

**Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region**

**Addendum to Right of Reply: Beds of Lakes and  
Rivers**

**For Hearing Stream 5**

**Tabled 31 July 2018**

**Topic: Beds of Lakes and Rivers**

**Prepared by:**

**Pam Guest**

**On behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council**

## Further amendment to definitions of Drain and Highly modified river or stream

<p><b>Drain<sup>1</sup></b></p>	<p>Any <del>artificial watercourse</del>, open or piped <u>watercourse</u>, designed and constructed for the purpose of land drainage of surface or subsurface water <del>and, for the purpose of Rule R121 only, excluding any 'device' included within the definition of stormwater network</del>. <del>Channels designed and constructed to convey water only during rainfall events and which do not convey or retain water at other times are excluded from this definition.</del></p> <p><del>Only for the purpose of Rule R121 (drain clearance) a drain also includes a highly modified watercourse or river and is channelled to such an extent that it has the characteristics of a farm drainage canal.</del></p> <p><u>Note:</u></p> <p><del>For the avoidance of doubt, this definition does not include water races or artificial channels that only convey water during or immediately following rainfall events are not drains.</del></p> <p><del>Many watercourses that are considered to be drains are actually natural watercourses that have been highly modified, often over many decades, and include channels dug to drain natural wetlands.</del></p>
<p><b>Highly modified river or stream<sup>2</sup></b></p>	<p>For the purposes of Rule R121 only, means a river or stream that has been modified and channelled <del>for the purpose of land drainage of surface or sub-surface water and has the following characteristics: to the extent that it has the characteristics of (in form or function) an artificial farm drainage canal</del>. For the purposes of this definition, the characteristics of a farm drainage canal are considered to include that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>it has been channelled into a single flow, and</del></li> <li>• <del>the channel has been straightened is straight, with no 'natural curves', and</del></li> <li>• <del>the channel is mechanically formed with straight or steeply angled banks, and</del></li> <li>• <del>it is maintained to keep the water table at least 0.3m below the root zone of the surrounding pasture, and</del></li> <li>• <del>that it exhibits these characteristics for at least its entire length through the property in which the activity is being carried out watercourse is being assessed, and</del></li> <li>• <u>it is not managed as part of a stormwater network and is not a water race.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>Note:</u></p> <p><del>For the avoidance of doubt, Artificial channels that only convey water during or immediately following rainfall events, water races and the stormwater network are not Highly modified rivers or streams.</del></p>

<sup>1</sup> S42A Report: Beds of lakes and rivers, Issue 1

<sup>2</sup> S42A Report: Beds of lakes and rivers, Issue 1