

Paul Botha
10A The Track
Plimmerton
Porirua, 5026

9 November 2021

To:

The Chair

Proposed Porirua District Plan Hearings Panel

Road and Rail Noise Rules – potential expert caucusing

I am writing in relation to Hearing Steam 4 and specifically in relation to the road and rail noise rules proposed in the PDP. My original submission addresses concern I have with some of the proposed rules.

Given the technical nature of noise rules, I would expect several acoustics experts are likely to be brought into the discussion on these matters to represent the likes of PCC, Kāinga Ora, Kiwi Rail, Waka Kotahi and possibly others. If any expert caucusing occurs on these noise matters, I ask the panel if I can seek permission to be party to that caucusing even if only as an observer. My previous experience on other noise rules is that it is often left to the relevant noise experts to resolve or at least list matters of agreement or disagreement.

I outline some of my previous experiences with respect to giving expert acoustic evidence and caucusing to assist in considering this matter.

- I have a degree in Mechanical Engineering and have practiced in acoustics over the last 30 years.
- I am a member of the Institute of Acoustics (IOA), UK.
- I was on the Standards New Zealand committee which compiled the Acoustics Standard NZS6808:1998 and on the committee which compiled the update NZS6808:2010, Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise.
- I have given expert acoustics evidence at council hearings and before the environment court in relation to wind farm noise.
- I have been involved in expert caucusing on wind turbine acoustics on several different projects in New Zealand.
- I have been involved in court mediation with respect to environment enforcement action initiated by a community group.
- I have been subpoenaed by the EPA to provide expert evidence on wind farm operational noise matters, for the Turitea wind farm proposal.
- I have caucused or worked alongside several of the New Zealand acoustics experts including Nigel Lloyd (PCC consultant) and Dr Stephen Chiles (who often represents Waka Kotahi - NZTA).

It may make better use of all the expert's time, if my concerns were addressed at the same time as others, assuming the experts meet to narrow / agree on the issues.

I have raised this matter now as I understand that the Hearing Stream 4 Section 42A report is scheduled for release at the end of November and the hearing to commence some time in February 2023.

I look forward to the panel's response on this matter.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Botha', written in a cursive style.

Paul Botha
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