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Enquiries to: Hannah Craven



28 April 2023

Plan Change 26 – Residential Zone Intensification Hearings Panel
Waipā District Council

Attn: Steve Rice, Hearing Administrator
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Dear David Hill (Chairperson),

Additional evidence of Hannah Craven for the hearings panel - Proposed Plan Change 26 – Residential Zone Intensification to the Operative Waipā District Plan

1. This letter follows my appearance for Waikato Regional Council (WRC) at the hearing for Waipā District Council's (Council) Plan Change 26 – Residential Zone Intensification on 28 April 2023. It responds to the Panel's and Council's request for additional information following my appearance at the hearing where I responded to the Section 42A addendum and Council's rebuttal response to my initial statement of evidence.
2. At the hearing I made three additional points in response to the s42A addendum and Council's rebuttal evidence, relating to:
 - a. My recommendation for additional detail regarding the potential effects of increase impermeable surfaces.
 - b. My proposed policies for vehicles crossings in the medium density chapter.
 - c. My proposed policy for electric mobility in the medium density chapter.
3. I believe my recommendation for additional detail regarding the potential effects of increased impermeable surfaces (paragraphs 33-37 of my initial statement of evidence) has been misunderstood by the s42A authors. I am not seeking an advice note, like the s42A addendum suggests, I consider it would be more appropriate as an issue statement or in introductory paragraphs within either:
 - a. Section 2A – Medium Density Residential Zone - Qualifying Matters – Te Ture Whaimana and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2022; or
 - b. 2A – Medium Density Residential Zone – Resource Management Issues – Health and well-being of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers; or
 - c. A new issue section: Increased impermeable surfaces.
4. The reference to an advice note in paragraph 33 of my initial statement of evidence is because that is what the s42A originally recommended in response to the WRC submission point on this matter. I believe this may have been a mistake in the s42A because there does not seem to be a new advice note to address the submission point in the plan provisions. My recommended wording in paragraph 36 of my initial statement of evidence is *instead* of this advice note.

5. The s42A addendum also questions the relevance of my recommended wording, without being specific on why it is not relevant. The only part questioned by Mr Coutts for Council was the reference to Hautapu and Fencourt drainage areas which he states are already appropriately managed for stormwater. Mr Coutts also states that the effects I mention in my proposed wording are already managed through the district plan. I agree with this, my point is very simply that additional detail at the front of the plan would be useful to inform plan users of the potential effects of increased impermeable surfaces, given this is likely when an area intensifies.
6. There are also a couple of my proposed policies (from paragraph 52 of my initial statement of evidence) which have not been supported or included in the s42A addendum.
7. Firstly, I do not consider that my proposed policies for vehicle crossings (2A.3.4.X and 2A.3.4.Y) are contrary to the existing policy for vehicle crossings in the transport chapter. I agree that the district plan should not promote unsafe vehicle crossings, however, I think it would be useful for a policy to be included in the medium density chapter which demonstrates a priority for walking and cycling paths in intensified residential areas. The proposed policies are not intending to make vehicle crossings unsafe or prohibit them, the intention is simply to demonstrate the need to shift perspectives on transport modes away from car-centric and encourage more micro-mobility as an area intensifies.
8. Secondly, my proposed objective and policies for climate change (2A.3.11) have been amended by the s42A addendum without explanation as to why part has been removed. I agree with Mr Coutts for Council that these policies should not be too prescriptive but am unclear why the reference to electric mobility has been removed. Electric mobility is an up-and-coming transport mode and I think it is important that the district plan acknowledges and encourages provision of infrastructure for electric modes.
9. I am supportive of the s42A report and addendum which accepts WRC's submission points and recommendations in my initial statement of evidence, including my additional proposed wording to the medium density objectives and policies relating to transport and climate change.
10. I support the work done by Waipā District Council in this plan change and the efforts made to address the WRC submission. As above, I consider there are a few more amendments that can be made to ensure a clear and thorough response to stormwater, transport and climate change as they relate to urban intensification. My recommendations have not changed from my written statement of evidence.
11. Should you have any queries regarding the content of this letter please contact me directly on (07) 859 2831 or by email hannah.craven@waikatoregion.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Craven
Senior Policy Advisor, Strategic and Spatial Planning, Waikato Regional Council

HE TAIAO MAUIORA HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
HE ŌHANGA PAKARI STRONG ECONOMY
HE HAPORI HIHIRI VIBRANT COMMUNITIES