

T&T job no: 84295
15 July 2008

The Hearings Committee
C/O Robyn Harrison
Horizons Regional Council
Private Bag 11025
Manawatu Mail Centre
Palmerston North 4442

Attention: Hearings Committee

Dear Hearings Committee

HIGGINS GROUP SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED ONE PLAN: LAND

Higgins Group (Higgins) recently attended the Overall Plan hearing to introduce Higgins and outline the main matters of interest in terms of the One Plan (Submitter 153).

Higgins is most interested in the Beds of Rivers and Lakes hearing topic, which is to be the last topic to be heard in the hearing schedule. Higgins has submitted on other hearing topics, including land, infrastructure energy and waste, air, water quality and water allocation and groundwater. Higgins will review each Planning Officer's Report on these hearing topics as the reports become available and will attend these hearings as appropriate.

Please be advised that Higgins will not be attending the hearing on the Land section. Higgins only features once in the Land Report in regard to Policy 12-3: Important and essential activities and is supportive of the Planning Officer's recommendation regarding this point.

The Officer has accepted in part Higgins submission, accepting that the wording of Policy 12-3 needs to be clearer, but does not consider it appropriate to include the specific wording of activities such as 'gravel and aggregate extraction'. Rather than the specific 'activity', the Officer considers Policy 12-3 is focussed on the 'reason for the activity', being natural hazard management and provision of essential infrastructure.

The revised wording as recommended by the Officer reads:

The Regional Council will generally allow vegetation clearance or land disturbance associated with the provision of infrastructure of regional and national importance (as defined in Policy 3-1) and natural hazard management.



Higgins accepts that revised wording. Higgins considers that the core activities it undertakes, such as gravel extraction, are associated with the provision of infrastructure of regional and national importance (as defined in Policy 3-1) and natural hazard management.

As stated in the opening evidence of Higgins at the Overall Plan hearing, Higgins is a regionally significant organisation that undertakes a number of important regional and national roles, including infrastructure provision and natural hazard management. Higgins asks that these activities are adequately provided for and enabled in the Proposed One Plan.

Higgins asks that the Commissioners take into account the above when making a decision on Policy 12-3.

Thank you for your consideration of the above. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 04 381 8560 or nbaker@tonkin.co.nz if you require clarification of any of the above.

Yours sincerely



Nathan Baker
Senior Resource Management Consultant
On behalf of Higgins Group