

**Before the Hearings Panel  
At Porirua City Council**

**Under** Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

**In the matter of** the Proposed Porirua District Plan

**Between** **Various**

**Submitters**

**And** **Porirua City Council**

**Respondent**

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**Council reply on Strategic Objectives addressed in Hearing Stream 3 - Gina Sweetman on behalf of Porirua City Council**

**Date: 22 December 2021**

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

- 1 My full name is Gina Marie Sweetman. I am a consultant planner engaged by Porirua City Council.
- 2 I have read the evidence and tabled statements provided by submitters relevant to the Section 42A Reports - Part B Strategic Directions HCH and REE-O1, REE-O4 and REE-O5.
- 3 I have prepared this Council reply on behalf of the Porirua City Council (Council) in respect of matters raised through Hearing Stream 3.
- 4 Specifically, this statement of evidence relates to the matters in the Section 42A Report - B Strategic Directions HCH and REE-O1, REE-O4 and REE-O5.
- 5 My statement of evidence also draws on my wider involvement in the PDP, where I provided an overall review and integration role for all Chapter authors and the PDP as a whole.
- 6 I am authorised to provide this evidence on behalf of the Council.

## **QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 7 Appendix C of the Section 42A Report sets out my qualifications and experience.
- 8 I confirm that I am continuing to abide by the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses set out in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2014.

## **SCOPE OF REPLY**

- 9 This reply follows Hearing Stream 3 held on 3, 6, 7, 8 and 10 December 2021.
- 10 The main topics addressed in this reply include:
  - Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira's submission on HCH-O2
  - The introduction to REE
  - Where REE-O4 should refer to decision making
- 11 I have also addressed an oversight in not referencing particular submission points in the body of my s42A report.
- 12 Appendix 1 of this reply contains a list of materials provided by submitters including expert evidence, legal submissions, submitter statements etc. This information is all available on

the PDP (Proposed District Plan) hearings web portal at <https://pdportal.porirua.govt.nz>.

13 Appendix 2 contains recommended amendments to PDP provisions, with updated recommendations differentiated from those made in Appendix A of the Section 42A Report.

14 I have not provided an updated table of recommended responses to submissions and further submissions as my recommendations do not differ from those made in Appendix B of the s42A report.

15 For ease of reference, I have shown any changes proposed through this right of reply as follows:

s42A Report	<del>deletions</del> / <u>insertions</u>
Right of Reply version	<del>deletions</del> / <u>insertions</u>

#### **Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira’s submission on HCH-O2**

16 As outlined in my s42A report, TROTR sought that the objective be amended to read “The character and identify of Porirua is reflected through its mana whenua and community throughout the City”. I recommended rejection of this point as this outcome is outside the scope of what a District Plan can achieve, changes the meaning of the objective and involves human behaviour.

17 TROTR through Ms Anahera Nin wished for this objective to reflect TROTR’s goal for a healthy, vibrant and culturally rich iwi and community. Ms Nin did not accompany this position with any s32AA evaluation of how this amendment would more appropriately achieve the purpose of the RMA, nor how it would be giving effect to higher order direction.

18 My view has not changed that this is a social outcome and does not comfortably sit within the frame of the District Plan. I agree with Ms Nin that it is a valid outcome, but one that would better sit within the Council’s Long Tern Plan as a community outcome.

#### **The introduction to REE**

19 The Panel asked whether my recommended amendments in response to Kāinga Ora [81.218] had changed the sentence so that it no longer reflected the policy approach taken

in the Chapter. The Panel also asked whether the reference to “risks” in the second part of the sentence needed to be defined.

- 20 On reflection, I agree that my recommended removal of “where possible” had made the sentence more absolute, and that it should be reintroduced. I also recommend that the second part of the sentence be amended to clarify that the risks are those from natural hazards.

I recommend that the introduction be amended to read:

Porirua is susceptible to a wide range of natural hazards including flooding, fault rupture, liquefaction, tsunami, landslides, coastal erosion and coastal inundation. Some of these hazards will be exacerbated by climate change over time. Certain areas of Porirua are more at risk from natural hazards than others, and overall there is a need to improve the City’s resilience to natural hazards. ~~Where possible, The significant~~ risks from natural hazards to people and communities should be avoided where possible, and any other risks from natural hazards should be appropriately managed and mitigated<sup>1</sup>.

- 21 I have not undertaken a s32AA evaluation as this is an introduction and not a provision of a Plan.

