

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Reference: 2021-1185

23 November 2022

Otago Regional Council
Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 (Non-freshwater)

Sent via email: hearingsadministrator@orc.govt.nz

Dear Hearings Panel,

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency – Letter to be tabled for Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 Hearings – Chapter 14: NFL – Natural Features and Landscapes

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) has opted not to attend the hearing regarding Chapter 14: Natural Features and Landscapes of the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 (PORPS). Waka Kotahi requests that this letter be tabled for the Hearing Panel's consideration. The Section 42A Hearing Report for Chapter 14 – Natural Features and Landscapes of the PORPS has been received (dated 27 April 2022) as well as the Supplementary Evidence (dated 11 October 2022).

The responses from Waka Kotahi to the planner's recommendations on submission points 00305.079-082, and FS00305.099 and FS0305.100, are set out below.

Chapter 14 – NFL – Natural Features and Landscapes NFL-P2 and P3

Comments on recommendations for NFL – P2 and P3 (submission point 00305.079- 082 and FS00305.099 and FS0305.100)

The submission by Waka Kotahi sought both NFL-P2 and P3 to recognise the functional and operational needs of infrastructure by the insertion of an additional point to each of these policies worded as follows:

".... recognising the functional and operational needs of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure".

Waka Kotahi submissions were dealt with under the general themes heading in the Councils Section 42A Report along with other infrastructure provider submissions. The Section 42A Report author agreed that there was a need for greater clarity regarding the overall direction that applies to the management of infrastructure within the PORPS. As a result, a new policy, NFL-P7 was proposed that recommended the effects of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure on natural features and landscapes are managed in the infrastructure chapter as part of EIT-INF-P13. The subsequent Supplementary Evidence rejected NFL-NP7 and instead added the same suggested wording as an addition to NFL-P2. As a result, subject to the outstanding issues raised in Waka Kotahi planning evidence provided by Helen Dempster to Chapter 11 - Energy, Infrastructure and Transport Chapter, being resolved, Waka Kotahi accepts that the recommendation in the Supplementary Evidence satisfies submission points 00305.079 - 82.

Waka Kotahi further submission points FS00305.099 and FS0305.100 to Aurora (00315.075) and Queenstown Airport (00313.029) were also dealt with in the General Themes of the Section 42A Report and Supplementary Evidence as discussed above, with the same outcome.

Conclusion

Waka Kotahi accepts the proposed changes to NFL-P2 as recommended by the Supplementary Evidence, which directs infrastructure providers to EIT – INF- P13. This acceptance is subject to the matters raised in the Waka Kotahi planning evidence for Chapter 11 being satisfactorily resolved.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Waka Kotahi at environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Richard Shaw
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Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

Pursuant to authority delegated by NZ Transport Agency