

Speaking notes for Simon Waugh, Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation.

Proposed Timaru District Plan, Hearing D Eco Chapter 12th November 2024.

1. Hi, my name is Simon Waugh and I have been a biodiversity ranger for the Department of Conservation for 3 years. Part of my role involves the monitoring of long-tailed bats in the Timaru district.
2. Under the Department of Conservation's threat classification system long-tailed bats are ranked as "Threatened-Nationally Critical". This is the most severe threat ranking before extinction.
3. My evidence addresses:
 - a. The distribution of long-tailed bats in the Timaru district
 - b. Impacts on long-tailed bats from tree clearance
 - c. Impacts on long-tailed bats from artificial light
 - d. DOC's management of long-tailed bats in the Timaru district
 - e. Best practice for mitigating impacts on bats when felling trees in long-tailed bat habitat areas
 - f. Specific comments on s42a report.
4. In terms of my comments on the s42a report, I support the proposal in the s42a report to extend the bat habitat protection area to align with the long-tailed bat overlay as defined on ECAN's Canterbury Maps. This extension would match known bat habitat in the district.
5. In regards to the proposal in the s42a report to include the use of an Automatic Bat Monitor in the matters of discretion in the relevant rule (ECO-R4), I think it would be best not to include this. An Automatic Bat Monitor is a useful tool for detecting the presence of bats, however it can only be used by a suitably qualified or experienced expert and it cannot be used to rule out a tree being a bat roosting tree.

Happy to take any questions.