

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

Under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of the Proposed Wellington City District Plan

**Statement of evidence of Nicholas Goldwater on behalf of
Wellington City Council (Ecology)**

Date: 09 August 2024

INTRODUCTION

- 1 My full name is Nicholas Paul Goldwater. I am a Senior Principal Ecologist with Wildland Consultants Ltd ('Wildlands'), based in Auckland. I have been employed as a consultant ecologist with Wildland Consultants since 2008.
- 2 I have prepared this statement of evidence on behalf of the Wellington City Council (the **Council**) in respect of technical related matters arising from the submissions and further submissions on the Proposed Wellington City District Plan (the **PDP**).
- 3 This statement of evidence relates to the matters in the Natural Environment – Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter, and specifically to matters pertaining to Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) and vegetation clearance outside SNAs.
- 4 I am authorised to provide this evidence on behalf of the Council.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- 5 I have a Master of Science (First Class Honours) in ecology and environmental science from the University of Auckland, and have more than 16 years' experience in ecological consultancy. In my role as Senior Principal Ecologist, I undertake field assessments, provide technical advice and services, and manage projects for a range of clients. I have undertaken numerous terrestrial and aquatic assessments in the Auckland, Northland, Waikato, and Wellington regions.
- 6 I have considerable experience with consents relating to vegetation removal and ecological restoration, including quarrying activities, subdivisions, and infrastructure projects, all involving the assessment of environmental effects under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). I have assisted councils with numerous projects that include baseline biodiversity surveys, consent reviews, preparation of Ecological

Management Plans, and field surveys of vegetation and habitats, threatened plants, indigenous fish, birds, and reptiles.

- 7 I have assessed and mapped numerous Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), or Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) as they are known in Auckland. Prior to the Auckland Unitary Plan becoming operative, I was involved in the rapid field survey of potential SEAs for Auckland Council, and subsequently I undertook numerous site assessments in order to ground-truth SEA boundaries disputed by landowners.
- 8 I am familiar with Wellington Region and Wellington District through my professional experience and involvement in ecological projects undertaken there over the last 15 years or so. I have provided technical advice for Wellington City Council in relation to the delineation of several urban Significant Natural Areas disputed by landowners.
- 9 In 2021, I provided evidence on behalf of Porirua District Council for the independent hearing panel appointed to make recommendations on the Proposed Porirua District Plan. I provided ecological input for Plan Change 48, which involved ground-truthing SNAs throughout the district. I have also provided policy advice on ecological provisions pertaining to (i) the removal of non-indigenous vegetation within SNAs, (ii) undertaking earthworks within SNAs, and (iii) the potential adverse effects of quarrying activities in the vicinity of SNAs in Porirua District.

Code of conduct

- 10 I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses set out in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023. I have complied with the Code of Conduct in preparing my evidence and will continue to comply with it while giving oral evidence before the Environment Court. My qualifications as an expert are set out above. Except where I state I rely on the evidence of another person, I confirm that the issues addressed in this statement of evidence are within my area of expertise, and I have

not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from my expressed opinions.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

- 11 My statement of evidence addresses the following matters:
- 11.1 Involvement with the Proposed Plan.
 - 11.2 SNA boundaries that have been queried by various submitters.
 - 11.3 Vegetation clearance rules for indigenous vegetation outside SNAs.
- 12 In preparing my statement of evidence, I have referred to the draft Section 42A report (in preparation at the time of writing).

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN

- 13 Wildlands has been working with the Wellington City Council (WCC) to identify, map and assess significant natural areas (SNA) in Wellington since 2016. At that time Wildlands undertook an assessment of potential SNAs against the ecological significance criteria in Policy 23 of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS23) for the Wellington Region¹.
- 14 Since this initial desktop assessment was undertaken, Wildlands has continued to be engaged by WCC to undertake site visits to properties where landowners have questioned the significance of the natural vegetation and/or habitat. These site visits were then followed up with reports providing details of the ecological values of the sites, whether or

¹ Wildland Consultants (2016). Audit of potentially significant natural areas for Wellington City: Stage 1 Desktop Analysis. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 3942*. Prepared for Wellington City Council. 124 pp.

not these values meet the RPS23 criteria for SNA status, and maps that address any recommendations for SNA boundary adjustments (if the site visit resulted in this being required).

