

Summary of Evidence Statement for proposed Timaru District Plan

Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Natural Character and Natural Features and Landscapes Chapters and, the Open Space and Recreation Zones (OSRZ) Topic (Hearing D)

12 November 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa, ko Jolene Irvine tōku ingoa, my name is Jolene Irvine. I am appearing before the Hearings Panel today on behalf of the Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury).

1. My qualifications and experience are set out in my evidence dated 25 October 2024.
2. I am a Rivers Planning Advisor at Environment Canterbury and my evidence provides details on the alignment of the proposed Timaru District Plan (pTDP) Long-Tailed Bat Habitat provisions and the delivery of the Regional Council's flood, erosion and drainage responsibilities.
3. My evidence, alongside Mr Michael Boschen's evidence, details the flood and erosion protection schemes that overlap with the Long-Tailed Bat Habitat, the reason for undertaking these protection works, and the established environmental planning processes undertaken by the Regional Council.
4. My submitted evidence suggested a new permitted activity rule, ECO-R4, PER-3, that would provide for vegetation clearance required for the delivery of flood and erosion protection work within the Long-Tailed Bat Habitat Area.
5. After submitting my evidence, I have been involved in further discussions between staff at the Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and Ms White on my drafted ECO-R4, PER-3, and we have reached agreement on an amended version (Attachment 1).
6. This updated version would only apply to the Regional Council, where the trees to be cleared are risking the integrity of the public flood or erosion protection schemes, where PER-1 or PER-2 could not be complied with, and would require assessment by a suitably qualified expert against the Department of Conservation Bat Roost Protocols. This approach allows for a cost and time efficient process that enables flood protection and ensures Long-Tailed Bat Habitat protection.
7. I recommend the hearings panel adopt the amended wording, as attached to this Evidence Statement.
8. I am happy to answer any questions about my evidence.

No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

Attachment 1:

Requested addition to ECO-R4, of the proposed Timaru District Plan – He Po. He Ao. Ka Awatea

PER-1

The trees being cleared:

1. Were planted for timber production (plantation forest and woodlots); or
2. Are within a domestic garden; or
3. Are causing an imminent danger to human life, structures, or utilities and the clearance is undertaken in accordance with advice from a suitably qualified arborist; or

PER-2

The tree is:

1. a native tree with a trunk circumference of less than 31.5cm, when measured at 1.5m above [ground level](#); or
2. an exotic tree, excluding willow, with a trunk circumference of less than 70cm, when measured at 1.5m above [ground level](#) greater; or
3. any willow tree with a trunk circumference of less than 120cm, when measured at 1.5m above [ground level](#).

PER 3:

Where PER-1 and PER-2 can not be complied with, and:

(1) The trees being cleared present a risk to the integrity of the public flood or erosion protection schemes administered by the Regional Council; and

(2) The works are completed by the Regional Council or an agent authorised by the Regional Council; and

(3) The works are assessed as being consistent with the Department of Conservation's Bat Roost Protocols (October 2024) by a suitably qualified and experienced expert; and

(4) A written record of the assessment under Per-3(3), is provided to Timaru District Council and the Department of Conservation 10 working days prior to carrying out the works.