

RMA FORM 5

Submission on publicly notified Proposed Porirua District Plan



Clause 6 of the First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Porirua City Council

1. Submitter details:

Full Name	<i>Last</i> <i>Neeson</i>	<i>First</i> Mark
Company/Organisation <i>if applicable</i>	Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust, and Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet	
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2. This is a **submission** on the **Proposed District Plan** for Porirua.

3. I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
(Please tick relevant box)

If **you could** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission please complete point four below:

4. I am not
 directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:
 (a) adversely affects the environment; and
(Please tick relevant box if applicable)

Note:

If you are a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission, your right to make a submission may be limited by clause 6(4) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

5. I wish
 To be heard in support of my submission
(Please tick relevant box)

6. I will
 Consider presenting a joint case with other submitters, who make a similar submission, at a hearing.
(Please tick relevant box)

Please complete section below (insert additional boxes per provision you are submitting on):

The specific provision of the proposal that my submission relates to:
See attached submission
Do you: Support? Oppose? Amend?
See attached submission
What decision are you seeking from Council? What action would you like: Retain? Amend? Add? Delete?

See attached submission

Reasons:

Please return this form no later than **5pm on Friday 20 November 2020** to:

- Proposed District Plan, Environment and City Planning, Porirua City Council, PO Box 50-218, PORIRUA CITY or
- email dpreview@pcc.govt.nz

19 November 2020



Signature of submitter
(or person authorised to
sign
on behalf of submitter):

Date:

*A signature is not required if you make
your submission by electronic means*



19 November 2020

dpreview@poriruacity.govt.nz

Porirua City Proposed District Plan

Submission from Te Awarua-o-Porirua Catchments and Community Trust and Guardians of the Pauatahanui Inlet.

Introduction

We note that, in the foreword, the Mayor says:

“This Plan (plans for the future) by recognising the many and various inputs necessary to provide for the wellbeing of the natural environment and the special status of tangata whenua.”

She also says:

“This Plan marks an important milestone in the history of the City and comes at a time when housing choices are wider than ever before, care for the environment is set on a much clearer trajectory than previously with the effects of climate change becoming ever more apparent, and the building of relationships across the city grows stronger with increasing ethnic diversity.”

We strongly support these sentiments, especially care for the environment as it relates to the protection and enhancement of the harbour, its ecosystems and those of its contributing catchments. If the harbour and its catchments are protected and enhanced, then this will be a significant contribution to care for the environment.

Note

This submission proposes amendments to various objectives and policies. Amendments are set out *in italics*, and deletions are identified through ~~struck-outs~~. The submission is set out in the order the various sections appear in the Plan.

Definitions

We note that the term “natural environment” is used in the plan but is not defined - although “environment” and “natural and physical resources” are defined using the RMA definitions.

We **submit** that a definition of natural environment should be developed and used, and suggest the following:

“Natural environment means terrestrial, fresh water and marine ecosystems and their constituent parts, particularly native biota (the animal and plant life of a particular habitat) and related amenity values”

EP Eastern Porirua

Redevelopment in eastern Porirua offers a significant opportunity to remedy failing and inadequate stormwater systems. We **submit** that this needs to be recognised in the Strategic Objective for this redevelopment as follows:

EP - O1 Eastern Porirua Regeneration.

The regeneration of Eastern Porirua occurs in a comprehensive manner that enables the co-ordinated development of housing, local centres, transport, infrastructure and the provision of open space, and results in a high quality urban form and improved social, cultural and economic wellbeing *and a storm and wastewater system that avoids any adverse effects and contributes to positive effects on the natural environment including the surrounding catchment and the harbour.*

HO Housing Opportunities

HO - O2

We note that the objectives for increased housing density do not mention any adverse effects such developments might have on the natural environment or the catchment or harbour.

We **submit** that HO-O2 should have a further listed provision as follows:

“Higher density housing is enabled on greenfield and brownfield sites across the city where it:

1. Has access to the transport network and is served by multi-modal transport options;
2. Is located within or near a commercial centre and close to public open space;
3. Has access to social infrastructure;
4. Avoids areas of significant natural hazard risk;
5. *Avoids any adverse effects and contributes to positive effects on the natural environment including the surrounding catchment and the harbour.*

NE Natural Environment

We note and **strongly support** the introductory statement in the Natural Environment Chapter that:

“ Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour contributes significantly to the City’s identity and is highly valued but suffers from poor water quality. Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council, Wellington Regional Council, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the community have a shared responsibility for improving water quality and the health of the Harbour and catchment. The District Plan aims to assist the Regional Council achieve its objectives of improving water quality in the Porirua Catchment, while recognising that the control of land use for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing water quality is a regional council function.”