- 15 The National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) came into effect on 7 July 2023. Subpart 2 (3.8) of the NPS-IB states that every territorial authority must undertake a district-wide assessment of vegetation and habitats to identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat indigenous fauna. Wellington City Council engaged Wildlands to provide a report that compares the identification process undertaken for WCC SNAs using Policy 23 of the RPS with the significance criteria set out in Appendix 1 of the NPS-IB².
- 16 Wellington City Council then engaged Wildlands in November 2023 to undertake a desktop review of 177 WCC SNAs to assess their eligibility against the criteria set out in Appendix 1 of the NPS-IB³. All sites that qualified as being significant according to the Policy 23 criteria also qualified as being significant according to NPS-IB criteria in Appendix 1.
- 17 Wildlands has also been working with Wellington City Council since late 2023 to develop vegetation clearance rules for areas outside SNAs. As part of the Proposed District Plan process, the Council required advice on options for managing vegetation clearance to address the protection of indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs, as per Objective 3.16 of the NPS-IB. This objective requires that significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs must be managed to give effect to the objectives and policies of the NPS-IB. The Stage 1 report for this work

² Wildland Consultants 2023a: Comparison between Wellington Regional Policy Statement criteria and NPS-IB criteria for assessment of Significant Natural Areas. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 3942j-ii*. Prepared for Wellington City Council. 13 pp.

³ Wildland Consultants 2023b: Desktop review of Wellington City Council Significant Natural Areas according to NPS-IB criteria. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 3942j-iii*. Prepared for Wellington City Council. 9 pp.

included a summary of the state of biodiversity in Wellington City⁴. The Stage 2 report for this work included a summary of current vegetation clearance rules in Wellington City, plus a summary of rules in other district plans in the Wellington Region and for other districts across New Zealand⁵.

EXTENT OF SNAS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND

- 18 Wellington City Council and Wildlands reviewed public submissions on the Proposed District Plan where concerns were raised regarding the identification and accuracy of SNA mapping in the proposed district plan. Eight of the SNAs submitted on required site visits, as requested in submissions, to undertake an on the ground assessment against the criteria of the NPS-IB.
- 19 During the site visits, each SNA was inspected by a Senior Principal Ecologist (myself) and a Senior Ecologist (Dr Nyree Fea). Staff from WCC also attended the site visit, as well as the landowner or other interested party. Dr Vaughan Keesing, the ecologist providing advice for Horokiwi Quarry, was present during the site walkover through two bush remnants at the quarry (SNA WC109). Ecological descriptions were recorded including vegetation structure (i.e. canopy, sub-canopy and ground vegetation), species composition and size (estimates of height and tree diameter). Representative photographs of each site were taken as well as photographs of the vegetation, key plant species, and fauna observed.

⁴ Wildland Consultants 2024a: The current and historic state of indigenous biodiversity in Wellington. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 3942l*. Prepared for Wellington City Council. 15 pp.

⁵ Wildland Consultants 2024b: Vegetation clearance rules for Wellington City. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 3942l-ii*. Prepared for Wellington City Council. 37 pp.

- 20 A desktop analysis of distribution data on plants and fauna⁶ was also undertaken to provide up-to-date records for Threatened or At Risk indigenous species at or near the study sites since the initial desktop audit of the SNAs was undertaken. The threat classifications for vascular plants and fauna species present at the sites were considered, at both national and regional scales.
- 21 Of the eight sites visited, 11 specific areas of SNAs were inspected. Of these 11, four forest fragments did not meet any of the four criteria within Policy 23. These included small remnants and modified vegetation within the following SNAs: WC003, WC004, WC135, and WC109. Wildlands prepared a spreadsheet with details of the observations taken during the site visits, the results of the desktop analyses, and the conclusions of the assessment against the RPS Policy 23 criteria (Appendix 1).
- 22 I support the WCC recommendation that a review of the SNA schedule is undertaken every 10 years to capture areas that may have matured or developed to become significant, and areas where changes have occurred on the land that has significantly altered the vegetation cover, so that it is no longer ecologically significant.

VEGETATION CLEARANCE RULES OUTSIDE SNAS

- 23 Wellington City has an Operative District Plan and a Proposed District Plan, both of which contain various provisions relating to the protection of ecologically significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna within defined areas (SNAs).

⁶ For NZ bats - The Department of Conservation (DOC) bat distribution database (October 2022 version); for NZ birds - The New Zealand bird atlas (available at <https://ebird.org/home>); for NZ lizards - The DOC herpetological database (August 2023 version); for NZ plants – The DOC Bioweb Threatened Plants database (2022).

- 24 The NPS-IB contains provisions requiring councils to make changes to their RMA plans to manage vegetation outside SNAs, including highly mobile indigenous fauna. As part of the Proposed District Plan process, Wellington City Council required advice on options for the management of vegetation clearance to address the protection of indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs.
- 25 Wildlands undertook a two-phase approach to developing possible vegetation clearance rules that might best apply to the various zones in Wellington City:
- The Stage 1 report summarised the historic and current state of indigenous biodiversity in Wellington.
 - The Stage 2 report addresses a range of vegetation clearance rules adopted by districts in the Wellington Region and other districts in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 26 The evidence presented below synthesises the information from the first two reports to present vegetation clearance options appropriate for the management of indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs in Wellington City.
- 27 The Stage 1 report summarised the amount of vegetation cover across public land, the Rural Zone, and Urban areas. For public land, 87% of the area of indigenous-dominant vegetation (3,463 hectares) is recognised as SNA; 23% of rural land with indigenous-dominant cover (7,680 hectares) is recognised as SNA; and for urban properties, there is no legal protection of land with indigenous-dominant vegetation that qualified as SNA.
- 28 The Stage 2 report identified that a number of district plans across the country and in the Wellington region use different approaches to manage the general clearance of indigenous vegetation. Some include objectives, policies or rules, including 'general vegetation clearance rules' as a mechanism to manage effects on indigenous biodiversity.

