

IN THE MATTER OF

the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

Proposed Waimakariri District Plan,
including Variations 1 and 2 –
Hearing Stream 9

**HEARING STATEMENT OF MAURICE DALE
ON BEHALF OF
ARA POUTAMA AOTEAROA THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
(SUBMITTER # 52 (PROPOSED PLAN), AND 56 (VARIATION 1))**

Planning

Dated 29 January 2024

- 1.1 Ara Poutama, the Department of Corrections made submissions on the definitions, polices, and rules on the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan (**Proposed Plan**) including Variation 1.
- 1.2 In addition to expressing support for various provisions, those submissions requested a number of changes to ensure that the Proposed Plan appropriately enables activities carried out and/or managed by Ara Poutama within the community.
- 1.3 Relevant to Hearing Stream 9, that includes the establishment and operation of community corrections activities (formally known as parole offices), including facilities which support probation services and community work activities.
- 1.4 Provision of community corrections activities within district plans is necessary to support the effective functioning of the justice system in safely managing people serving sentences in the community. They are essential social infrastructure that plays a valuable role in reducing reoffending and contributes to well-functioning urban environments that enables all people and communities to provide for their wellbeing.
- 1.5 To that end, a focus of Ara Poutama's submissions on the Proposed Plan and nationally is the consistent implementation of the National Planning Standard definition of "community corrections activity" and the provision of these as permitted activities with a supporting policy framework in commercial and industrial zones where they are accessible to offenders and other supporting agencies.
- 1.6 in relation to Hearing Stream 9, Ara Poutama sought the following specific relief:
 - (a) Retention of policy TCZ-P2 which enables "community corrections activity" in the Town Centre (**TCZ**) zone.
 - (b) Amendment of policy MUZ-P1 to enable "community corrections activity" in the Mixed Use (**MUZ**) zone.
 - (c) Amendment of the rules for the Town Centre and Mixed Use zones to provide for "community corrections activity" as a permitted activity (rather than discretionary).

- 1.7 The s42A Report recommends accepting the relief above in full, with the exception that it does not comment on or make a recommendation in regard to the request to make community corrections activities a permitted activity in the Town Centre zone. The request was not captured in the Council summary of submissions.
- 1.8 As set out in my evidence, I consider that community corrections activities should be provided as a permitted activity in the Town Centre zone given that:
- (a) Community corrections activities are a compatible and appropriate activity as they are consistent with the character and amenity and are not sensitive to the effects of commercial zones (noise, high traffic movements etc).
 - (b) Due to their unique nature, and limited need for these facilities in a metropolitan area, there will not be a proliferation of them or any impact on the wider availability of commercial land.
 - (c) The existing Rangiora Community Corrections site is located within the Town Centre zone, and there are other examples nationally of where Councils provide for community corrections activities as a permitted activity in equivalent zones.
 - (d) Making community corrections activities a permitted activity in the Town Centre zone will enable community facilities to meet local needs in Key Activity Centres with good accessibility to align with the objectives and policies of the NPS-UD, CRPS, and Proposed Plan.
- 1.9 On this basis, I consider providing for community corrections activities as a permitted activity in the Town Centre zone will be a more efficient, effective, and appropriate way to achieve the relevant Proposed Plan objectives under s32(1)(b) of the RMA, when compared to not providing for them, or providing for them in other zones where effects arising from their scale and intensity may be incompatible.

Maurice Dale

29 January 2024