

BEFORE THE HEARINGS COMMISSIONERS FOR THE WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

RURAL TOPIC – HEARING 18

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF MYLES GOODWIN FOR MIDDLEMISS AND BUCKLAND

25 September 2020

Summary of Evidence

My qualifications and experience are as outlined in my submitted primary evidence.

My evidence regarding practical examples, in the Rodney area, of the ecological benefits of enhancement subdivision, makes the following findings:

- The Auckland Council rules (including the Legacy and previous Rodney District Plan Rules) that relate to creating titles from protecting areas of bush and wetland, and planting bush, have been very successful in creating protected natural areas.
- The rules have resulted in the creation of a very large number of covenants across the region protecting large areas of significant bush and wetland, or replanted bush.
- Ecological Linkages are now being created due to covenants on one property adjoining covenants on another.
- This is starting to create significant corridors of protected land, often along wetlands in gully systems, or across steeper slopes covered in remnant or regenerating native bush.
- Some of these corridors, and covenant areas, are shown on the maps appended to my primary evidence.
- The accumulating linkages, and resulting expanding continuous protected areas result in much greater ecological resilience for the expanded area compared to isolated protected areas.
- The rules have only been in place for about 25 years, which ecologically is a short time frame.
- Overtime, I will expect to see the network of protected areas continue to expand if the rules continue to provide for this.
- Effects on rural productivity are generally low as most planted or protected areas are lower quality land.
- Auckland plan rules direct planting away from prime or elite soils.