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Enquiries to: Hannah Craven



19 July 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),

**Waikato Regional Council response to Direction 17 for Waipā District Council's Plan Change 26 – Residential Zone Intensification.**

1. This letter responds to Direction 17 on Waipā District Council's Plan Change 26 (PC26) – Residential Zone Intensification which seeks comments on how the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPS-IB) should be managed in the plan change hearing process.
2. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) agrees that PC26 must give effect to the NPS-IB.
3. As the NPS-IB is newly released, we do not yet fully understand the implications for plan changes or how it fits within the scope of PC26. Given Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) are proposed as a qualifying matter and the s42A report author recommended provisions relating to SNAs in PC26, it seems that there is a relationship between PC26 and the NPS-IB which should be canvassed through the hearing process.
4. Therefore, we agree that the NPS-IB should be addressed through the PC26 hearing process and would support this occurring alongside the financial contributions topic in September, given the substantive hearing has already occurred.
5. 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](mailto:hannah.craven@waikatoregion.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hannah Craven". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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