#### **Whether REE-O4 should refer to decision making**

- 22 The Panel firstly queried whether REE-O4 was an objective. I explained my reasoning why I consider it is and explained how it is reflected through the Plan. This is primarily through the Natural Hazards and Coastal Environment provisions. I do note that there are no submissions seeking its deletion or seeking its validity as an objective; rather Forest and Bird [225.96] sought that it be made more certain and that ecological adaptation should be included.

- 23 The Panel then queried whether reference was required to “decision making”. Having considered this, I agree that this wording is not necessary.

I recommend that REE-O4 be amended to read:

REE-O4 Adapting to climate change

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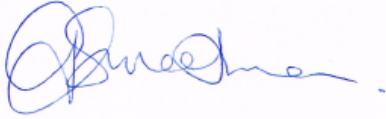
<sup>1</sup> Kāinga Ora [81.218]

Porirua City is prepared to adapt to the effects of climate change and recognises the opportunities and risks associated with those effects are recognised in decision making.

24 This amendment does not alter my s32AA evaluation undertaken in my s42A report.

**Date:** 22/12/2021

Gina Sweetman  
Consultant Planner



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**Appendix 1 – List of materials provided by submitters**

<b>Submitter written presentations</b>	Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira [FS70]
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## Appendix 2 – Recommended amendments to PDP provisions

In order to distinguish between the recommendations made in the Section 42A Report and the recommendations that arise from this report:

- s42A recommendations are shown in red text (with underline and ~~strike-out~~ as appropriate); and
- Recommendations from this report in response to evidence are shown in blue text (with underline and ~~strike-out~~ as appropriate).

### HCH - Historic and Cultural Heritage

Porirua’s cultural and historical values are of great importance to the City, and to the mana whenua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira,<sup>2</sup> and it is vital that these values are appropriately recognised and protected. Porirua also has a distinctive character and identity that reflects its rich history, and is a source of pride to its people.

The strategic objectives set the direction for the District Plan and help to implement the Council’s community outcomes set out in its Long Term Plan. They reflect the intended outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of the District Plan.

The objectives, policies and rules in Parts 2 and 3 of the District Plan implement the strategic objectives and reconcile any tensions between them.

The strategic objectives will be particularly relevant for any future changes to the Plan and any significant resource consent applications. Details of the steps Plan users should take when using the District Plan are provided in the General Approach chapter.

#### Strategic Objectives

##### HCH-O1 Historic and cultural heritage

The buildings, items, sites, areas and natural features that have been identified as having special qualities and values and which contribute to Porirua and Ngāti Toa Rangatira’s sense of place and identity are protected and maintained and, where practicable, enhanced<sup>3</sup>.

##### HCH-O2 Character and identity

Porirua’s character and identity is reflected throughout the City.

### REE - Resilience, Efficiency and Energy

Porirua is susceptible to a wide range of natural hazards including flooding, fault rupture, liquefaction, tsunami, landslides, coastal erosion and coastal inundation. Some of these hazards will be exacerbated by climate change over time. Certain areas of Porirua are more

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<sup>2</sup> TROTR [264.93]

<sup>3</sup> TROTR [264.94]

at risk from natural hazards than others, and overall there is a need to improve the City's resilience to natural hazards. ~~Where possible, The significant~~ risks from natural hazards to people and communities should be avoided where possible, and any other risks from natural hazards should be appropriately managed and mitigated<sup>4</sup>.

The form of the City has been shaped by the need to accommodate private motor vehicles which has led to the inefficient use of energy and natural and physical resources. We aim to use energy and resources more efficiently in how we live, work and move, and promote energy conservation. We also need to maintain a safe and secure supply of energy, reduce our reliance on non-renewable sources of energy and encourage the establishment of renewable sources of energy.

The strategic objectives set the direction for the District Plan and help to implement the Council's community outcomes set out in its Long Term Plan. They reflect the intended outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of the District Plan.

The objectives, policies and rules in Parts 2 and 3 of the District Plan implement the strategic objectives and reconcile any tensions between them.

The strategic objectives will be particularly relevant for any future changes to the Plan and any significant resource consent applications. Details of the steps Plan users should take when using the District Plan are provided in the General Approach chapter.

REE-O1                      Energy Efficiency

The City makes efficient use of energy in its urban form and in how it functions.

REE-O4                      Adapting to climate change

Porirua City is prepared to adapt to the effects of climate change and ~~recognises~~ the opportunities and risks associated with those effects are recognised in decision making<sup>5</sup>.

REE-O5                      Resource efficiency

Porirua's natural and physical resources are used efficiently ~~and meet the community and environment's needs~~<sup>6</sup> both now and in the future.

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<sup>4</sup> Kāinga Ora [81.218]

<sup>5</sup> Forest and Bird [225.96]

<sup>6</sup> Forest and Bird [225.97]