

Summary of Evidence – Hearing E: Infrastructure, Subdivision and Cultural Values – proposed Timaru District Plan

Rachael Elizabeth Pull (planner) on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

10 February 2025

Tēnā koutou, ko Rachael Pull tōku ingoa and I am providing an oral summary of my planning evidence on behalf of Ngāi Tahu for the Infrastructure, Subdivision and Cultural Values hearing for the proposed Timaru District Plan.

Overall, I acknowledge that Ngāi Tahu submissions generally support the notified plan, and for these chapters I generally support the direction of the provisions proposed by the section 42A reporting officers. The amendments I have proposed are to improve the effectiveness of the Plan to provide for the values and future of Kāti Huirapa in accordance with the RMA and National Direction.

One way to achieve this effectiveness which has been a focus in my evidence for this hearing and for hearing 1 has been to consider how the Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori overlay (SASM) and the Māori Purpose Zone (MPZ) are read together with the other provisions in the Plan. This has taken the form of considering:

- (a) That Plan users are directed to consider all relevant parts of the Plan by use of features such as cross references; and
- (b) Ensuring that other chapters and their provisions do not override the SASM or MPZ provisions; unless
- (c) There is adequate consideration of the purpose of the SASM and MPZ and relevant provisions have been incorporated into those chapters.

The other aim with this evidence has been to support the mana whenua integration throughout the Plan in line with the National Planning Standards. The association Council has built with rūnanga for this process has directly improved the direction of the Plan and will see more robust decisions being issued should this use of experts continue.

To provide more clarity and efficiency to considering Ngāi Tahu values, I have at the invitation of the s42A report, attached to my evidence a table reviewing the Controlled and Restricted Discretionary rules relating to this hearing, to see if they considered mana whenua values and if inclusion of them would lead to better environmental outcomes. The conclusion I came to was that many of the matters of control or discretion were broad enough to consider mana whenua values in a general sense outside the SASM if appropriate, but only the large, permanent landscape modifying or wastewater activities had a high enough potential adverse effect in my opinion to warrant Ngāi Tahu values being added as a matter of control or discretion.

If the Panel and reporting officers find this assessment useful to the decision-making process, I am happy to repeat it for the other chapters of the Plan as the submission asking for consideration of Ngāi Tahu values as a matter of control or discretion applied across the Plan for all controlled and restricted discretionary activities.

Lastly, I would like to note that my evidence also references the joint statement between the Office of the Māori Trustee and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. After further submissions closed, both parties have worked together for months to prepare statements of position for the Te Tai o Poutini Plan and the Timaru District Plan to clarify to the respective Panels that what is sought by each party does not need to contradict the other and that both goals can co-exist if the Plan provides for it. The recognition of Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and the enablement of Māori Land can be considered within the Plan as two separate goals, which can also improve the clarity and efficiency of those provisions. I note that the s42A officers were not involved in the statement recommendations, and I am available if they wish to discuss the draft provisions put forward.

I am happy to take any questions.