- 29 Considering these two reports, and in light of the requirement to implement clause 3.16 of the NPS-IB, I consider that general vegetation clearance rules are needed to adequately protect indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs, but that these can be tailored for different parts of the environment.
- 30 I consider that the most appropriate option for Wellington City is the application of spatial thresholds, with different allowances for different zones, i.e. the Urban areas, Open Space and Rural Zones, and recognition of trees which make an important contribution to ecosystem function.
- 31 Vegetation clearance rules will also require practical exemptions that will permit essential activities to continue within the respective zones. Examples of such exemptions include trimming of vegetation around power lines and other infrastructure, maintenance of sight lines, clearance of roadside vegetation, maintenance of existing tracks on rural and public land, including tracks established for the purpose of pest animal control, and maintenance of reasonable daylighting requirements for housing.
- 32 For the Urban areas, I consider that a maximum clearance area of 100 m² indigenous-dominant vegetation per property is appropriate in the context of Wellington City. This would provide a reasonable balance between protecting indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs while also providing for the objectives of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (2020), acknowledging that there is a need to allow some development in Urban areas. I note that a considerable amount of the Residential Zone in Wellington City is characterised by steep topography, which is a significant constraint to vegetation clearance on many residential properties.
- 33 Proposed areas of clearance for indigenous-dominant vegetation that exceed 100m² would require resource consent and the effects management hierarchy would need to be applied as part of an independent ecological assessment where there are significant adverse

effects or effects otherwise minimised. Consideration of the ecological value of the vegetation and habitat should be considered by the landowner when decisions are made about the location and extent of vegetation clearance. Indigenous-dominant vegetation and habitat on private property that is adjacent to, or contiguous with, large areas of indigenous-dominant vegetation and habitat (e.g. SNAs in Open Space or Rural zones) should be avoided as they are of higher value than isolated smaller patches of habitat. Similarly, areas that are either dominated by exotic species or largely comprise young indigenous vegetation should be prioritised for clearance over areas comprising more mature, intact, indigenous vegetation.

- 34 I have provided an example of 100m² contiguous clearance for a hypothetical ancillary sleepout building in Figure 1, including a pathway to the building site. Although SNAs within the residential zone are not included in the Proposed District Plan, the information the Council holds and has been included in a 'hearings viewer' provides important information on where significant indigenous biodiversity is concentrated. When consideration of the ecological integrity at this site is taken into account, construction of the sleepout beyond the boundary of the significant indigenous vegetation and habitat would not be feasible in this hypothetical case.

