

**Speaking Notes for Elizabeth Williams, Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation  
Proposed Timaru District Hearing D: Open Space Zones, Hazards and Risk & Natural  
Environment, 12 November 2024**

Kia Ora, my name is Elizabeth (Liz) Williams, and I am a RMA Planner at *Te Papa Atawhai*, the Department of Conservation. Thank you for hearing me today.

- The D-Gs submission sought amendments to a number of provisions in the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter. Overall, my evidence generally supports the s42A Officer's Report recommendations in relation to these submission points.
- I accept the approach of the s42A Report Officer which is to recommend a future Plan Change to give full effect to the NPSIB rather than require significant changes to the ECO chapter objectives, policies and rules. However, where there is scope and ability to give effect to the NPSIB without significant changes, I have recommended amendments as set out in Appendix 1 of my evidence.
- I have recommended specific changes to the ECO.R1 rules to ensure that there is consistency and clarity regarding provisions for the clearance of indigenous vegetation in relation to improved pasture based on evidence provided by Mr Clayton.
- I support the recommendation in the s42A report to extend the Bat Habitat Protection overlay and recommend some minor changes based on the evidence provided by Biodiversity Ranger, Simon Waugh.
- In general, I support the changes recommended in the s42A reports relating to the Natural Character, Natural Features and Landscapes and Natural Open Space Zone provisions.

- In relation to Federated Farmers evidence proposing an amendment to the definition of *clearance of indigenous vegetation* to remove reference to 'grazing', I do not consider that this is necessary. This is because grazing is considered to be a method of vegetation clearance or removal. Given this, there is a proposed new permitted activity to allow for 'light' grazing within areas of improved pasture. Therefore, the definition still needs to include the word 'grazing' as it is considered to be a method which would result in the clearance of indigenous vegetation. The permitted activity rules in ECO.R1 then provide for grazing subject to the permitted activity standards.
- In relation to ECAN's evidence requiring a permitted activity pathway for tree removal within the Bat Habitat Protection Overlay and flood/erosion protection schemes, Mr Waugh together with other DOC Staff and I have discussed this proposal further with ECAN. I support the proposed permitted activity standard (PER 3) as tabled in ECAN's evidence today.

I am happy to take any questions.