



HEARING STREAM 3 CLIMATE CHANGE – GENERAL TOPIC

Section 42A reporting officer – Jerome Wyeth

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Climate Change – General: Provisions in this topic

- Change 1 introduced new climate change chapter – Chapter 3.1A
- Introduction text and six climate change regionally significant issues
- Five objectives – Objective CC.1, Objective CC.2, Objective CC.3, Objective CC.7, Objective CC.8
- **Policy CC.8:** Prioritising reductions of GHG emissions
- **Method CC.1:** Climate change education and behaviour change programme
- **Method CC.2:** Guidance on avoiding, reducing and offsetting emissions
- Anticipated environmental result
- Definitions (GHG emission assessment, climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation, greenhouse gas emissions)



Key issues raised in submissions – Climate change general

- Approx 342 original submissions and 246 further submissions on topic
- The extent to which Change 1 should address climate change mitigation
- Potential for the climate change provisions to duplicate and conflict with national climate change legislation and policy
- Concerns with the emission reduction targets in Objective CC.3 and the extent to which these can be achieved under the RMA and within the RMA functions of regional councils and territorial authorities
- Policy CC.8 – concerns about how it will be implemented and significant challenges creating a regime for offsetting GHG emissions in district plans
- General comments and requested amendments to improve the clarity of the provisions



Key recommended amendments – section 42A report

- Retaining the general intent of the climate change provisions on the basis this is a regionally significant resource management that requires immediate action
- Amendments to the proposed climate change objectives to clarify the outcome sought, improve clarity, while retaining the focus and intent
- Amendments to Policy CC.8 to provide more specific direction on the approach to avoiding and reducing emissions (gross and net) by adopting a hierarchy approach
- Amending Method CC.2 to refocus on developing guidelines to support Policy CC.8
- The amendments to Policy CC.8 and Method C.2 intended to work in tandem to ensure the provisions are implemented in a coordinated and cost-effective manner that is aligned with national climate change policy and initiatives
- New definition of *greenhouse gas emissions*



Outstanding areas of contention in submitter evidence

- The achievability of Objective CC.1 and CC.2
- Remaining concerns with Objective CC.3:
 - Achievability under the RMA
 - Sector specific targets
 - How the targets will be assessed through planning and consenting processes
- The scope and necessity of Objective CC.7 and CC.8
- A number of concerns with Policy CC.8:
 - Whether the policy is needed
 - Application of the policy to territorial authorities
 - Complexity of the policy - defer implementation until Method CC.2 guidance is available
 - Strengthen wording of the policy

Key recommendations in rebuttal evidence

- Retain Objective CC.1 and Objective CC.2
- Amendments to introduction of Chapter 3.1A to:
 - Clarifying the role of the RPS in reducing emissions within a broader national context
 - Clarifying that Objective CC.3 is not intended to be applied as a hard limit/target and/or an allocation regime between sectors
- Amendments to Objective CC.3 to remove the transport specific targets
- Minor amendments to Objective CC.7 and CC.8 to clarify scope
- Retaining Policy CC.8 while expanding the explanation

