# APPENDIX E

# WAIKATO REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

| **3.2 Resource Use & Development** |
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| **Objective**<br><br>Recognise and provide for the role of sustainable resource use and development and its benefits in enabling people and communities to provide for their economic, social and cultural wellbeing, including by maintaining and where appropriate enhancing:<br><br>c) the availability of energy resources for electricity generation and for electricity generation activities to locate where the energy resource exists; |
| **3.5 Energy** |
| **Objective**<br><br>Energy use is managed, and electricity generation and transmission is operated, maintained, developed and upgraded, in a way that:<br><br>a) increases efficiency;<br><br>b) recognises any increasing demand for energy;<br><br>c) seeks opportunities to minimise demand for energy;<br><br>d) recognises and provides for the national significance of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation activities;<br><br>e) recognises and provides for the national, regional and local benefits of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation;<br><br>f) reduces reliance on fossil fuels over time;<br><br>g) addresses adverse effects on natural and physical resources;<br><br>h) recognises the technical and operational constraints of the electricity transmission network and electricity generation activities; and<br><br>i) recognises the contribution of existing and future electricity transmission and electricity generation activities to regional and national energy needs and security of supply. |
| Objective 3.2 positively promotes the availability of energy resources for electricity generation, and for generation activities to locate where the energy resource exists. The proposal is a new form of electricity generation that will help broaden the platform the jump off into renewables such as wind and energy, and is itself a form of renewable generation. A conducive location has been identified which enhances the stability of supply in the local Waipa area, and will be used locally.<br><br>The proposal is strongly in alignment with Objective 3.5. It will increase efficiency in the transmission network by providing additional baseload generation, and recognises the in creasing demand for energy in the Waipa network, which the current transmission network is struggling to supply. |

It will help reduce reliance on fossil fuels, with minimal impact on natural and physical resource, particularly air quality confirmed by the Air Quality assessment report.

The difficulties of converting generation from fossil fuels to renewables is recognised in the application and the impact this has on the complexity of the transmission network, which the proposal will alleviate somewhat through the addition of extra baseload generation. It will therefore contribute to the conversion of generation and provide greater stability to the local transmission network.

**3.10 Sustainable & efficient use of resources**

**Objective**

Use and development of natural and physical resources, excluding minerals, occurs in a way and at a rate that is sustainable, and where the use and development of all natural and physical resources is efficient and minimises the generation of waste.

The proposal will use material that would otherwise be sent to landfill to generate electricity, considered a more efficient use of the waste resource. This will also significantly assist in minimising the amount of waste sent to landfill over time.

**3.11 Air Quality**

**Objective**

Air quality is managed in a way that:

a) ensures that where air quality is better than national environmental standards and guidelines for ambient air, any degradation is as low as reasonably achievable;

b) avoids unacceptable risks to human health and ecosystems, with high priority placed on achieving compliance with national environmental standards and guidelines for ambient air; and

c) avoids, where practicable, adverse effects on local amenity values and people's wellbeing including from discharges of particulate matter, smoke, odour, dust and agrichemicals, recognising that it is appropriate that some areas will have a different amenity level to others.

The Air Quality assessment report confirms emissions to air from the facility will not degrade ambient air, avoids unacceptable risks to human health and ecosystems, and avoids adverse effects on local amenity values and people's wellbeing.

**3.12 Built environment**

**Objective**

Development of the built environment (including transport and other infrastructure) and associated land use occurs in an integrated, sustainable and planned manner which enables positive environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes, including by:

a) promoting positive indigenous biodiversity outcomes;

b) preserving and protecting natural character, and protecting outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;

c) integrating land use and infrastructure planning, including by ensuring that development of the built environment does not compromise the safe, efficient and effective operation of infrastructure corridors;

d) integrating land use and water planning, including to ensure that sufficient water is available to support future planned growth;

e) recognising and protecting the value and long-term benefits of regionally significant infrastructure;

f) protecting access to identified significant mineral resources;

g) minimising land use conflicts, including minimising potential for reverse sensitivity;

h) anticipating and responding to changing land use pressures outside the Waikato region which may impact on the built environment within the region;

i) providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation activities including small and community scale generation;

j) promoting a viable and vibrant central business district in Hamilton city, with a supporting network of sub-regional and town centres; and

k) providing for a range of commercial development to support the social and economic wellbeing of the region.

