

**Before the Independent Hearings Panel  
At Wellington City Council**

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

**In the matter of** Hearing submissions and further submissions on the  
Proposed Wellington City District Plan

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**Statement of supplementary planning evidence of  
William Melville on behalf of Wellington City Council**

**Date: 3 May 2023**

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## INTRODUCTION:

1 My full name is William Melville. I am employed as the Parks Services Manager at Wellington City Council. My former role is that of Arboriculture Manager at Wellington City Council.

2 I have read the respective evidence of:

### **Argosy Property No 1 Limited ID 383**

a) David Spencer

### **Jeremy Partridge ID 102**

b) Jeremy Partridge

3 I have prepared this statement of evidence in response to expert evidence submitted by the people listed above to support the submissions and further submissions on the Proposed Wellington City District Plan (the Plan / PDP).

4 Specifically, this statement of evidence relates to the matters of [Wellington City Proposed District Plan Hearing Stream 3 – Historic Heritage, Notable Trees and Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori Section 42A report](#)

5 QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

6 I hold the qualifications of Level 4 Advanced certificate in Arboriculture. Advanced Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) qualification and the International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.

7 I have worked for Wellington City Council for 9 years and 2 months, serving for 5 years as the Arboriculture Manager. Previously, I have worked in Arboriculture sector in New Zealand, the USA and UK.

8 I am a member of the International Society of Arboriculture, New Zealand urban Forest Research Initiative, and New Zealand

Arboricultural Association (NZ Arb) where I served as President between 2018 and 2019.

- 9 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 2023, as applicable to this Independent Panel hearing.

#### **SCOPE OF EVIDENCE**

- 10 My statement of evidence addresses the expert evidence of those listed above

#### **RESPONSES TO EXPERT EVIDENCE**

##### **Notable trees**

**Argosy Property No 1 Limited ID 383 – David Spencer**

**Jeremy Partridge ID 102 – Jeremy Partridge**

##### **Definition of the Root Protection Area.**

- 11 I support Mr Spencer and Mr Partridges' opposition to the definition of the root protection area as listed in the Proposed District Plan. I support the adoption of 12x stem diameter calculation as set out in Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites as outlined in my statement of evidence 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

##### **Definition of a Technician Arborist.**

- 12 In response to Mr Spencer's submission on the definition of a Technician Arborist. I believe there is enough flexibility in the proposed definition for Councils Arboricultural Officers to assess a technician arborists qualification who does not hold a NZQA level 6 Diploma on a case-by-case basis to consider overseas qualifications and/or any industry led changes to the qualification framework for consulting arborists.

### **TREE-R1 trimming and pruning of notable trees**

- 13 In response to Mr Spencer's request to include more permissive pruning in accordance with arboricultural best practices. The provisions under TREE-R1 a) allow for the most common types of maintenance pruning to be carried out on a tree by a Works Arborist without consent. Beyond this scope any other work may affect tree health or amenity value and the requirement for a consent will ensure the involvement of a more qualified individual and a better outcome for the tree.

### **TREE-R2 Activity and development within the root protection area of notable trees.**

- 14 In reference to Mr Spencer's comments on the disparity between Maintenance and Infrastructure and Notable Trees Chapters I refer to Mr McCutcheon's rebuttal.

### **TREE-R3b removal of a notable tree in terminal decline**

- 15 In response to Mr Partridges opposition to TREE- R3b. I believe that certification by a technician arborist and 10 working day notice period required under TREE S-3 prior to the removal of terminal notable tree will give Council adequate opportunity to assess the tree and either deem that a resource consent is required or permit the removal based on tree health and condition post assessment.

### **TREE-S2 Emergency trimming or pruning works**

- 16 Regarding Mr Spencer's comments on the 1 hour notification period for emergency works I refer to my statement of evidence dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 relating to the 24/7 on call service offered by Council for tree related enquires. In most instances under the former District Plan notable tree owners have contacted Council and we have completed the emergency works free of charge.
- 17 Where private contractors have been used by tree owners to carry out emergency works their contractor has contacted Council either on their way to site or once they have assessed the

situation to notify us of their emergency either for assistance from our internal arboriculture team or to notify us of the works they are going to undertake.

**TREE-S4 Works in the Root Protection Area**

- 18 In response to Mr Partridges comments on the use of hydro excavation, I refer to my statement of evidence dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and have no further comment.
- 19 In response to Mr Spencer's amendments regarding amendments from directional drilling to trenchless methods I support this recommendation.

**Date:**

**1 May 2023**



**William Melville**

**Parks Services Manager**

**Wellington City Council**