We **support** all the four objectives in this section and, in particular:

NE - O3 - Preventing further degradation of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour

However, we **submit** that this objective should be amended as follows:

Subdivision, use and development does not contribute to any further degradation of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and its catchments *and measures are implemented to enhance the quality of all receiving water that enters the harbour.*

NE O4 - The health and wellbeing of Te Awarua-O-Porirua Harbour is maintained and protected and, where possible, enhanced.

We strongly **support** this objective, especially the objective of enhancement.

Natural Character

NATC O1 Protecting, Preserving and Enhancing Natural Character

We **submit** that this objective should be amended as follows:

The natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins are preserved, enhanced ~~where appropriate~~ *wherever practicable*, and protected from ~~inappropriate~~ *all adverse effects* from subdivision, use and development.

We **support** the four policies but **submit** that:

NATC - P3 be amended as follows:

Allow for small-scale earthworks in coastal margins and riparian margins *only where they have no adverse effects on the harbour and its contributing catchments and where the natural character values and ecological condition of the harbour are maintained and, preferably, enhanced.*

ECO Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

We **support** all the objectives and policies in this section but **submit** that ECO - P7 should be amended as follows:

ECO - P7 Protection and Restoration Activities

Encourage the protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity by supporting initiatives by landowners, community groups and others to protect, restore and maintain areas of indigenous vegetation, *especially riparian areas and wetlands, including contributing seeps to wetlands.*

And we **submit** that ECO - P11 should be amended, as follows:

ECO - P11 Earthworks within Significant Natural Areas

Only allow earthworks within a Significant Natural Area where it can be demonstrated that:

1. Any adverse effects on identified indigenous biodiversity values of a Significant Natural Area listed in SCHED7 - Significant Natural Areas are addressed in accordance with ECO-P2 and the matters in ECO-P4 and ECO-P12; Any biodiversity offsetting proposed is in accordance with APP8 - Biodiversity Offsetting; and
2. Any earthworks within a wetland, *or that adversely affect riparian areas or contributing seeps to a wetland,* are avoided.

Natural Character

We **support** the objective and policies in this section but **submit** that NATC-O1 should be amended as follows:

NATC - Protecting, Preserving and Enhancing Natural Character

The natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins are preserved, and enhanced ~~where appropriate~~ *wherever practicable*, and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development *and any adverse effects caused by subdivision, use and development on any part of the harbour and its contributing catchments.*

NFL - P3

We **submit** that it is inappropriate to require the maintenance of the pasture landscape in the Kakaho Special Amenity Landscape - SAL 006 (Natural Sciences Item 3). Pasture and its management can contribute to adverse effects on the sensitive Kakaho riparian area and the ecologically valuable estuarine and coastal environment at the mouth of the Kakaho stream. In the

2016 storm event huge amounts of sediment came down the Kakaho valley. Its landscape needs to be protected from the risks of further such events.

We also **submit** that the upper Kakaho is far from being a “predominantly unmodified landform” (Natural Sciences Item 2) - it was once forested and that should ideally be the state it eventually returns to.

We **submit** that the Kakaho Special Amenity Landscape should be deleted or that any references to preserving a pasture landscape should be removed.

The features of this landscape area are set out in Schedule 10, SAL 006 of the Plan as follows:

Natural Sciences

- 1.Highly representative of open rolling landform characteristic of much of Porirua’s rural hinterland;
- 2.Predominantly unmodified landform;
- 3.Primarily managed as pasture with low ecological value;
- 4.Indigenous revegetation in a number of gullies identified as Significant Natural Areas.

Sensory

- 1.Landform remains largely open and intact with few incongruous elements; minor farm tracks, pylons and a single block of exotic forest;
- 2.Folded landform creates a vivid ‘rumpled blanket’ effect which remains highly visible from State Highway 1 at the Paremata Road Bridge and large areas of Porirua’s existing northern residential areas;
- 3.Despite extensive pastoral use, landform remains relatively natural with limited modification;
- 4.Distinctive valleys and open rolling tops highlight bold changes in shadow and light.

Shared and recognised

- 1.Contained inland forested areas with important resources for Māori and associated with Pā and mahinga kai at Taupo;
- 2.Provides a highly recognisable local backdrop, visible from State Highway 1 and residential areas to the south of Pāuatahanui Inlet between Paremata and Whitby;
- 3.Changing light on the hills and through the seasons are often the subject depicted in paintings and are frequently photographed as part of the backdrop to Pāuatahanui Inlet.

