

BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
AT THE TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
2 KING GEORGE PLACE, TIMARU CENTRAL

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act (“**the Act**”)

AND

IN THE MATTER of the hearing of submissions on the Proposed
Timaru District Plan
Hearing Stream E: Subdivision

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF HANNAH RITCHIE
FOR NEW ZEALAND PORK INDUSTRY BOARD
(NZPork)
January 2025

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. This statement of evidence has been prepared in relation to a submission from the New Zealand Pork Industry Board (NZ Pork) on the Proposed Timaru District Plan.
2. Reverse sensitivity arising from urban encroachment and rural lifestyle developments are a significant resource management issue for the pork industry.
3. NZ Pork supports the S42a report recommended amendments to SUB-O3 Rural Subdivision. These amendments align with previously recommended amendments to rural zone policy on reverse sensitivity and establish a consistent and appropriate framework for managing this issue.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

4. My name is Hannah Ritchie. I am currently employed as the Environment and Planning Manager at NZ Pork. Prior to this role, I held the position of Senior Environmental Advisor at NZPork from 2019 – 2023. Additionally, I have worked as a policy advisor for the Foundation for Arable Research and spent seven years in resource management roles at Canterbury Regional Council.
5. I have a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Southampton and a Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Management from Lincoln University. I have also completed courses in Intermediate Sustainable Nutrient Management and Agricultural Greenhouse Gases at Massey University.
6. While this is not a hearing under the Environment Court, I have read the Environment Court's Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses, and I agree to comply with it. My qualifications are set out above. I confirm that the issues addressed in this brief of evidence are within my area of expertise, except where I state I am relying on what I have been told by another person. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

ABOUT THE NEW ZEALAND PORK INDUSTRY

7. NZPork is funded by about 65 commercial pig farmers through a statutory levy paid on all pigs slaughtered at licensed premises. It is a relatively small livestock sector that is uniquely domestically focused, with a farmgate value of \$186 million (2024 estimate)
8. About sixty per cent of commercial pig farms are located in the Canterbury region. There are currently three commercial pig farms and one major pork processing plant in the Timaru District.

REVERSE SENSITIVITY

9. NZ Pork has previously presented evidence regarding the impacts and risks of reverse sensitivity on commercial pig farming in the Timaru District¹. I will not repeat this evidence here, but to summarise, reverse sensitivity issues—primarily stemming from odour complaints, especially in areas experiencing urban encroachment or rural lifestyle subdivision—pose a significant resource management challenge for pig farmers.
10. As such, NZ Pork seeks robust protections against reverse sensitivity in productive rural areas.

SUBDIVISION

11. NZ Pork supports the recommendations of the S42a author concerning SUB-O3 Rural Subdivision.
12. In particular we support the recommended change of directive to ‘avoid’ rather than ‘minimise’ the fragmentation of productive rural land under SUB-O3² and the direction to ‘avoid where possible, and otherwise minimise’ reverse sensitivity effects under SUB-03.4³.
13. We agree with the S42a author that this aligns with the recommended amendments to GRUZ-P5 set out in the Interim Reply Version of the S42A Report prepared by Mr Maclennan and establishes a consistent and appropriate policy framework for this issue.

¹ SUB#247 – NZ Pork Industry Board – Evidence Hannah Ritchie – Hearing B.

² Para 7.2.34 S42a Report Subdivision and Development Areas.

³ Para 7.2.42 S42a Report Subdivision and Development Areas.

Hannah Ritchie

January 2025