

**Before the Waikato Regional Council  
Hearings Panel**

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

**IN THE MATTER OF** Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Waikato Regional Plan  
(Waikato and Waipa River Catchments)

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**MEMORANDUM OF COUNSEL ON BEHALF OF FISH AND GAME  
RESPONDING TO PANEL QUERIES  
Submitter # 74085**

**Block 1**

Dated: 21 May 2019

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**Counsel instructed**

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1. At the 'Block 1' hearings Fish & Game undertook to come back to the Panel on the following:
  - 1.1. Update Table 1 of Dr Daniel's evidence to show existing water clarity; and
  - 1.2. A definition of "artificial" or "constructed" wetlands.
2. Dr Daniel's revised Table 1, with an added column to include "current" water quality (2014-2016), is attached to this Memorandum.

### **Artificial wetlands**

3. Mr Klee presented evidence for Fish & Game at the Block 1 hearing, regarding the need to set objectives and attributes to protect ecosystem health in wetlands, stating:
  - 5.32. I agree that further plan changes will need to refine wetland attributes, but this plan must also ensure that the ecosystem health of wetlands is protected in the interim. Narrative attributes should be inserted into PC 1 to ensure that this occurs. ...
4. Ms Marr's evidence put forward a table with narrative targets for wetlands<sup>1</sup>, on the basis of Mr Klee's evidence and that of Dr Robertson for the Director-General of Conservation.
5. The Panel asked Mr Klee whether constructed wetlands should be expected to meet such targets/limits.
6. Following consideration of this matter, Fish & Game suggests the following definition of "artificial wetlands" for the purpose of excluding such wetlands from the application of the proposed water quality (narrative) targets for wetlands:

### **Artificial Wetlands:**

*For the purpose of [Table 3.11-1B], "wetlands" excludes wetlands specifically designed, installed and maintained for any of the following purposes:*

- (i) wastewater or stormwater treatment;*

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<sup>1</sup> Table 3.11-1B "Water quality limits and targets and Freshwater Objective water quality attribute states for wetlands in the Waikato and Waipā River catchments": Marr Block 1 evidence Appendix 1 page 15,

*(ii) treatment of run off containing sediment, nutrients or faecal contamination from farming land use activities.*

*and artificial wetlands specifically designed, installed and maintained for any of the following purposes, where the artificial wetland is located more than 20 metres from a river, lake, wetland or the CMA:*

*(iii) farm stock water dams, irrigation dams, and flood detention dams*

*(iv) reservoirs, dams and other areas specifically designed and established for the construction and/or operation of a hydro-electric power scheme*

*(v) land drainage canals and drains*

*(vi) reservoirs for fire fighting, domestic or municipal water supply.*

7. Other queries from the Panel will be addressed by Fish & Game following freshwater expert conferencing.

**DATED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2019

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "SJ Ongley", written over a horizontal dotted line.

**SJ Ongley**

Counsel for the Auckland/Waikato and  
Eastern Region Fish and Game Councils

Table 1. Water clarity targets in PPC1 and those sought by Fish & Game for nationally significant fisheries, regionally significant fisheries and significant spawning streams. Current median water clarity from 200mm black disk from WRC sites (2014-Nov 2018) and 5 year median from LAWA sites (#).

Location	Significance	Current	Proposed		Fish & Game	
		2014-2016	Short term (m)	80 year (m)	Short term (m)	80 Year (m)
Waikato River (Waipapa Tailrace)	National significance	2.17	2.0	3.0	support	support
Waikato River (Narrows Boat Ramp)	National significance	1.57	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0
Waikato River (Horotiu Br)	National significance	1.49	1.4	1.6	1.8	2
Waipā River (Mangaokewa Rd)	Regional significance	1.77	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.0
Waipā River (Otewa)	Regional significance	1.60#	2.1	2.1	support	support
Waipā River (SH3)	Regional significance	1.13	1.2	1.6	1.8	2
Waipapa Stm (Mokai; Tirohanga Rd Br)	Regional significance	1.15#	1.2	1.6	1.5	2.2
Little Waipa Stm (Arapuni - Putaruru Rd)	Significant spawning stream	1.63#	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.8
Pokaiwhenua Stm (Arapuni - Putaruru Rd)	Significant spawning stream	1.12#	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.8
Puniu River (Bartons Corner Rd Br)	Significant spawning stream	0.87*	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.8
Kaniwhaniwha Stm (Wright Rd)	Significant spawning stream	0.88#	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.8
Moakurua Stm (Ormsby Rd)	Significant spawning stream	1.09**			1.8	2.0
Mangatawhiri River Lyons Rd Buckingham Br	Significant spawning stream	1.69#	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.0

\*7 samples from 2016-2018 with 60mm black disk

\*\*Mean of only two samples in 2018 60mm black disk

# LAWA sites 5 year median

4.5.7 Significant spawning streams such as the Little Waipa and Pokaiwhenua Streams not only provide locally significant fisheries but are also the spawning grounds for trout that inhabit Lake Karapiro.