Location of the proposal at the subject site is considered consistent with good land use planning. It will be located on a site zoned Industrial and will be sufficiently separated from adjoining residential uses through setbacks imposed on the development itself and setbacks that will be imposed on future residential development coming to the racecourse site. Further any adverse effects of the proposal have been confirmed as mitigated for the reasons set out.

**3.24 Natural hazards**

**Objective**

The effects of natural hazards on people, property and the environment are managed by:

a) increasing community resilience to hazard risks;

b) reducing the risks from hazards to acceptable or tolerable levels; and

c) enabling the effective and efficient response and recovery from natural hazard events.

Flooding is the only hazard applicable to this site. Flooding is considered mitigated for the reasons set out in the Flooding Assessment, chiefly because of the imposition of minimum flood levels on development on the site itself, and negligible additional flood spread and depth impact on surrounding development.

**Air Policies**

**Policy 5.2 Managed discharges to air**

Manage discharges to air (other than from home heating or transport) to ensure any resulting degradation avoids unacceptable risks to human health, and is as low as reasonably achievable. In determining whether any degradation is as low as reasonably achievable, the following will be taken into account:

a) existing air quality;

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| b) the age of and ability to upgrade existing infrastructure;<br><br>c) any alternative modes/methods of discharge;<br><br>d) applicable emission control techniques;<br><br>e) the extent to which it is possible to apply the best practicable option;<br><br>f) the relative effects on the environment of the options;<br><br>g) economic and social factors;<br><br>h) managing discharges to air where there is high or good air quality;<br><br>i) national environmental standards and guidelines for ambient air; and<br><br>j) the duration of the discharge and whether the discharge is temporary or short term. |
| **Policy 5.3 Manage adverse effects on amenity**<br><br>Ensure discharges to air are managed so as to avoid, remedy or mitigate objectionable effects beyond the property boundary. |
| All of the listed matters are adequately addressed in the Air Quality assessment report, ensuring the proposal is consistent with these policies. |
| **Built environment policies** |
| **Policy 6.5 Energy demand management**<br><br>Development should minimise transport, energy demand and waste production, encourage beneficial re-use of waste materials, and promote the efficient use of energy. |
| **Policy 6.6 Significant infrastructure and energy resources**<br><br>Management of the built environment ensures particular regard is given to:<br><br>a) that the effectiveness and efficiency of existing and planned regionally significant infrastructure is protected;<br><br>b) the benefits that can be gained from the development and use of regionally significant infrastructure and energy resources, recognising and providing for the particular benefits of renewable electricity generation, electricity transmission, and municipal water supply; and<br><br>c) the locational and technical practicalities associated with renewable electricity generation and the technical and operational requirements of the electricity transmission network. |
| The proposal reduces transportation of waste through a location central to its catchment.<br><br>The proposal has been framed in recognition of the location and technical practicalities associated with renewable electricity generation, as above. The proposal will provide additional baseload generation, providing an expanded springboard for moving into renewables generation, and enhances transmission over the local network. |
| **Natural hazards policies** |

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| Policy 13.1 Natural hazard risk management approach Natural hazard risks are managed using an integrated and holistic approach that:<br>a) ensures the risk from natural hazards does not exceed an acceptable level;<br>b) protects health and safety;<br>c) avoids the creation of new intolerable risk;<br>d) Reduces intolerable risk to tolerable or acceptable levels;<br>e) enhances community resilience;<br>f) is aligned with civil defence approaches;<br>g) prefers the use of natural features over man-made structures as defences against natural hazards;<br>h) recognises natural systems and takes a 'whole of system' approach; and<br>i) seeks to use the best available information/best practice. |
| Any impact of the flooding hazard present at the site is mitigated to an acceptable level through the imposition of minimum freeboard levels which are considered adequate for this industrial activity.<br>The proposal will not impact of health and safety outside the site as additional flood spread and depth are negligible.<br>Minimal interference with the natural characteristics of the site is proposed so as to avoid as much as possible interruption of the area's natural drainage systems and flow. |