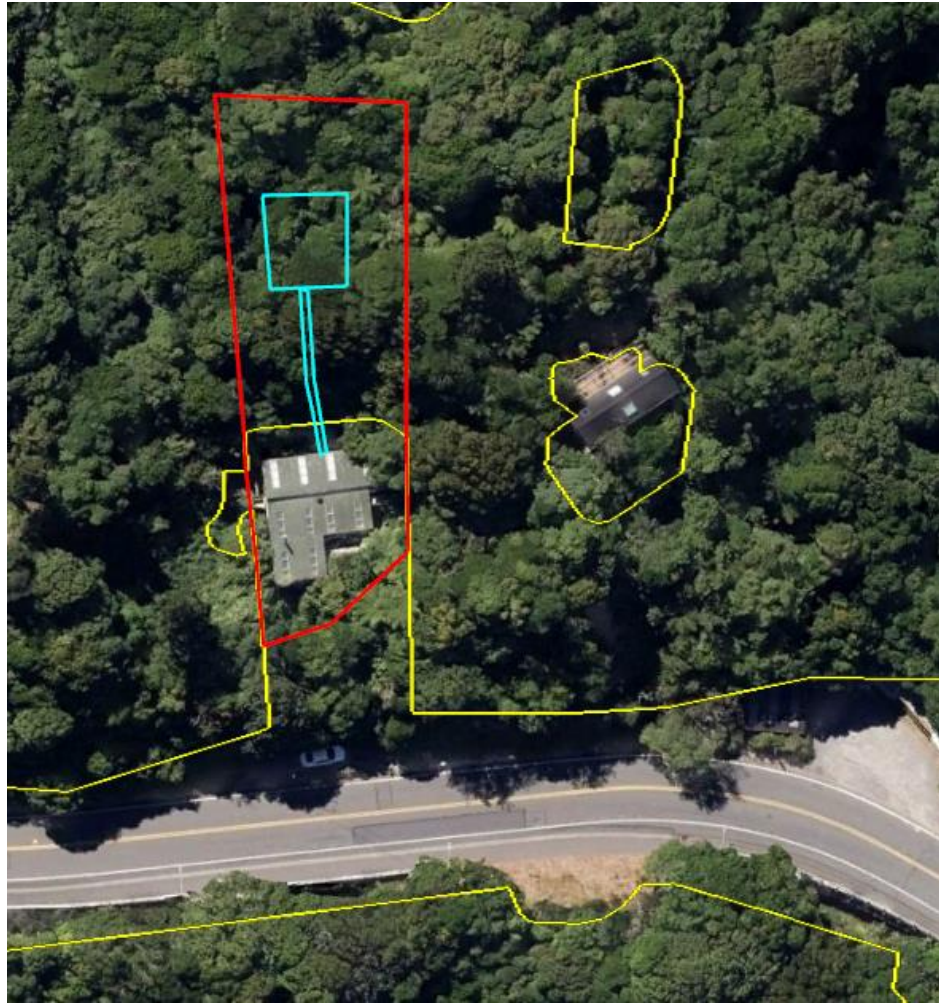


Figure 1. A hypothetical example of permitted clearance area of 100m² area (in light blue) for indigenous-dominant vegetation that is within an area of high ecological value (yellow lines show the proposed SNA area for WC079). The property at 93 Ngaio Gorge Road was used for this example, with the red outline showing the property boundary.

35 With regard to the protection of specific trees in Urban areas outside SNAs, I refer to paragraph 311 of the draft Section 42A report:

Sections 76(4A) to 76(4D) of the RMA prevents territorial authorities from setting blanket tree protection rules in 'urban environment allotments'. Consequently, district plans can only set rules to protect trees in these areas if the trees and street addresses of legal descriptions of the properties are specifically identified in the plans. This means trees need to be mapped on a property-by-property basis – a resource-intensive and costly task. Therefore, these provisions would

not apply to trees in urban areas unless the territorial authorities made specific rules that complied with sections 76(4A) to 76(4D) of the RMA.

- 36 Based on legal advice provided to the Council, any ‘outside SNA’ indigenous vegetation clearance rule cannot apply to trees outside of Rural and Open Space Zones unless those trees are also described in a schedule for the purpose of the clearance rule. As I understand, there cannot be a trigger for removal of a tree in Schedule 9 of the PDP in the rule in respect of Urban areas. I note that Schedule 9 of the Proposed District Plan lists certain tree species and corresponding sizes (diameters and heights) that must be avoided during vegetation clearance. The schedule recognises the inherent value of indigenous trees and their important to ecosystem health and function, e.g. food and habitat resources for indigenous fauna, carbon sequestration, and protecting against erosion and slips.
- 37 Adoption of the 100m² contiguous area clearance limit, as for any clearance threshold, still has the potential to result in a net loss of indigenous vegetation in Urban areas. However, with considerable areas of rural land regenerating back into indigenous cover (and not currently mapped as SNAs), there is likely to be, over time, a net increase in the extent of indigenous vegetation in Wellington City (refer to Figure 2 below). Taking this into consideration, it is likely that Wellington City Council can meet the overarching objective of the NPS-IB, which is to achieve at least a no overall loss of indigenous biodiversity (at the district scale).
- 38 This trend is also evident in other parts of the Wellington Region; for example, in Porirua and Kāpiti Coast Districts, where the removal of stock from former grazing land (or the reduction of grazing intensity, associated with a lack of clearance of indigenous regeneration) has allowed some SNAs to ‘expand’ as rank pasture grass is superseded by regenerating indigenous pioneer woody species.

