

Waikato District Council  
Ngaruawahia office  
15 Galileo Street  
Ngaruawahia 3742

12 November 2020

**Attention: Hearing Commissioners**

Dear Commissioners

**Fire and Emergency New Zealand – Letter to be tabled at Hearing 23: Rangitahi**

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fire and Emergency) has lodged a submission on the Proposed Waikato District Plan (submitter 378) and further submissions (submitter FS1114). Fire and Emergency has opted not to attend Hearing 23 – Rangitahi scheduled to commence Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and requests that in lieu of attendance this letter be tabled for the Hearing Commissioners' consideration.

The Officer's report for Hearing 23 – Rangitahi of the Proposed Waikato District Plan (PWDP) have been received. Fire and Emergency's response to the Officer's report recommendations on these submission points are set out below.

Policy 9.3.2.2 Community facilities

In its submission, Fire and Emergency supported in part Policy 9.3.2.2, and sought that an amendment be made to 9.3.2.2(a)(ii) to emphasise the purpose of providing a service or function, as below:

*9.3.2.2 Policy - Community facilities*

*(a) Community facilities should:*

*(i) Be designed and located to be compatible with residential activities;*

*(ii) Provide a service or function **that provides for the health, safety and wellbeing** to the local neighbourhood;*

*(iii) Be of an appropriate scale and function; and*

*(iv) Not detract from the vitality of the Raglan town centre.*

Policy 9.3.2.2(a)(ii) identifies that community facilities should provide a service or function to the local neighbourhood. The Reporting Officer acknowledges that some community facilities, such as firefighting, will serve an area greater than the immediately-adjacent community, therefore considers there is nothing to suggest that 'local community' is confined as such.

The Reporting Officer further notes that Hearing 5 recommended replacing the definition of 'community facilities' with the definition for 'community facility', in accordance with the National Planning Standards. The new definition of 'community facility' includes the health, safety and wellbeing of the community. Therefore, the Reporting Officer does not consider it necessary to amend the policy as it is already included in the relevant definition.

Subject to the inclusion of a new definition of 'community facility' as recommended through Hearing 5 in order to provide greater clarity to plan users and to support the relief sought elsewhere in this submission, this recommendation is supported by Fire and Emergency.

Rule 28.2.1.2 Noise - General

Fire and Emergency supports Rule 28.2.1.2 (P1) as it permits noise generated by emergency sirens and seeks retention of the rule. This exemption appropriately provides for the operational requirements of Fire and Emergency and enables them to meet its statutory obligations in a manner that provides for the on-going health and safety of people and communities.

The Reporting Officer has accepted in part Fire and Emergency's submission to retain this rule, subject to amendments to Rule 28.2.1.2 (P2). This is supported by Fire and Emergency.

Rule 28.3.9.3 Building setback – Waterbodies

Fire and Emergency seeks retention of Rule 28.3.9.3 as the standard for building setbacks will safeguard the wellbeing of communities in accordance with the purpose of the RMA and the purpose of Fire and Emergency in the effective protection of lives, property and the surrounding environment.

The retention of Rule 28.3.9.3 is supported by the Reporting Officer. This is supported by Fire and Emergency.

Rule 28.4.1 Subdivision – General

Fire and Emergency opposes Rule 28.4.1 to the extent that subdivision in the Rangitahi Peninsula Zone does not require connection to water reticulation. As such, Fire and Emergency have sought amendment to the general subdivision conditions and matters of discretion to ensure that proposed lots are able to connect to reticulated water supply. Fire and Emergency sought the following amendments:

(a) Subdivision must comply with the following conditions:

...

*(x) Proposed lots must be able to connect to public-reticulated water supply;*

(b) Council's discretion shall be restricted to the following matters:

...

*(x) Provision of infrastructure, including water supply for firefighting purposes.*

The Reporting Officer notes that this submission is consistent with similar submissions from Fire and Emergency in other zones. Further, the Reporting Officer supports the amendments sought by Fire and Emergency and considers it important that water supply for firefighting purposes is provided for at the time of subdivision, ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of the community is provided for in accordance with section 5 of the RMA.

The Reporting Officer has recommended acceptance of the amendments sought above. This is supported by Fire and Emergency.

Should you have any queries or seek clarification on the above, please contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alec Duncan', written in a cursive style.

**Alec Duncan**  
Planner

on behalf of

**Beca Limited**

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