REE - Resilience, Efficiency and Energy

We wonder how, in REE O5 “the environment’s needs” might be interpreted. We **submit** that this objective should be amended as follows:

REE - O5 Resource Efficiency

Porirua’s natural and physical resources are used efficiently, meet the community’s needs both now and in the future and, *in doing so, protect Porirua’s natural environmental values and have no adverse effects on the function or ecology of the harbour and its contributing catchments.*

Strategic Objectives - Rural Environment

We are concerned that the apparent emphasis on retaining a rural character might be interpreted as retaining a pastoral landscape. If this is the case, then maintenance of such a landscape could have adverse effects on the harbour. Further, it is questionable as to how much of the rural environment can be “productive” - whatever that means.

We **submit** that RE- O1 should be amended as follows:

Porirua has a ~~productive~~ rural environment that:

1. Contributes to the City's social and economic wellbeing;
2. Retains its ~~rural~~ *non-urban* character; and
3. Provides an open ~~rural~~-backdrop to the City.

Strategic Objectives - Urban Form and Development

We note that these objectives do not mention anything related to the environment and managing adverse effects on the catchment and harbour.

We **submit** that UFD - O5 should be amended as follows:

UFD - O5 Subdivision, use and development

Subdivision, use and development is integrated with the transport network, supports Porirua's current and future needs, *protects Porirua's natural environmental values and has no adverse effects on the function or ecology of the harbour and its contributing catchment.*

Strategic Objectives: Infrastructure

We note that while INF - P4 provides a policy to ensure infrastructure minimises adverse effects on the environment, there is no objective that mentions environment or environmental values.

Accordingly, we **submit** that INF O5 should be amended as follows:

INF - O5 Providing for Infrastructure

Infrastructure provides benefits to people and communities and is established, operated, maintained and repaired, and upgraded efficiently, securely and sustainably, while the adverse effects of infrastructure are avoided, remedied or mitigated, including effects on:

1. The anticipated character and amenity values of the relevant zone;
2. The identified values and qualities of any Overlay; ~~and~~
3. The change in risk to people's lives and damage to adjacent property and other infrastructure from natural hazards; *and*
4. *The environment (as defined in the plan), including the harbour and its contributing catchments.*

THWT Three Waters

We submit that hydraulic neutrality, while a desirable start in better managing stormwater, is not sufficient to protect the harbour from excess amounts of stormwater and related sediment and contaminants. Instead we **submit** that **water positivity** should instead replace hydraulic neutrality. This can be defined as:

Net water positivity means that post development peak run off is less than pre-development peak flow rate, achieved by use of requirements for on-site water management mechanisms such as stormwater collection/surge tanks of at least 10,000 litres per household and business, re use of this water on site for non-potable uses such as garden watering and other outdoor uses, and perhaps toilet flushing, limits on impervious surfaces, use of swales instead of gutters for roads, and use of managed wetland treatment systems that discharge high quality contaminant free water.

Accordingly, we **submit** that THWT - O1, be amended as follows:

THWT - O1

There is ~~no increase~~ a decrease in demand on stormwater management systems and a decrease in flooding from development *and redevelopment* within Urban zones, Settlement Zone and the Māori Purpose Zone (Hongoeka)

Accordingly, we correspondingly also **submit** that THWT - P1 be amended as follows:

Enable new development *and any redevelopment* in Urban zones, Settlement Zone and the Māori Purpose Zone (Hongoeka) only where it achieves *or contributes to water positivity (defined as above or equivalent)*.

CE Coastal Environment

We **submit** that the protection of the coastal environment should extend beyond simply protection from inappropriate development. Accordingly, we **submit** that CE-O1 should be amended as follows:

CE-O1 Natural Character of the coastal environment

The natural character of the coastal environment is preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development *and from adverse effects, especially sediment and contaminants, arising from subdivision, use and development.*

District Wide Matters - Subdivision

SUB-O4 Future Urban Zone

Point 2 under this item identifies the Judgeford Flats as follows:

“The Judgeford Flats area of the Future Urban Zone to accommodate integrated, serviced and primarily industrial development.”

This area is prone to flooding, some of which (in the 2016 downpour) was severe and inundated parts of Pauatahanui. It also deposited sediment into the harbour. With changes to development on Lanes Flat and the flood prone history of this area, the changed and unproven dynamics since

the construction on Lanes Flat, we consider and **submit** that this part of the Future Urban Zone should be moved slightly up one of the valleys (e.g. Mulhern Road area to the vicinity of the BRANZ area). It should not be in the stream valley. It needs to be higher up (at least two metres) and away from the bed and riparian area of the stream.



Mark Neeson
Chairperson

Lindsay Gow
Chairperson
Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet
(pp: Mark Neeson)

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