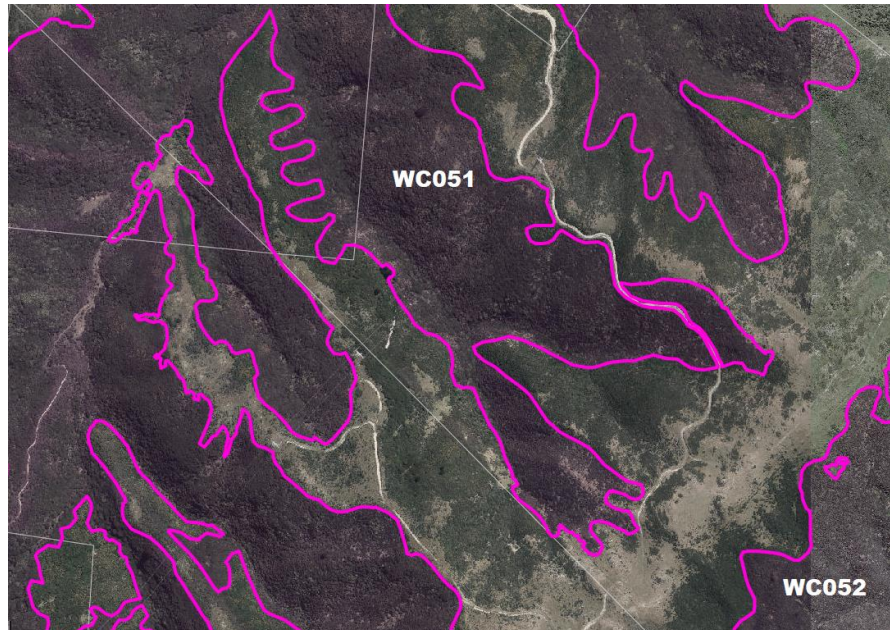


Figure 2. Natural regeneration outside mapped SNAs WC051 and WC052. Common species are likely to comprise mānuka, kānuka, māhoe, and ponga, with frequent gorse.

- 39 For the Rural and Open Space Zones, I consider that a permitted activity of up to 3,000m² contiguous area of indigenous-dominant vegetation is appropriate and aligns with the permitted activity provisions in the Wellington Natural Resources Plan (NRP) Rule 101: Earthworks. This will provide a reasonable balance between the protection of indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs in Rural and Open Space Zones, while also allowing for normal farming and recreational activities to occur.
- 40 I support the application of the Schedule 9 criteria as a means to minimise the clearance of indigenous vegetation of higher ecological value in Rural and Open Space Zones, although I acknowledge that compliance of this requirement will be difficult to enforce and/or monitor.

