

BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Palmerston North District Plan – Proposed Plan Change I:  
Increasing Housing Supply and Choice.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF ARUNA BANDARA WICKRAMASINGHE  
MUDIYANSELAGE

Dated 1 September 2025

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INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Aruna Bandara Wickramasinghe Mudiyansele (Aruna Wickramasinghe).
2. I present this evidence on behalf of the Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) in support of Proposed Plan Change I (PC I), with particular focus on provisions relating to energy efficiency, climate change resilience, and stormwater management provisions within the District Plan.
3. I am a Senior Policy Planner at Horizons, with over 10 years planning experience, including over two years in policy planning in New Zealand. I prepared Horizons' submission and further submission on this Proposed Plan Change.

ERRATA

4. I have identified the following errors in my statement:
  - i. Paragraph 6 (i): The abbreviation "PNCC" refers to Palmerston North City Council.
  - ii. Paragraphs 15 and 35: The name "Ms. Jenkins" should read "Ms. Jenkin".
  - iii. Paragraph 17: The name "Ms. Sarah Jenkins" should read "Ms. Sarah Jenkin".
  - iv. A new paragraph 21a should be included as follows:

*"NPS-UD Policy 1 (e) and (f) say:*  
*Planning decisions contribute to well-functioning urban environments,*  
*which are urban environments that, as a minimum:*  
*...*  
*(e) support reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; and*

*(f) are resilient to the likely current and future effects of climate change"*

- v. Paragraph 25: The phrase "*climate change resilience and stormwater management*" should read "**energy efficiency**, *climate change resilience, and stormwater management*".

## BACKGROUND

- 5. Horizons submitted on PC I in February 2025 and lodged a further submission in March 2025. In general, we support the approach of PC I as it seeks to give effect to the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (**NPS-UD**) and the Horizons One Plan Regional Policy Statement (**RPS**), by promoting urban intensification and a well-functioning urban environment. At the same time, our submissions sought additional evidence and amendments to ensure alignment with both the NPS-UD and RPS.

## OVERARCHING POSITION

- 6. Horizons supports the provisions in PC I that:
  - i. Promote energy-efficient development;
  - ii. Enhance community resilience to the effects of climate change; and
  - iii. Manage potential stormwater hazards.
- 7. These provisions give effect to:
  - i. NPS-UD Objectives 1 and 8, and Policy 1;
  - ii. Horizons' RPS Urban Form and Development (**UFD**) Policy 8; and
  - iii. Horizons' RPS Hazards and Risks (**HAZ-NH**) Policy 12.
- 8. I also agree with the assessment and recommendations in the s42A report prepared by Ms. Sarah Jenkin (Planning) in response to Horizons' submission points.

## EVIDENCE

9. My statement highlights the following:

- i. RMA section 75(3) that requires district plans to give effect to the RPS.
- ii. RMA section 31(1)(b) that outlines “avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards” as a function of territorial authorities in managing the use, development or protection of land.
- iii. NPS-UD objectives and policies that promote well-functioning urban environment that support greenhouse gas emission reduction and current and future climate change resilience.
- iv. RPS provisions that address energy efficiency, climate change resilience, and stormwater management.

### **Promoting efficient use of energy and community resilience to the effects of Climate Change**

10. PC I includes MRZ-Policy 10 and SUB-MRZ-Policy 1, which cover:

- Energy-efficient subdivision design.
- Optimising solar gain.
- Incorporating water-sensitive design.

11. These provisions are directly aligned with RPS UFD-Policy 8. Therefore, I consider these provisions should be retained in PC I (as amended) as they clearly give effect to the RPS provisions.

### **Stormwater Management**

12. Stormwater management is addressed under RPS-HAZ-NH Policy 12. It requires local authorities to manage natural hazard events, which include stormwater flood risks.

13. Within PC I, stormwater management is addressed through the Stormwater Overlay and the provisions for subdivision in SUB-MRZ-Policy 4. As outlined in Ms. Wood’s stormwater report, these provisions are based on the best available data. She also makes it clear that removing them would eliminate the key tool for managing stormwater risks associated with intensification.

14. In addition, Ms. Jenkin's planning report notes that the level of details contained in SUB-MRZ-Policy 4 is appropriate given the potential extent of flood effects.
15. In this context, I consider these provisions necessary as they provide PNCC the key policy and regulatory tools to implement the relevant RPS policies.

## CONCLUSION

16. I consider it necessary to retain MRZ-Policy 10 and the relevant parts of SUB-MRZ-Policy 1 (as amended) of PC I that promote efficient use of energy and enhance community resilience to the effects of climate change. These provisions ensure that the District Plan gives effect to RPS UFD-Policy 8 in the resource consenting process.
17. I also consider it necessary to retain Stormwater Overlay as notified, and SUB-MRZ-Policy 4 as amended. These provisions are needed to ensure effective management of stormwater, and to give effect to HAZ-NH-Policy 12 of the RPS, and s31(1)(b) of the RMA in the resource consenting process.

**Aruna Wickramasinghe**  
For Horizons Regional Council

**1 September 2025**