

24 November 2023

Hearings Panel
Proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan

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Proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan Hearing Topic: ‘Energy, Infrastructure and Transport’ - Hearing Statement from the New Zealand Defence Force (Submitter ID S519; Further Submission FS31)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Hearing Statement is prepared by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in relation to Hearing Topic ‘Energy, Infrastructure and Transport’. NZDF will not be attending the Hearing but requests that this Hearing Statement be tabled before the Hearings Panel.
- 1.2 NZDF made submissions on several chapters of the Proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan (pTTPP). The submission points that relate to this hearing topic include the following:
 - **Topic – Infrastructure:** Definitions of ‘infrastructure’ and ‘critical infrastructure’, along with Infrastructure Objectives INF-O1, INF-O2 and INF-O5 and Infrastructure Policies INF-P1 and INF-P3.

2. Submission Points S519.003 and S519.004 – Definition of ‘Infrastructure’ and ‘Critical Infrastructure’

- 2.1 **Definition of Infrastructure** - In its submission, NZDF sought to add 'defence facilities' to the definition of ‘infrastructure’ as notified.
- 2.2 The s42A report recommends rejecting NZDF’s submission. The officer’s recommendation in the s42A report states -

“We agree that defence facilities need to be provided for, however, we do not support the amendment to the ‘infrastructure’ definition as this would be inconsistent with section 2 of the RMA. In our opinion, it would be appropriate to provide for infrastructure and defence facilities within the Infrastructure chapter where appropriate. We do note that defence facilities are not excluded from the current provisions, with the Temporary Activities chapter also providing for the activities described by the NZDF”.

- 2.3 NZDF does not support the s42A report recommendation. NZDF note that there is no requirement to limit what is defined as ‘infrastructure’ in the pTTPP, to the definition of ‘infrastructure’ in Section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). There are a

number of Plans across New Zealand (such as the Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in part and the Selwyn District Plan) that have used the RMA definition of 'infrastructure' as a base, and expanded the definition to include other infrastructure, such as defence facilities. To reiterate NZDF's original submission, defence facilities are nationally and regionally significant, playing an important role in both military training and civil and/or national defence operations. They are essential in enabling NZDF to meet its obligations under the Defence Act 1990. While NZDF does not currently have major facilities on the West Coast, this does not preclude the need for future defence infrastructure in the area.

- 2.4 **Definition of 'Critical Infrastructure'** – In its submission NZDF sought to retain the definition of 'critical infrastructure' as notified. The s42A report recommends rejecting NZDF's submission.
- 2.5 As outlined in Paragraph 108 of the s42A report, Manawa Energy (submission point S438.024) seek that the term 'critical infrastructure' be replaced with 'regionally significant infrastructure' based on the West Coast Regional Policy Statement (RPS). Manawa Energy's submission point S438.024 is supported by a number of other parties. The s42A report recommends the deletion of 'critical infrastructure' from the definitions section of the pTTPP and insertion of a new definition for 'regionally significant infrastructure'. Additionally, the s42A report recommends replacing all pTTPP references to 'critical infrastructure' with 'regionally significant infrastructure'.
- 2.6 NZDF does not support the s42A report recommendation. As outlined in its original submission, NZDF supported the definition of 'critical infrastructure' as notified, on the basis that it included defence facilities. Defence facilities are of regional and national significance as outlined in NZDF's original submission and summarised in Paragraph 2.3 above.

3. Submission Points S519.009 – S519.011 relating to Infrastructure Objectives INF-O1, INF-O2 and INF-O5 and S519.012 and S519.013 relating to Infrastructure Policies INF-P1 and INF-P2

- 3.1 **Infrastructure Objectives INF-O1, INF-O2 and INF-O5** - In its submission, NZDF supported Infrastructure Objectives INF-O1, INF-O2 and INF-O5 as notified (or wording to similar effect).
- 3.2 The s42A report recommends amendments to Objectives INF-O1, INF-O2 and INF-O5 as notified, in response to submissions by other parties. NZDF supports the recommended changes to these objectives.
- 3.3 **Infrastructure Policies INF-P1 and INF-P3** - In its submission, NZDF supported Infrastructure Policies INF-P1 and INF-P3 as notified (or wording to similar effect).
- 3.4 The s42A report recommends amendments to Policy INF-P1 as notified, in response to submissions by other parties. NZDF supports the recommended changes to Policy INF-P1.
- 3.5 The s42A report does not recommend any amendments to Policy INF-P3 as notified. This is supported by NZDF.

4. Concluding Statement

NZDF would be happy to answer any questions from the Hearing Commissioners on the above. Please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Davies - rebecca.davies@nzdf.mil.nz or Rachel Purdy – rpurdy@tonkintaylor.co.nz

Nāku iti nei, nā

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