

**IN THE ENVIRONMENT COURT OF NEW ZEALAND
AUCKLAND REGISTRY**

**I MUA I TE KŌTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA
TĀMAKI MAKAURAU ROHE**

ENV-2020-AKL-000149

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF an appeal under clause 14(1) of Schedule 1 of
the Resource Management Act 1991

BETWEEN **LOCHIEL FARMLANDS LIMITED**
Appellant

AND **WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL**
Respondent

**NOTICE OF WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 274 OF THE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

29 SEPTEMBER 2020

BUDDLEFINDLAY
Barristers and Solicitors
Wellington

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To: The Registrar
The Environment Court
Auckland

1. Waikato River Authority ("**WRA**") wishes to be a party to the appeal proceedings lodged by Lochiel Farmlands Limited ("**the Appellant**") in respect of the decisions on Proposed Plan Change 1 ("**PPC1**") to the Waikato Regional Plan, which were publicly notified on 22 April 2020 ("**the Decisions Version**").
2. The WRA is the statutory body formed under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, the Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010, and with additional responsibilities arising under the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012.
3. As part of its statutory function, WRA sets the primary direction, through the Vision and Strategy / Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato ("**Te Ture Whaimana**"), to achieve the restoration of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations. In particular, a key function of WRA is to engage with, and provide advice to, local authorities on amending Resource Management Act 1991 ("**RMA**") planning documents to give effect to Te Ture Whaimana.¹ Accordingly, WRA has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest that the general public has.
4. WRA also made a submission about the subject matter of the proceedings.² WRA's submissions generally supported the notified provisions in PPC1, or sought strengthening of provisions, that ensured water quality targets would be met within an 80-year timeframe and that gave effect to Te Ture Whaimana.
5. WRA is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C and 308CA of the RMA.

¹ Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010, s23(2)(a).

² WRA made a submission on PPC1 on 2 March 2017 and a submission on Variation 1 to PPC1 on 21 May 2018. WRA made a further submission on 17 September 2018. WRA presented evidence to the Independent Hearing Commissioners on a range of matters raised in its submission(s) on 13 March 2019.

6. WRA has filed its own appeal that identifies provisions in the Decisions Version that do not give effect to Te Ture Whaimana, but otherwise is supportive of the Decisions Version as notified.³
7. WRA is interested in all of the proceedings, in particular:
 - (a) proposed amendments to Rules 3.11.3.6 and 3.11.4.4(4B);
 - (b) proposed amendments to Schedules C and D1; and
 - (c) deletion of all references to “Land Use Capability classes”.
8. In respect of the relief sought by the Appellant, WRA:
 - (a) supports the relief sought by the Appellant in respect of Rules 3.11.3.6 and 3.11.4.4(4B) to the extent that the amendments strengthen the provisions of PPC1 and provide more clarity and certainty for plan users, however not if the effect of these amendments would create a more permissive framework and not give effect to Te Ture Whaimana;
 - (b) opposes the relief sought by the Appellant in respect of Schedule C, on the basis that these amendments would weaken the provisions of PPC1;
 - (c) opposes the relief sought by the Appellant in respect of Schedule D1, on the basis that these amendments may provide a more permissive policy framework; and
 - (d) opposes the relief sought by the Appellant to remove references “Land Use Capability classes” on the basis that there may be technical implications arising from this amendment and may result in a policy framework that is not clear.
9. In addition, WRA:
 - (a) supports any other similar or consequential relief arising from this appeal that gives effect to Te Ture Whaimana and the relief sought in WRA’s notice of appeal; and

³ ENV-2020-AKL-000090. To avoid doubt, where WRA opposes aspects of the Appellant’s appeal on the basis that the Decisions Version gives effect to Te Ture Whaimana, that is subject to any challenges to the relevant provision that WRA has raised in its own appeal.

- (b) opposes any other similar or consequential relief arising from this appeal that does not give effect to Te Ture Whaimana and the relief sought in WRA's notice of appeal.
10. WRA agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

WRA by its solicitors and authorised agents
Buddle Findlay:



Signature: P T Beverley / C E Bulow

Date: 29 September 2020

Address for Service: Buddle Findlay
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Wellington 6011

Service may also be effected by:

- (a) posting it to the solicitor at PO Box 2694, Wellington; or
- (b) leaving it for the solicitor at a document exchange for direction to DX SP20201, Wellington; or
- (c) emailing it to the solicitor at paul.beverley@buddlefindlay.com.

Telephone: (04) 499 4242

TO: The Registrar of the Environment Court at Auckland

AND TO: The Appellant

AND TO: Waikato Regional Council