Nicholas Goldwater

Date: 9 August 2024

Appendix - summary of site assessments

WCC SNA ID	WCC SNA Name	Field Inspection Date	Address	Landowner Name	Attendees	Overall description	bat (desktop)	bird (desktop)	lizard (desktop)	Flora observed	Fauna observed	Criteria Triggered	Significance Assessment	Action Taken	General Comments	Landowner Submission Comment 2022	Conservation status
WC004 A	Forest fragments in Churton Park farmland	24/07/2024	End of Melkham Rd, Churton Park (meeting point)	Rod Halliday (developer: Upper Stebbings)	Adam McCutcheon (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Mahoe dominant treeland				Mahoe (15-20 dbh), COPare, Gorse	Fantaals, kahu, pipit (on farmland)	None (low quality stepping stone)	Low diversity, low integrity, low quality (unhealthy mahoe, heavily grazed). Drains into pasture dominant (T) seepage wetland	Entire remnant does not qualify as SNA (action needed: remove from schedule)	Grazed. Dieback on Mahoe (gorse spray damage ?)	Developer plans to build road through the lower part of this remnant. Works not yet consented (but 'approval' given)	National conservation status of bats (2022): Long tailed bat (Threatened nationally critical) Central lesser short-tailed bat (At Risk-declining)
WC004 B	Forest fragments in Churton Park farmland	24/07/2024	End of Melkham Rd, Churton Park (meeting point)	Rod Halliday (developer: Upper Stebbings)	Adam McCutcheon (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Tawa forest remnant surrounded by farmland				Tawa forest (60-70 dbh), DACad (60-70 dbh), CARser (10 dbh), HEDarb, PENcor, Fuchiu (20 dbh), Mahoe (40 dbh), Mamaku (mostly spray dead), Hungehang, Hrau	Fantaals, kahu, pipit (on farmland) // blackbird	Representative, Diversity (Forest and stream)	Intermittent stream (rocky and soft bottom)	Qualifies as SNA (no action needed)	Grazed. Dieback on Mahoe and Mamaku (gorse spray damage ?)	Currently no plans to clear, but developer would like to have the option in the future.	Regional conservation status bats (2022): Regional Critical
WC001 A	Redwood Bush & Surrounds	24/07/2024	End of Melkham Rd, Churton Park (meeting point)	Rod Halliday (developer: Upper Stebbings)	Adam McCutcheon (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Tawa dominant treeland near tawa forest and exotic forestry				1 Rewerea (40-50 dbh), COPare, HEDarb (30-40 dbh), DACad (40 dbh), 1 large Pine (9-10m tall)	Fantaals, kahu, pipit (on farmland)	None (low quality stepping stone)	Low diversity, low integrity (however, if fenced the ground tier and understory would revert within 5-10 years). Borders permanent stream (clear water with cobble, rocky, and smooth bottom). Indigenous bats, birds, and lizards may den/nest and forage in treeland (e.g. dead spars, flaky bark (tawa, old pine) for bats).	Entire remnant does not qualify as SNA (action needed: remove from schedule)	Heavily grazed. Some dieback on mature tawa trees.	Developer plans to build road through this remnant. Works not yet consented (but 'approval' given)	National conservation status of lizards (2022): Ornate skink (At Risk-declining) Copper skink (At Risk-declining) Glossy brown skink (At Risk-declining) Barkwing gecko (At Risk-declining) Nuhare gecko (At Risk-declining)
WC042	Scrub along Makara Stream tributary Quartz Hill	23/07/2024	403 Makara Road	M&P Makara Family Trust	Ruth Paul (landowner), Hayden Beavis (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Kiwi release site. Forest along ephemeral stream. Indigenous forest along stream margins and outer	Bat database (Oct 2022 version, checked 19-07-24): 19 km (Porirua unknown sp.)	North Island brown kiwi (Regionally Endangered), NZ Falcon (Regionally Critical), Kaka (At Risk-Reduced), RC Parakeet (Regionally Vulnerable)	Herp database (Aug 2023 version, checked 22-7-24): No herp records	Mahoe-Manuka-Mamaku dominant: Poroporo, Lancelwood (15-20 dbh) up to 6-8 m tall in gully centre. Supports COPgrs, Hungehang, Kawakawa, Lancelwood, MYRau, Wineberry, CYAde, CYAred, Schleg, BBlog, METul, RUBic, (7 dbh). Mahoe (15-20 dbh); also 25-30dbh along top margin, CARser (18-20 dbh), copper skink (1955)	Kahu, blackbird, fantail, warbler. Possible arboreal geckos, snails	Diversity, Rarity	Diverse, intact area of regenerating forest and scrub, provides habitat for threatened species such as kiki, kaka and kakari	Qualifies as SNA (no action needed)	Landowners are doing an impressive job fencing indigenous remnants and planting a large area where pines have been cleared (18,000 trees). Kiwi continue to be heard on their property since the release	Amend description of SNA to remove a portion of the gully land to the south of the stream running uphill (refer to submission for illustration). Ruth stated that they were unhappy with how the SNA was clipped on after an earlier site visit (approx. 10 years ago). Currently site is intended for restoration.	Regional conservation status of lizards (2022): Ornate skink (Threatened-Regionally vulnerable) Copper skink (Threatened-Regionally vulnerable) Barkwing gecko (Threatened-Regionally vulnerable) Nuhare gecko (At Risk-declining) Glossy brown skink (At Risk-declining)
