

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of a submission in respect of the **PROPOSED WAIKATO DISTRICT PLAN** by **AMBURY PROPERTIES LIMITED** pursuant to Clause 6 of Schedule 1 of the Act to rezone 178ha of land at Ohinewai

### **SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ROBERT JAMES HAMILTON WHITE**

1. My full name is Robert James Hamilton White. I am employed by GHD Limited as the Business Group Leader: Northern Water & Wastewater Group, a position I have held since July 2016. I prepared a statement of evidence dated 9 July 2020. The purpose of this is to summarise that statement.
2. I outlined my qualifications, experience and commitment to comply with the Environment Court Expert Witness Code of Conduct in my evidence in chief ("EIC").

#### **Sub-regional setting summary**

3. The driving legislation for the management of three waters, including water and wastewater within the Waikato River catchment is Te Ture Whaimana – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. Any wastewater and water supply strategy being considered to enable the development of the Ohinewai Structure Plan (OSP) area must give effect to the Vision and Strategy.
4. The Vision and Strategy includes broad objectives, that while not being exclusively about water quality, have wider cultural considerations. Although I understand that case law requires that an element of "betterment" be demonstrated in relation to any discharge to the Waikato River.
5. For wastewater servicing, in particular, this supports upgrading and utilising existing infrastructure and existing consented discharges to service new development as an interim servicing option.

#### **Mid Waikato Servicing Strategy (MWSS)**

6. The MWSS project was established by Watercare to identify a long-term 50-year servicing strategy for water and wastewater supply for the mid-Waikato area, stretching from Meremere to Huntly. Objectives of the MWSS are understood to account for growth, improve treatment quality and resolve issues at existing Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) within the mid-Waikato area. The servicing of the OSP Area for both wastewater and water has been considered in the MWSS.
7. The proposed servicing strategy, as outlined below, for the OSP Area is in line with the MWSS recommendation.

### **Wastewater infrastructure**

8. There is currently discharge capacity available within Waikato District Council's existing discharge consent for the Huntly WWTP, with a consented discharge volume of 11,500m<sup>3</sup>/day and with annual peak day discharges typically under 5,000m<sup>3</sup>/day.
9. The Huntly WWTP discharges to the Waikato River, with the discharge quality currently not complying with several resource consent conditions.
10. In line with the MWSS it is proposed that OSP area would connect to the existing Huntly WWTP. Prior to connection, the Huntly WWTP would need to be optimised and upgraded to meet consent compliance (before and after connection of the OSP area). Plan provisions are proposed to restrict connection until compliance with resource consent conditions have been met.

### **Water infrastructure**

11. The Huntly Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has a consented water take of 6,700 m<sup>3</sup>/day<sup>1</sup>, and has an reported average daily take of just over 3,000m<sup>3</sup>/day with a peak of approximately 4,100m<sup>3</sup>/day<sup>2</sup>. This excludes supply to Ngaruawahia, which is understood can amount to a peak demand of in the order of 2,000m<sup>3</sup>/day. Water supply of between 600 and 2,600m<sup>3</sup>/day is understood to currently be available. The resource consent expiry date is 30 June 2050.
12. The Te Kauwhata Water Association has a maximum consented water take of 22,600 m<sup>3</sup>/day. The resource consent expires on 30 June 2024.
13. It is understood that Watercare currently has agreement to take up to 4,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day from the Te Kauwhata Water Association allocation, and that the full 22,600m<sup>3</sup>/day water take is not currently being utilised. There is therefore supply available.
14. It is anticipated that as part of the MWSS, Watercare would seek an increased portion of the Te Kauwhata currently consented volume to provide security of supply to Huntly and Ngaruawahia. The proposed new Te Kauwhata WTP, and pipeline from Te Kauwhata WTP to Huntly (as outlined in the MWSS), would facilitate the long-term servicing of the OSP Area.

### **Revised land use (in response to S42A Report Rebuttal Evidence)**

15. It is noted that 5.5 ha of land originally proposed to be a Discount Outlet Store is now to now be Industrial Land. Based on the Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications (RITS) an increase in water demand and the "domestic" component of wastewater flows could be anticipated, however, this is considered minor in comparison to the total flow and would not have a material effect on water demand or wastewater flows.

### **Staging of the development**

16. Discussions in respect of funding are underway between APL and WDC and it is intended that a private developer agreement ("PDA") will be in place and that this will outline and confirm the level of contribution and how this would be delivered.

<sup>1</sup> With the take limit increasing to 6,800m<sup>3</sup>/day in 2027, 6,900m<sup>3</sup>/day in 2033 and 7,000m<sup>3</sup>/day in 2039.

<sup>2</sup> 2018 Water Safety Plan

17. Plan provisions are proposed<sup>3</sup> that restrict development until such time suitable water supply and wastewater infrastructure is confirmed to be available (for stages requiring reticulated levels of servicing). This staging approach is important in ensuring adequate water and wastewater servicing of the OSP Area is in place prior to the development proceeding.

### **Conclusions**

18. I consider that the proposed water and wastewater servicing for the APL Ohinewai development is feasible and can be configured (and appropriately staged) to ensure that investments align with, and compliment, the identified long term solutions for water and wastewater as per the MWSS, and as those solutions are further developed and refined.

**Robert J H White**  
**9 September 2020**

<sup>3</sup> As set out in the statement of evidence of John Olliver.