
OPENING STATEMENT OF JACQUELINE ANN TODD
SRMR – Significant resource management issues for the region

- 1 This statement provides an update on my understanding of the key issues in contention for the SRMR chapter of the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 (pORPS) since I prepared my section 42A report¹ and supplementary evidence² on this topic.
- 2 If I have not discussed an issue considered in my section 42A, I consider that either the issues have been resolved, or the remaining issues are not significant.

Outstanding issues

- 3 The outstanding issues with the SRMR chapter are closely linked to submissions on the wider policy framework and other chapters of the pORPS.
- 4 In my view there are some key themes in relation to the outstanding issues for the SRMR chapter:
 - 4.1 The need to recognise and provide for key regional industries and sector groups in Otago, and the benefits they provide to the health and well-being of the community.
 - 4.2 Recognition that providing for the health and well-being of the community relies on the ability to use and develop natural and physical resources of the region, and concern that the pORPS has overlooked the use, development and protection of physical resources in favour of protection of natural resources.
 - 4.3 Recognition of the role that some industries and sector groups will have in emissions reduction as a response to climate change.
- 5 To address these issues, submitters seek amendments to the 11 significant resource management issues proposed in the SRMR chapter, as well as the addition of new issue statements.

¹ Section 42A Hearing Report. Chapter 5: Submissions on Part 2 – Resource management overview (3 May 2022)

² Brief of supplementary evidence of Jacqueline Ann Todd: SRMR – Significant resource management issues for the region (11 October 2022)

- 6 In my section 42A report and supplementary evidence I recommended amendments to the 11 significant resource management issues proposed. I did not recommend any new issue statements.
- 7 While many of the recommended amendments are supported, the issues raised in original submissions still stand in relation to the key themes summarised above, particularly in relation to new issue statements to address these matters.

Amendments to existing issues

- 8 Fonterra seeks changes to the wider policy approach of the pORPS to provide for regionally significant industry. It is seeking a suite of changes to the pORPS, including:
- 8.1 Amendments to SRMR-I4 to address reverse sensitivity effects on rural industry;³ and
- 8.2 Amendments to SRMR-I10 to address the impact of restricted resource use on activities and sectors that rely on natural resources.⁴
- 9 Oceana Gold also seeks changes to SRMR-I10 to recognise and provide for uses of existing natural and physical resources such as the Macraes Mining operation.⁵
- 10 Horticulture NZ is no longer seeking a new issue statement in relation to food production. Instead, it is seeking amendments to SRMR-I2⁶ and I11⁷ to better recognise the role of food production in promoting human health and well-being, and its role in transitioning to a low emissions economy.
- 11 Manawa,⁸ Contact Energy⁹ and Meridian¹⁰ seek amendments to a number of issue statements (SRMR-I1, I2, I3 and I11) to recognise the importance of renewable electricity generation to the region, and its role in emissions reduction to mitigate climate change.

³ Susannah Tait for Fonterra, paragraphs 7.1 – 7.8, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

⁴ Susannah Tait for Fonterra, paragraphs 7.10 – 7.21, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

⁵ Claire Hunter for Oceana Gold, paragraphs 7.1-7.3, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

⁶ Vance Hodgson for Horticulture NZ, paragraphs 57 - 65, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

⁷ Vance Hodgson for Horticulture NZ, paragraphs 69 - 70, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

⁸ Stephanie Styles for Manawa Energy Limited, paragraph 9.1, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

⁹ Claire Hunter for Contact Energy Limited, paragraphs 7.1-7.6, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

¹⁰ Susan Ruston for Meridian Energy Limited, paragraphs 53-78 Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

- 12 Similarly, Transpower seeks amendments to the Introduction to the SRMR chapter to recognise and provide for the National Grid¹¹ and the Electricity Distribution Businesses¹² (EDBs) seek amendments to SRMR-I1 to protect and enable electricity distribution.¹³

New issue statements

- 13 In addition to the amendments above, the following submitters seek new issue statements:

13.1 Transpower - a new issue statement relating to electricity and infrastructure.¹⁴

13.2 Telecommunications submitters¹⁵ - a new issue statement recognising the importance of the role of infrastructure in the Otago region, based on provisional wording provided by submitters as part of pre-hearing discussions.¹⁶

13.3 Electricity Distribution Businesses – a new issue statement to recognise the need to operate, maintain, develop and upgrade the electricity distribution network and its role in reducing emissions.¹⁷

13.4 Fish and Game, Wayfare/Realnz and Trojan/NZSki - a new issue statement recognising that the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Otago's communities depends on the use and development of natural and physical resources.¹⁸

- 14 While most submitters have proposed new issue statements for a particular industry or sector group, Mr Horne (Chorus, Vodafone and Spark) and Ms Tait (Fonterra) have indicated a willingness to work with other parties to collectively draft a new significant resource management issue for the region, if the Panel considers this appropriate.

¹¹ Ainsley McLeod for Transpower New Zealand Limited, paragraph 7.9, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

¹² Aurora, Network Waitaki and Powernet.

¹³ Megan Justice for Aurora Energy Limited, Network Waitaki Limited and Powernet Limited, paragraph 8.2, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

¹⁴ Ainsley McLeod for Transpower New Zealand Limited, paragraphs 7.10-7.12, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

¹⁵ Chorus, Vodafone and Spark

¹⁶ Chris Horne for Chorus New Zealand Limited, Vodafone New Zealand Ltd and Speak New Zealand Trading Ltd, paragraphs 4.1 – 4.20, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

¹⁷ Megan Justice for Aurora Energy Limited, Network Waitaki Limited and Powernet Limited, paragraphs 8.1 - 8.3, Statement of Evidence 23 November 2022.

¹⁸ Ben Farrell for Otago Fish and Game Council and Central Fish and Game Council, Real Group Limited and NZSki Limited, paragraphs 22- 25, Statement of Evidence 28 November 2022.

Jacqueline Ann Todd

7 February 2023