

**Before the Hearings Panel
At Waimakariri District Council**

Under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan

Between **Various**

Submitters

And **Waimakariri District Council**

Respondent

**Council s42A Officer's Summary Statement on the Ecosystems and Indigenous
Biodiversity chapter s42A Report on behalf of the Waimakariri District Council**

Date: 16 – 17 September 2024

Proposed Waimakariri District Plan

Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter s42A Report

Hearing Stream 7A: 16 - 17 September 2024

s42A Reporting Officer's Summary Statement

1. My name is Shelley Milosavljevic, I am a Senior Policy Planner at Waimakariri District Council. I prepared the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter s42A Report which sets out the issues raised in submissions and my recommendations on them.
2. Kate Steel, Expert Ecologist from the District Council is here with me today if you have any questions for her in relation to her evidence in Appendix C of my report.
3. I consider the key issues raised in the relevant submissions related to:
 - a. The approach for biodiversity offsetting;
 - b. The uncertainty of, and the gaps in, the unmapped SNA approach;
 - c. The provision for additional protection of biodiversity, contrasting with provision for greater enablement of certain activities;
 - d. Alignment with higher order documents, including removal of unnecessary duplication and improved clarity;
 - e. The appropriateness of the boundaries / extent of three SNAs;
 - f. The approach for the maintenance of improved pasture; and
 - g. The provision for transferable development rights and strengthening of the approach for bonus allotments and bonus residential units.
4. The key amendments I recommended in response to submissions are:
 - a. The rationalisation of the provisions relating to biodiversity offsetting, and addition of a policy relating to an effects management hierarchy;
 - b. The removal of the ECO-SCHED2 approach for unmapped SNAs and amendment of the definition of SNA to be mapped SNAs along with any other areas meeting SNA criteria;
 - c. Enhanced provision for infrastructure activities, and integration of these provisions with the EI chapter;

- d. Strengthening the approach for bonus allotments and bonus residential units;
- e. Improved alignment of provisions with higher order documents, including removal of unnecessary duplication, improved clarity, particularly in relation to the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry;
- f. Strengthening the approach for minimising indigenous vegetation clearance outside SNAs;
- g. Increasing the buffer (setback) between irrigation infrastructure and SNAs to reduce edge effects;
- h. The addition of a policy in relation to biodiversity's role in climate change resilience;
- i. The broadening the definition of 'indigenous vegetation clearance'; and
- j. Reducing the extent (boundaries) of three mapped SNAs.