

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF ZACHARY KIM ROBINSON ON BEHALF OF PORT BLAKELY LIMITED

INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Zachary Kim Robinson. My qualifications and experience are set out in my Evidence in Chief.
2. This Summary of Evidence sets out the key points within my Evidence in Chief.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

3. South Canterbury Bat (Pekapeka) is one of the most fragile colonies of Pekapeka remaining in New Zealand. Port Blakely Limited (**Port Blakely**) has known Pekapeka roost habitat within two of their forests in the Timaru District. Port Blakely has been engaged with the South Canterbury Long Tailed Bat Working Group since 2010. This group is made up of many stakeholders, including DoC and Timaru District Council. This group carries out a range of functions to harmonise Pekapeka protection measures throughout South Canterbury.
4. Port Blakely are committed to the South Canterbury Pekapeka Program, extending financial and in-kind support to minimise impacts through forestry practices, enhance and protect Pekapeka colonies and habitats through social awareness, pest control efficacies and the purchase of specialised monitoring equipment.
5. The DoC Bat Roost Protocols (**DoC Protocols**) have been adopted across New Zealand and are a practical guide on how to safely assess and where necessary remove trees in bat roost areas in a way which minimises risk to Pekapeka. Port Blakely has integrated these practices into their Pekapeka management plans, along with other measures which protect Pekapeka habitat.
6. The DoC Protocols were updated in October 2024 and further align with Port Blakely's submission on the Proposed Plan of minimising the requirement to use a suitably qualified ecologist at the potential bat roost assessment phase.
7. The use of Automatic Bat Monitors (**ABM**) is an objective tool for monitoring Pekapeka activity and assessing potential roost trees, when applied as recommended in the DoC Protocols.

8. The costs and perceived difficulty of coordinating a suitably qualified ecologist to assess potential roost trees has the potential for unintended consequences with tree owners choosing not to engage in the Pekapeka program and losing community support and engagement.
9. The use of the DoC Protocols and Port Blakely's Pekapeka management plans have been successful in maintaining Pekapeka populations in Port Blakely's forests. In my opinion the Proposed Plan rules should be amended to align with this expert advice about known long-tailed bat behaviour and bat habitat.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present my evidence and I am happy to address any questions.

Zachary Robinson
7th November 2024