

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Proposed Waikato Regional
Plan Change 1: Waikato and Waipā
River Catchments, Block 1, submission
numbers B5.4, B5.2, B4.3.1

STATEMENT OF PRIMARY EVIDENCE OF MARK JUNICHI TAMURA

For the Waikato Regional Council

(Submitter ID: 72890)

DATED 15 February 2019

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Summary	3
Climate Change – PC1-2983	4
Properties straddling catchment boundaries – V1PC1-211	5
Alignment of sediment management and accounting methods to water clarity attribute – PC1-3635	6

Introduction

1. My name is Mark Junichi Tamura. I have held the position of Manager Integration and Infrastructure at the Waikato Regional Council since April 2018.
2. I have a Master of Resource and Environmental Planning from Massey University and a Bachelor of Science (Geography) from Auckland University. I have 14 years' experience in planning and am a member of the New Zealand Planning Institute.
3. I have been engaged by the Waikato Regional Council to provide evidence in support of Council's submission as it relates to the matters traversed in the report prepared by McCallum-Clark et al under section 42A of the RMA titled 'Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipā River Catchments: Part A: Overview and Context Part B: Overall Direction, Values and Uses, Science and Economics, Objectives, Limits and Targets'.
4. I confirm that I am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses as set out in the Environment Court Practice Note 2014. I have read and agree to comply with the Code. Except where I state that I am relying upon the specified evidence or advice of another person, my evidence is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

Summary

5. My evidence considers the matters traversed in the report prepared by McCallum-Clark et al under section 42A of the RMA titled 'Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipā River Catchments: Part A: Overview and Context Part B: Overall Direction, Values and Uses, Science and Economics, Objectives, Limits and Targets" (section 42A report).
6. Overall I agree with the recommendations of the section 42A report. There are minor matters which I seek the further consideration of the Panel and which I address in my evidence.
7. Those matters being:
 - Climate change (PC1-2983)
 - Properties straddling catchment boundaries(V1PC1-211)
 - Alignment of sediment management and accounting methods to water clarity attributes (PC1-3635)

8. I acknowledge the section 42A report recommends that these matters can be appropriately dealt with through changes to policies and methods that will be the subject of parts of the section 42A report that are yet to be released and I accept that.
9. However, given that the later sections of the section 42A report are yet to be released, I consider it useful to provide some commentary on these issues for the Panel's consideration and to register an ongoing interest in ensuring these matters are satisfactorily addressed.

Climate Change – PC1-2983

10. Objective 1 of Plan Change 1 is:

Objective 1: Long-term restoration and protection of water quality for each sub-catchment and freshwater Management Unit / Te Whāinga 1: Te whakaoranga tauroa me te tiakanga tauroa o te kounga wai ki ia riu kōawaawa me te Wae Whakahaere i te Wai Māori

11. At paragraph 83 of its submission WRC sought an amendment to this objective so that it includes appropriate reference to climate change.
12. The amendment was sought on the basis that policy 1A of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPSFM) requires:

...every regional council making or changing regional plans to the extent needed to ensure the plans:

a) establish freshwater objectives in accordance with Policies CA1-CA4 and set freshwater quality limits for all freshwater management units in their regions to give effect to the objectives in this national policy statement, having regard to at least the following:

i. the reasonably foreseeable impacts of climate change;

...

13. While it is anticipated that climate change will affect the assimilative capacity of fresh water systems, it is my understanding that the long term impacts of climate

change projections were not modelled and the 80-year limits and targets, were derived using historical climate information and nutrient cycling rates.

14. In the absence of having these effects accounted for in PC1, future plan changes may be required to address this gap as further information becomes available and there is an increased understanding of climate change effects.
15. The intent of Council's submission on objective 1 was to anticipate the need for these changes over time while supporting policies that are intended to improve assimilative capacity, adaptive capacity and resilience of freshwater systems to environmental effects generally, including to the extent that those effects may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change.
16. The section 42A report does not recommend adopting the submission point (paragraph 335 of the section 42A report), and suggests it is more appropriate that these impacts are reflected in the policies and limits and targets set out in Table 3.11-1.
17. While it would be preferred to acknowledge this in the objectives of the plan, I agree that intent of Council's submission may be achieved through policies and, if necessary as more information becomes available, changes to the limits and targets for FMUs.
18. As such, the Council will retain a strong interest in related policies addressed in later hearings.

Properties straddling catchment boundaries – V1PC1-211

19. At point 8 on page 6 of Council's submission to Variation 1 the Council raised concerns about the potential for land-owners having to manage their activities differently across catchment boundaries in order to comply with differing sets of regulatory requirements that apply to activities in those catchments.
20. This issue was seen to potentially arise as a result of the Plan Change 1 boundary being catchment, rather than property boundary, based.
21. The relief sought was not specific, rather the Council sought that alternatives to the current boundary approach be considered.
22. The section 42A report does not recommend redrawing the map to match property boundary lines, as property boundaries can change over time.

23. Instead, the section 42A report suggests that guidance is included in PC1 that outlines the approach that will be taken when considering properties that straddle boundaries.
24. I support this approach and note the Council's continued interest in this matter.

Alignment of sediment management and accounting methods to water clarity attribute – PC1-3635

25. Paragraph 189 of the Council's submission on Plan Change 1 draws attention to a disjoint between the use of a water clarity attribute in table 3.11-1 while methods relate to the management and accounting of sediment as a contaminant.
26. I support the recommendations of the section 42A report that go some way to address this.
27. I also note the analysis set out from paragraph 610 of the section 42A report that acknowledges that water clarity is only a surrogate of sediment loads as it is also affected by other factors.
28. Because of this complex relationship, I understand that it may not be possible to account for sediment as envisaged under method 3.11.4.10 (d) which requires the Regional Council to establish an information and accounting system for diffuse discharges from properties at an enterprise or property scale.
29. I support the view set out in the section 42A report that this matter may be better addressed by amendments to the methods or other clarifying statements. The Council will endeavour to prepare a preferred approach in relation to this matter, in advance of the appropriate hearing.