WC104 A (eastern edge of west branch)	Tawa forest remnants in Woodridge farmland	24/07/2024	83 Grenada Drive, Grenada (meeting point)	Rod Halliday (developer: Lincolnshire Farm)	Rod Halliday, Adam McCutcheon (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Tawa forest remnants surrounded by farmland	Bat database (Oct 2022 version, checked 19-07-24): 10 km (Porirua unknown sp.)	NZ Falcon (Regionally Critical), Kaka (At Risk-Reduced), RC Parakeet (Regionally Vulnerable)	Herp database (Aug 2023 version, checked 22-7-24): 1 barking gecko (2008), Nat (checked 22-7-24): no herp records	Kahikatea (10 dbh 3m height), Mahoe (20-60 dbh), GRIT (25 dbh), URTfer, COPare (10 dbh), ASPflac, BEtaw (20-40 dbh), CYAra, RPica, PENcor, URTfer, Kokeheke (15-20 dbh), Ramarama (1m high, 7 dbh), PPIela, DACad (15 dbh), Lancelwood (15-30 dbh), MYRau, PARap, Lancelwood (10-15 dbh), METul	Tui, Fantail, Warbler, Falcon	Diversity, Representative, Rarity (Falcon), Ecological context (links other forest remnants)	Borders intermittent stream (deeply incised). Forest currently protects freshwater values and buffers stream from sedimentation and erosion from ongoing earthworks. Sedimentation from recent large-scale earthworks adjacent to gully apparently being contained (e.g. with sedimentation fences and retention pond).	Qualifies as SNA (no action needed)	Cattle grazed. Council ball station line along gully (discontinued?)	Developer has consent to develop certain areas within these remnants.	
WC104 B (middle remnant)	Tawa forest remnants in Woodridge farmland	24/07/2024	83 Grenada Drive, Grenada (meeting point)	Rod Halliday (developer: Lincolnshire Farm)	Adam McCutcheon (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Tawa forest remnants surrounded by farmland. Drains into Junco dominant wetland	as above	as above	as above	COPare Shrubland along edges, KNilex (15 dbh), Lancelwood, Rimu (15 dbh), Pukatea, Swamp maire, ME Tper, Tawa (40-50 dbh), Miro (7 dbh), PENcor, URTfer, Kokeheke (15-20 dbh), Ramarama (1m high, 7 dbh), PPIela, DACad (15 dbh), Lancelwood (15-30 dbh), MYRau, PARap, Lancelwood (10-15 dbh), METul	Falcon?	Diversity (wetland and forest), freshwater-terrestrial sequence, Representative (swamp forest in uncommon), Rarity (Falcon, swamp maire, ramarama), Ecological context (links other forest remnants)	Tawa forest (with connection to seepage wetland: ISOpro, monkey musk, JUNaph dominant)	Qualifies as SNA (no action needed)	Cattle grazed. Electric single-wire fence running through block.	Amend mapping with respect to Lincolnshire Farm development area to remove the SNA from any areas covered by the resource consent reference 08 No. 65151 as this consent allows for earthworks and associated vegetation clearance. Developer has consent to develop certain areas within these remnants.	
WC104 C (eastern fragment)	Tawa forest remnants in Woodridge farmland	24/07/2024	83 Grenada Drive, Grenada (meeting point)	Rod Halliday (developer: Lincolnshire Farm)	Adam McCutcheon (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Tawa forest remnants surrounded by farmland. Drains into Junco and pasture dominant wetland	as above	as above	as above	Hinau, Rimu (4m H 50 dbh), Tawa (20-30 dbh), Mahoe 20 dbh, Fuchsia (15-20), METul, HEDarb, Few Pukatea (8m H, 40 dbh), MYRau, RUBic, PENcor (similar habitat to WC104 A&B)	Tui, Fantail, pipit (on farmland) // Blackbird, Quail	Diversity (wetland, intermittent stream, and forest), Representative, Ecological context (links other forest remnants)	Tawa forest (with seepage wetland: JUNaph dominant)	Qualifies as SNA (no action needed)	Cattle grazed.	Developer has consent to develop certain areas within these remnants.	
WC109	Coast Escarpment broadleaved forest hut Road between Ngauranga and Horokiki	26/07/2024	Horokiki Quarry	Horokiki Quarries Limited (271.9, 271.21, opposed by the Director-General of Conservation (S106-2, 271.93, 271.94)	Ross Baker (Horokiki Quarry), Joshua Patterson (WCC), Vaughan Keesing (BlueGreen Consultants), Marcella Freeman (WCC Planner), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Serial indigenous forest and scrub (lots of old rubbish stream across ground)	Bat database (Oct 2022 version, checked 19-07-24): 12 km (Porirua unknown sp.)	NZ Falcon (Regionally Critical), RC Parakeet (Regionally Vulnerable)	Herp database (Aug 2023 version, checked 22-7-24): 3 ngahere gecko (2008), 1 ngahere gecko (2004), Northern grass skink (1996-2003) -Nat (checked 22-7-24): no records	Southern feature: Ngaho (20-40 dbh), Mahoe (30-40), Mamaku, Kawakawa, Kanuka, Limes (clematis), parsonia sp., LSP but, ASPfl, BLEfha, MCGla, COPgrs, Rangora, MYRau, COPare, MICpus, HEDarb (Outer margins: Holly, Gorse Senecio vulgaris). Northern linear feature: Same but smaller stature scrub: Mahoe (10 dbh), Kawakawa, MYRau, COPgrs, HEDarb (5-8 dbh), Rangora, MICpus, CYAde (outer margins: Gorse, Bidibiddi, Buddliea, HEfBarb, Blackberry, Pampas). Even more rubble on ground.	Grey warbler, kereru, tunnel web spider // blackbird	Representative, Rare Biodiversity Strategy	70-80 year old coastal forest. <15% of coastal environment overlying indigenous coastal forest. 1.5% of original coastal forest remains (50ha left: WCC Biodiversity Strategy)	Southern feature qualifies as SNA (no action needed). Northern linear feature is younger (indigenous scrub) with a high proportion of exotic weeds, and should be removed from schedule.	Amend extent of WC109 to reflect activities permitted under existing use certificate, noting they have consents as to whether this part of their site would have the biodiversity values to merit its inclusion in the SNA. Amend mapping to remove an area of the SNA covered by an existing use certificate.		
