

BEFORE INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONERS

AT PORIRUA

UNDER the Resource Management Act 1991 ("**RMA**")

AND

IN THE MATTER of Hearing of Submissions and Further Submissions
on the Proposed Porirua District Plan

**MEMORANDUM OF COUNSEL ON BEHALF OF
KIWIRAIL HOLDINGS LIMITED IN RESPONSE TO MINUTE 32 OF THE
INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL**

29 APRIL 2022

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MAY IT PLEASE THE HEARING PANEL:**Introduction**

1. We refer to the Panel's Minute 32 issued on 28 March 2022 wherein the Panel requested further information from KiwiRail Holdings Limited ("**KiwiRail**") on the function of the fencing along the rail line on Steyne Avenue (Plimmerton), and whether the fence is intended to provide screen the rail corridor, or whether it also provides a degree of acoustic mitigation for properties on the other side of the road.
2. KiwiRail has investigated this matter and prepared this memorandum in response to the Panel's request.

Response

3. The fence was installed at least 10 (and possibly more) years ago jointly by KiwiRail and the Porirua City Council. The fence was constructed for the purposes of providing screening of the activities within the rail corridor, namely shielding trains from the view of neighbouring landowners.
4. The fence was constructed with tongue and groove boards, which overlap and leave no gaps between the slats in the fence (although there are now some gaps in the panels where the tongue and groove boards have parted company over time with warping of the boards). While noise barriers can share some similarities in appearance, the fence was not designed, constructed or installed for the purpose of providing acoustic mitigation. In practice, while there may be some acoustic benefit (although this has not been quantified), it is expected that it would be limited given the height of the fence relative to the operations within the rail corridor (the fence being lower) and the length of the fence.

Dated: 29 April 2022



A A Arthur-Young / L J Rapley
Counsel for KiwiRail Holdings Limited