

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF BARRY GRAEME WELLS ON BEHALF OF PORT BLAKELY LIMITED

INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Barry Graeme Wells. 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. Port Blakely Limited (**Port Blakely**) are a large scale, long term, and responsible forest owner within the Timaru District. Port Blakely manages Saddle Peak Forest and Geraldine Forest, both located in the Timaru District and are 7,654 ha in total.
4. The current NES-CF, along with other forest industry guidance, adequately controls our operations and protects the natural environment.
5. Port Blakely introduced a variety of different measures and made financial investments to comply with the NES-CF. In particular, NES-CF measures which manage the environmental effects of indigenous vegetation clearance and earthworks in riparian margins.
6. Port Blakely supports the NES-CF even though it imposes greater controls on forestry operations. The NES-CF provides certainty to Port Blakely's ability to operate. The Proposed Plan rules have been produced with little explanation as to why they are necessary after the introduction of the extensive provisions of the NES-CF.
7. There has never been an in-forest inspection by Timaru District Council (**Council**) staff in Port Blakely's forests, so they have no knowledge of current management practices and how the NES-CF rules currently manage environmental effects.
8. I am concerned about the potential implications of the Proposed Plan, where it duplicates the requirements of the NES-CF and the additional costs and uncertainty which flow from this.

9. The s42A Report recommends acceptance of Port Blakely's submission that the NES-CF provisions should prevail over the Proposed Plan where there is no justification in the s32 Report for more stringent rules.
10. Overall, the outcome Port Blakely seeks is that the Proposed Plan indigenous vegetation clearance rules, vegetation clearance rules and earthworks in riparian margins rules are deleted and that the Council works with the forest industry to assess the effectiveness of the NES-CF in protecting the environment in the Timaru District.

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

Barry Wells
11 November 2024