

MAKARA OHARIU COMMUNITY BOARD

Submission on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement

Date for submission: 15 June 2008.

NB: This is a late submission and we request a waiver under section 37 for it to be considered. The Board submitted on the Draft Policy Statement and has been busy with other matters in its jurisdiction which have contributed to the delay in submitting. The Board's belatedness is unlikely to effect any other party, and the limited comment below is relevant to your considerations particularly in respect of renewable energy developments and other rural area matters.

The Makara Ohariu Community Board ('MOCB') makes the following comments in respect of the objectives, policies and methods in the Proposed Regional Policy Statement ('PRPS') which are potentially problematic for residents of the rural area of Wellington District. MOCB has submitted on the Draft Plan and is generally supportive matters pertaining to the rural area that are not included in this submission. MOCB is also appreciative that the bulk of matters we originally submitted on have been successfully reflected in the PRPS.

OBJECTIVE 1

MOCB approves of the reverse sensitivity objective including both alternatives, i.e. new sensitive activities not locating close to land uses that generate odour smoke or dust, and new land use activities locating near sensitive activities.

OBJECTIVES 9 &10

Policy 6 and 38:

While policy 6 defines renewable energy as energy produced from various sources including solar, 38(b) limits the consideration to wind and marine, using the term 'nationally significant' and the need to place these generation facilities near to where the resources exist. We submit that this also applies to solar, both in terms of its national significance (the Wellington Region receives more sunlight hours on average than any other area in NZ on an annual basis) and in terms of its technological development (domestic and industrial solar arrays are becoming more affordable). We also submit that the term 'national significance' should not be used in this context as it is a term particularly associated with resource consent 'weighting' considerations and should not be confused as a consideration of the same kind here. We suggest the words "the

nationally significant...” be deleted and (b) begin with the words “wind, marine and solar renewable energy resources ...”.

OBJECTIVE 9 (c) The word ‘maximise’ should be changed to ‘make best use of’. Maximise indicates a use of all resource at any cost, regardless of any community or effects-based drawbacks.

OBJECTIVE 9 MOCB submits addition of wording:

9(f) ‘do not adversely affect local communities’.

OBJECTIVE 21

Policy 55(c):

While the intent of this clause is stated to be encouragement for the location of residential settlements in the rural area close to existing services, with use of energy efficient design and renewable energy systems, MOCB submits that it provides for a higher level of weighting towards renewable energy industrial-scale generation plants in the rural area and that this is unjustified and unfair in this context.

Policy 55(b):

With respect to the above comment on 55(c), the word ‘settlements’ excludes consideration of any individual residential location within the rural area and MOCB strenuously disagrees with the use of this word on it’s own. This clause should read “settlements and individual dwellings”.

We would like the opportunity to speak to this submission should the opportunity arise.

Ruth Paul
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