

**BEFORE THE HEARING PANEL
WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan for the
Wellington Region

**STATEMENT OF REBECCA DAVIES
ON BEHALF OF NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE
SUBMITTER S81 & FURTHER SUBMITTER FS64
5 MAY 2017**

**STATEMENT OF REBECCA DAVIES ON BEHALF OF THE
NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE (NZDF) – SUBMITTER S81**

INTRODUCTION

- 1 My name is Rebecca Davies and I am employed by New Zealand Defence Force, (NZDF) within Defence Estate and Infrastructure, as Senior Environmental Officer (Statutory Planner). My role is national and “tri-service” which means I am responsible for planning issues associated with the activities and facilities of Army, Navy and Air Force throughout New Zealand.
- 2 Today I would like to make a short statement, providing background to NZDF’s submission and evidence.
- 3 I am familiar with NZDF’s submission on the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) having directed consultants in preparation of those.
- 4 NZDF is a government department, an element of the Crown, and provides military capability as required by Government. NZDF is empowered and authorised in its activities by the Defence Act 1990 and by output agreements with Government.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT

- 5 Existing defence facilities within the Wellington region include the Trentham Military Camp. The Camp is a significant Defence facility and is of strategic importance regionally, nationally and internationally. The New Zealand Government purchased land for the Camp in 1900, and the Camp has been in operation since before World War I. The continued operation of the Camp, and defence facilities in general, is essential in achieving Defence purposes under the Defence Act 1990 and an integral part of military capability.
- 6 NZDF also owns and operates other properties in the region. For the purposes of this statement, I intend to focus on current defence facilities at Trentham. However, while there are no current plans for new defence facilities within the Wellington Region, provisions in the PNRP must recognise the importance of current *and* future Defence facilities.

TRENTHAM DEFENCE FACILITIES

- 7 NZDF-owned defence facilities at Trentham occupy a land area of approximately 222 hectares. Existing defence facilities at Trentham currently consist of:
- a. Main fenced Camp area;
 - b. HQ Joint Forces NZ;
 - c. The Messines Defence Centre;
 - d. Camp housing area, including dwellings on Gower and Stafford Streets;
 - e. Davis Field (playing fields);
 - f. Golf Course;
 - g. Cadet Force depot;
 - h. Trentham Rifle Ranges (including bush-clad southern hills);
 - i. Demolitions Range;
 - j. Operational cleanfill.
- 8 Trentham defence facilities are located in a highly regionally and nationally strategic location, being close to New Zealand's capital city and almost mid-way between the North and South Islands.
- 9 It is strategically placed in relation to other NZDF facilities located throughout the lower North Island, including the Linton Military Camp, RNZAF Base Ohakea and the Waiouru Military Camp. It is also strategically placed in relation to NZDF facilities in the upper South Island, including RNZAF Base Woodbourne.
- 10 Trentham Military Camp is a tri-service military camp, in that it provides for activities by the Army, Navy and Air Force. A number of NZDF units are based at Trentham Military Camp and these are discussed in the following paragraphs.
- 11 The Headquarters of the Joint Forces New Zealand is the operational level headquarters, responsible for the command and control of all NZDF operations worldwide. This unit supports the Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, who is also based at Trentham.
- 12 The New Zealand Command and Staff College is based at Trentham Military Camp and is the premier educational institute for NZDF. The College provides professional military education to officers, preparing them for command and staff appointments.

- 13 Units based at Trentham Military Camp include the 1st New Zealand Military Intelligence Company, the 1st New Zealand Military Police Company and the 1st New Zealand Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, and the Trade Training School.
- 14 The Trentham Rifle Ranges have been in operation since being surveyed in 1896. These Ranges are now used by sport shooting clubs and the NZ Police, as well as NZDF. These facilities include an ammunitions storage facility and a demolitions range. This range provides an important community benefit as it is used for personnel training, destruction of unexploded ordinances, and for the emergency destruction of devices found by the public.
- 15 Activities at the Trentham Military Camp are complemented by various facilities which provide necessary support, including personnel accommodation, a medical treatment centre, mess areas, office buildings storage areas and sports fields.

CONCLUSION

- 16 Defence facilities at Trentham occupy a highly strategic location. Defence facilities in general, and activities undertaken within defence facilities are integral to NZDF maintaining its military capability and in turn providing for the country's security and stability, as well as the community's wellbeing and safety. Existing defence facilities, and any future defence facilities, are of regional and national importance and should be recognised as such in the PNRP.

Rebecca Davies

5 May 2017