

Date: Friday, 2 August 2024
Time: 12.30pm
Meeting Room: Level 26, Room 1
Venue: 135 Albert Street
 Auckland

Ngā Hui a te Rōpū Kaitohutohu Take ā-Taiwhenua / Rural Advisory Panel

OPEN ATTACHMENTS

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Note: The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.



27 June 2024

Committee Secretariat
Primary Production Committee
New Zealand Parliament
Wellington

Auckland Council's submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill

Thank you for providing Auckland Council with the opportunity to submit on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. Auckland Council's submission is attached. The submission incorporates feedback from Auckland Council and staff from its council-controlled organisations (CCO's) Watercare Services Limited, Auckland Transport and Eke Panuku.

This submission is endorsed by the Chair, Deputy Chair and a councillor of the Planning Environment and Parks Committee as well as a member of Houkura / the Independent Māori Statutory Board.

Please contact Dave Allen, Manager Natural Environment Strategy, Policy Department (Dave.Allen@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz), if you have any queries regarding Auckland Council's submission.

Ngā mihi,

Handwritten signature of Cr Richard Hills in black ink.

Cr Richard Hills

Chair of the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee

Handwritten signature of Cr Angela Dalton in blue ink.

Cr Angela Dalton

Deputy Chair of the Planning, Environment and Parks Committee

Handwritten signature of Cr Andy Baker in blue ink.

Cr Andy Baker

Councillor for Franklin Ward

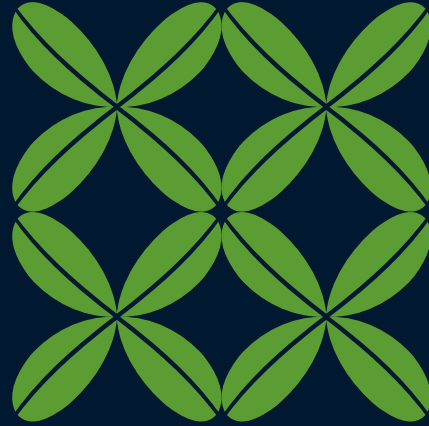
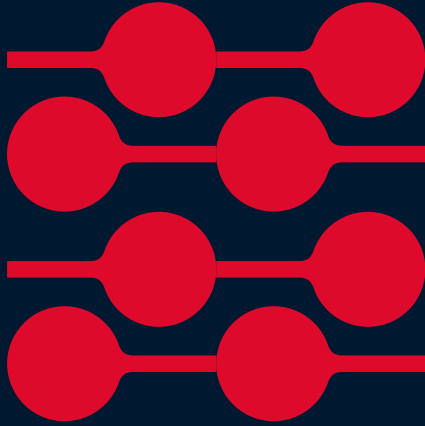
Handwritten signature of Member Edward Ashby in blue ink.

Member Edward Ashby

Houkura - Independent Māori Statutory Board Member

Item 7

Attachment A



Submission to the Primary Production Committee



Resource Management
(Freshwater and Other
Matters) Amendment Bill

27 June 2024

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Mihimihi

Ka mihi ake ai ki ngā maunga here kōrero,
ki ngā pari whakarongo tai,
ki ngā awa tuku kiri o ōna manawhenua,
ōna mana ā-iwi taketake mai, tauiwi atu.
Tāmaki – makau a te rau, murau a te tini,
wenerau a te mano.
Kāhore tō rite i te ao.

*I greet the mountains, repository of all that
has been said of this place,
there I greet the cliffs that have heard the
ebb and flow of the tides of time,
and the rivers that cleansed the forebears of
all who came those born of this land
and the newcomers among us all.
Auckland – beloved of hundreds, famed
among the multitude, envy of thousands.
You are unique in the world.*

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Executive summary

Exclude the hierarchy of obligations from resource consent decision-making processes

Auckland Council oppose this proposed change. There is no evidence substantiating the need to exclude the hierarchy of obligations from resource consent decision-making processes. The proposed change will not provide clarity or simplification, as intended. If anything, the proposed change adds unnecessary complexity to resource consent decision-making by undermining the integrated manner policy statements are interpreted.

Repeal the low slope map and associated requirements from stock exclusion regulations

The national stock exclusion regulations provide an interim regulatory framework for stock exclusion while bespoke rules are developed as part of the freshwater plan change and the freshwater farm planning system is rolled out. These mechanisms may not be in place in Auckland for several years. Auckland Council can provide assistance to central government to improve the low slope land map. Another option could be to remove the low slope land requirements once regional councils notify their freshwater plan change to prevent regulatory gaps, and/or there is greater certainty on the timing and content of freshwater farm planning regulations. The council is committed to working with the primary sector locally to work through these processes.

Repeal intensive winter grazing regulations

Auckland Council does not have a position on this proposed change, as intensive winter grazing is not typically practiced in the region.

Align the provisions for coal mining in natural inland wetlands and significant natural areas with other mineral extraction activities

Auckland Council oppose this proposed change. The proposal does not align with Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan 2020. Current national, regional and industry plans highlight a likely diminishing demand for thermal coal overtime. Further evidence is required to demonstrate that this diminishing demand cannot be provided through existing thermal coal mines, or the establishment of new mines outside of wetlands and significant natural areas.

Suspend requirements to identify new significant natural areas within district plans by three years

Auckland Council seeks clarification that it can still review and update the Significant Ecological Area Overlay in the Auckland Unitary Plan before 2030. This is important to maintain the relevance of council's statutory planning documents.

Speed up and simplify the process for preparing and amending national direction

Auckland Council support the intent to make processes more efficient, but oppose the approach taken to achieve this. Collectively, these changes will diminish robust policy development. This will impact council and tangata whenua's ability to engage with national direction; it will remove important rigour from evaluation processes; and is more likely to result in unintended consequences or implementation challenges. While the changes will make processes more efficient for central government, they may make the resource management system as a whole less efficient, particularly for parties responsible for implementation.