WC135	Carey Gully scrub and shrubland, South Coast	26/07/2024	291 Happy Valley Road, Wellington WGN 6023	Smith Geurzen (475.2, 475.3); John Mulholland (497.2, 497.3)	John Mulholland (landowner), Smith Geurzen (amateur botanist), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Serial indigenous forest and shrubland	Bat database (Oct 2022 version, checked 19-07-24): 22 km (Porirua unknown sp.)	North Island brown kiwi (Regionally Endangered), NZ Falcon (Regionally Critical), Kaka (At Risk-Reduced), RC Parakeet (Regionally Vulnerable)	Herp database (Aug 2023 version, checked 22-7-24): 1 barking gecko (2008), 1 ngahere gecko (2004), Northern grass skink (1996-2003) -Nat (checked 22-7-24): no records	Mahoe (20-25 dbh, 5m high), Mamaku (4-5m high), Kawakawa, Rangora, MCGla, ASPfl, ASPfl, POLic, BLEf, BLEf, BLEf, CYAde, PENpne, URTfer. Southern strip: mixed shrubland: Dnganga, Nighthshade (SOLche), Umbrella sedge (CYPha), Buddliea, Inweved, Gorse, Blackberry	Falcon, grey warbler, fantail // duncock, blackbird	Rarity (Falcon seen), Diversity (birds, invertebrates and likely lizards)	Approx. 30 year old mahoe indigenous forest (indigenous shrubland to south not significant)	Southern strip (see Fig 4) does not qualify as SNA (action needed: remove from schedule)	Landowners have undertaken clearance as part of consented works	Amend description in Schedule 8 in that only the following parts of this SNA are protected: The 3m+ vegetation that is north and west of the loop shaped farm track; and the stand of 3m+ vegetation in the centre to the south of the site. Amend the mapping.	
WC175	Moa Point Gravel Dunes	23/07/2024	NA	Public land	Hayden Beavis (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Gravel beach	Bat database (Oct 2022 version, checked 19-07-24): 23 km (Porirua unknown sp.)	Reef heron, black shag, wrybill, (all Regionally critical), little penguin, little shag, little black shag, pied shag, variable oystercatcher, banded dotterel, red-billed gull (all Regionally vulnerable), White-fronted tern (Regionally endangered)	Herp database (Aug 2023 version, checked 22-7-24): No herp records (Florence: copper skink found nearby at dog pound; plus 1500+ Northern grass skinks for Wildlands project)	Austrostepia stipoides, COPrep, MUEAuv, PHOTen and PHOCook, FInnod, Disphyma australe (native ice plant), Native spinach (Tetragonia), Apium prostratum (native celery), OXfol, Salsola quinqueflora (Deschod samphire), Sisa stipoides (weed and boning grass) // Senecio laevis, Ranago coronopus (Black's horn plantain), Lupinus arboreus, Raphanus raphanistrum (pointed charlock), PLAla, Borosened, Wild radish/mustard, gorse, cockfoot (road edging, onion weed, Gazania sp. (orange flower)	red-billed gull, black-billed gull	Diversity, Representative, Rarity (Northern blue penguin, Dune black, Shingle Beach-Regionally Endangered), Ecological context (links other coastal habitats)	Mixed shrubland and flaxland on gravel dunes	Qualifies as SNA (no action needed)	The rationale for not protecting bird habitat of potential risk to aircraft safety does not fit into any of the criteria for assessing ecological significance, and is therefore a council or resource consenting matter.	Delete from Schedule 8 on the basis that this has been imposed without a detailed field analysis to confirm that the areas are in fact significant and warrant the degree of protection afforded by an SNA; and in any event, should not be an SNA if this interferes with the safe operation and functioning of regionally significant infrastructure - ie WAI, is concerned that protecting bird habitat could pose risk to aircraft safety.	
WC176	Lyle Bay Dunes	23/07/2024	NA	Public land	Hayden Beavis (WCC), Nick Goldwater (Wildlands), Nyree Fea (Wildlands)	Sand dunes with naturalised pingao	Bat database (Oct 2022 version, checked 19-07-24): 22 km (Porirua unknown sp.)	Reef heron, black shag (all Regionally critical), little penguin, little shag, little black shag, pied shag, variable oystercatcher, banded dotterel, red-billed gull (all Regionally vulnerable), White-fronted tern (Regionally endangered)	Herp database (Aug 2023 version, checked 22-7-24): No herp records (Florence: copper skink found nearby at dog pound; plus 1500+ Northern grass skinks for Wildlands project)	PHOTenax, FICapi (pingao), COPrep, Ficinia nodosa (planted), NZ celery, NZ iceplant (Disphyma australe), Tetragonia trigyna (native spinach) // Senecio laevis, Lobularia maritima, Callie maritima (European radish), Marram, 5th African ice plant, Tree mallow, Matthiola incana (hoary stock)	red-billed gull, black-billed gull	Diversity, Representative, Rarity (Northern blue penguin, pingao, red-billed gull, Active and Stable Dune-Regionally Endangered), Ecological context (links other coastal habitats)	Mix of indigenous-dominant sedgeland and exotic-dominant herbfield	Qualifies as SNA (no action needed)	Intact but narrow strip of active dunes dominated by indigenous plant species. Exotic herbaceous species are present throughout the dunes but are not currently affecting ecological processes. Localised erosion is present at eastern end of beach.	Airport against SNA protection as concerned about birds inhabiting the site causing safety risk for aircraft.	