions and 56 submission points, and 12 further submissions and 36 further submission points, on matters relating to the Open Space and Recreation Zones. The submissions and further submissions received were diverse and sought a range of outcomes in relation to definitions, objectives, policies, rules, built form standards, matters of control or discretion and planning map of the Proposed Plan as they apply to the Open Space and Recreation Zones.

Some provisions received only submissions in support, relating to a definition, objectives and policies, a rule, and the Proposed Plan map.

Some provisions received submissions and further submissions not covered in my section 42A report as these are to be covered in other section 42A reports. These relate to proposed new corridor protection provisions for major electricity distribution lines, and bird strike risk activities within 8km and 13km of the Christchurch International Airport runway thresholds.

Recommendations

I have recommended amendments to some definitions; some rules and built form standards in the Natural Open Space Zone and Open Space Zone; and to the matters of control or discretion.

I have recommended no amendments to any of the objectives or policies, or to the Sport and Active Recreation Zone rules and built form standards, or to the planning map.

In my preliminary written responses to the written questions from the Hearing Panel, I have changed two of my recommendations on submissions in my section 42A report from accept to reject, and one recommendation from reject to accept.

Panel Questions

I am now open to taking any further questions from the Hearing Panel.