

## EXPERT WITNESS CONFERENCE

Proposed Natural Resources Plan

Topic: RSI

Date: 27/06/2017, 9.13 am

Venue: NZTA board room, Chews Lane

Witnesses present:

Name	For
Lindsay Daysh	Centreport Ltd / Centreport Properties Kiwi Rail Holdings
Tom Anderson	Spark / Chorus
Carolyn Wratt	Wellington Water
Sylvia Allan	GBC Winstone
Hywel Edwards	NZTA
Christine Foster	CDC Meridian
Pauline Whitney	SWDC / MDC Transpower
Sarah Bevin	NZDF
Chris Staite	MoC
Phil Percy	Rangitāne
Paul Denton	GWRC officer
Kate Pascall	WCC
Claire Hunter	WIAL
Trevor Robinson	Facilitator
Amber Carter	GWRC note-taker

Facilitator: Trevor Robinson

## Environment Court Practice Note:

It is confirmed that all present:

- Have read the Environment Court Practice Note 2014 Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it.

And in particular

- Have read the Environment Court Practice Note 2014 in respect of Appendix 3 – Protocol For Expert Witness Conferencing and agree to abide by it.

## **Joint Conferencing Statement**

### **1. Assumptions**

1. Limited to scope of submissions and not contemplating fundamental revision of the PNRP structure or policies.

### **2. Points of Agreement**

2. Consensus is that PNRP definition is not limited to the RPS definition and whilst it can't be narrower, it can be broader. Outer limit of what it can include derived from points in submissions.
3. Consensus that where reference to Telecommunications Act 2001 / Radio Communications Act 1989 is out of date/incorrect, it should be fixed.
4. No issues from those present on current wording of gas and petroleum pipelines inclusion in RSI.
5. The Council officer recommendation is to change 'the national electricity grid' to 'the national grid as defined in the Electricity Act 2010'. No issues with this change expressed from those present.
6. Consensus on CW proposed amendments:

- the local authority water supply network (including intake structures) and water treatments plants
- the local authority wastewater and stormwater networks and, systems, including treatment plants and storage and discharge facilities ~~and wastewater treatment plants~~

### 3. Unresolved matters
















7. There is an apparent inconsistency in RPS definition regarding treatment of networks but no agreement on how to resolve this. CF and TA's view is that electricity and telecommunications networks should be treated the same way as wastewater, gas and stormwater in the definition i.e. 'whole of network' approach [refer to CF evidence for reasons]. PD view is that this approach would dilute the definition of 'regionally significant' and that the apparent anomaly in the RPS definition shouldn't drive the outcome.
8. PP view is that there is some tension between infrastructure-focussed national policy statements and the NZCPS and potentially the NPS-FM. Introducing lots of activities into the definition of RSI does not assist in reconciling that tension within the PNRP.
9. TA proposes the amendment: '~~strategic~~ facilities that form part of a ~~to the~~ telecommunication network, as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001' and '~~strategic~~ facilities that form part of a ~~to the~~ radio communications network, as defined in section 2(1) of the Radio Communications Act 1989'.
10. CF proposes the amendment: 'facilities for the generation, and transmission, and distribution of electricity, where it is supplied to the electricity distribution network, including the national grid'. *See reasons attached.*
11. PD and PP saw both suggestions above at [9] and [10] as an example of too great a dilution of the concept of RSI.
12. View expressed that local roads are not RSI beyond what definition already covers through inclusion of Strategic Transport Network – PW and KP reserved their position depending on where the bar is set for RSI generally. Disagreement on expanding the definition of Strategic Transport Network to include proposed state highways and potentially other transport modes beyond those identified in the current RLTP 2015.

HE's view is that the PNRP should be forward-looking and should not be set in time. HE, LD, PW and CF support expansion at least to state highways; CS and PD oppose. PP is comfortable with including additional transport modes only if they meet the test of being genuinely regionally significant.

#### **4. Adding to the definition**

13. SB view is that NZDF facilities should be included in RSI definition. No issue with inclusion from CS. Opposed by PD as not regionally significant within the context of the regional plan.
14. SA view is that regional or sub-regional quarries, cleanfills and landfills should be included in RSI definition. Have requirements that Policies P12, P13 and P14 would recognise. Opposed by PD.
15. General concern from CW, TA, PW, HE, LD and PP that expansion of RSI definition waters down purpose of differentiating RSI from infrastructure and creates challenges for giving effect to national policy documents.
16. General view that there needs to be more alternative objective and policy support for infrastructure and other important facilities that are not included in the RSI definition. CF and SA concern that PNRP does not sufficiently provide for these activities.

Signed:

Name	For	Date	Signed
Lindsay Daysh	Centreport Ltd / Centreport Properties Kiwi Rail Holdings	27/6/17	
Tom Anderson	Spark / Chorus	27/6/17	
Carolyn Wratt	Wellington Water	27/6/17	
Sylvia Allan	GBC Winstone	27/6/17	
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## **Appended - CF Reasons for proposed amendment as per para [10]**

Electricity distribution is a Lifeline Utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 ) relied upon by whole communities and the other forms of regionally significant infrastructure listed in the RPS and proposed NRP definition (e.g. local authority water supply network, water treatment plants, wastewater and stormwater networks, wastewater treatment plants, Wellington city bus and railway terminals, Wellington International Airport, regional airports, Wellington ports);

Most of the other listed items of regionally significant infrastructure cannot function without electricity available via the electricity distribution network therefore electricity distribution can be no less regionally significant than those other items;

It is plain from reading the officer report on submissions and the Hearing Panel's decisions on submissions on the proposed RPS that the intention was to capture electricity transmission and distribution;

The text of the RPS (e.g. page 34 RPS) makes it clear that electricity distribution networks are considered to have the same regional importance as electricity generation and transmission.

### ***'(b) Infrastructure***

*The roading network, airports, the port, telecommunication facilities, the rail network and other utilities and infrastructure, **including energy generation, transmission and distribution networks, are significant physical resources.** This infrastructure forms part of national or regional networks and enables communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety.'*

My intention is that the suggested wording includes distribution to the point of, but not including, supply from the network to individual premises. My view is that private connections are not intended to be contained within the electricity distribution network.