

**BEFORE THE HEARING PANEL**

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

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of the applications by Hirock Limited to the Palmerston North City Council (LU 6962) and the Manawatū -Whanganui Regional Council (APP-2022203991.00) for resource consents associated with the expansion and operation of an existing quarry at 167-257 Kendalls Line, Palmerston North

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**EXPERT CONFERENCING**

**JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT – LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT**

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**8.05.2023**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

1. This joint witness statement relates to expert conferencing on the topic of Landscape and visual assessment.
2. This joint witness statement relates to resource consent applications lodged by the Hirock Limited (Applicant) to Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) and Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (Horizons), to be processed jointly, for the for the expansion of an existing quarry at 167 - 257 Kendall’s Line, Palmerston North.
3. The expert conferencing was held by Teams meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
4. Attendees at the conference were:
  - a. Shannon Bray for Horizons/PNCC;
  - b. Jesse Byrne for the Applicant;

**B. EXPERTISE**

1. I, Jesse Byrne, am a NZILA registered Landscape Architect with 10 years practice experience. My involvement in application to date is as Landscape Architect for the applicant. While this consent is not before the Environment Court, I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witness, Section 9 of Practice Note 2023. Accordingly, I have complied with the Code in the preparation of this joint witness statement.
2. I, Shannon Bray, am a NZILA registered fellow Landscape Architect with 20 years practice experience. My involvement in application to date is as peer reviewer for Palmerston North City Council. While this consent is not before the Environment Court, I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witness, Section 9 of Practice Note 2023. Accordingly, I have complied with the Code in the preparation of this joint witness statement.

**C. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF CONFERENCING**

5. The purpose of conferencing was to identify, discuss and highlight points where there is agreement or disagreement on matters pertaining to Landscape and Visual Assessment arising from the resource consent applications, the submissions on them and the joint (PNCC and Horizons) s42A reports.
6. The scope of the issues addressed at this conference included:
  - a. LVA methodology
  - b. Landscape effects

- c. Visual effects
- d. Conclusion

**D. PRIMARY DATA RELIED ON**

- 7. The following documents, data and information have been relied on in this expert conference:
  - a. Good Earth Matters Limited – Linton Quarry Expansion: Resource Consent Application and Assessment of Environmental Effects for Joint Application to Palmerston North City Council and Horizons Regional Council (the Application), November 2022;
  - b. HiRock Linton Quarry - Expansion Project Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment Report, Prepared by Beca Limited 2 March 2022
  - c. Letter from Good Earth Matters Ltd on behalf of Hirock to Natasha Adsett, Response to S92 Further Information Request, dated 21 November 2022;
  - d. Letter from Good Earth Matters Ltd on behalf of Hirock to Natasha Adsett, Response to S92 Further Information Request, dated 21 November 2022;
  - e. HiRock Quarry – Peer Review of Landscape and Visual Effects – Shannon Bray dated 31 January 2023
  - f. Linton quarry expansion proposed conditions of consent - Pre-hearing meeting, 5 may 2023

**E. AGREED ISSUES**

- 8. Refer to Annexure A

**F. DISAGREEMENT AND REASONS**

- 9. Refer to Annexure A

**G. CHANGES FROM S42A REPORT**

- 10. Refer to Annexure A

**H. RESERVATIONS**

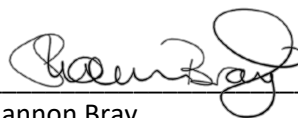
- 11. Nil

Date: 8 May 2023



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Jesse Byrne



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Shannon Bray

## ANNEXURE A

**IN THE MATTER of applications by of the applications by Hirock Limited to the Palmerston North City Council (LU 6962) and the Manawatū -Whanganui Regional Council (APP-2022203991.00) for resource consents associated with the expansion and operation of an existing quarry at 167-257 Kendalls Line, Palmerston North.**

### Expert conferencing – Landscape and Visual Assessment

**Participants: Jesse Byrne (JB), Shannon Bray (SB)**

No	Topic/Issue	Statements	Agreed position	Disagreements and reasons	Change from s42A report
1	<b>Methodology</b>	<p>At the time of preparing the assessment the NZILA's most recent guidance document was used (Te tangi a te manu DRAFT)</p> <p>Shannon Bray provided a suggestion to incorporate an example to explain scale. Included in the final copy of the NZILA Guidance document (Te tangi a te manu), released following the completion of this assessment.</p>	<p>Fit for purpose approach to landscape assessment.</p> <p>Jesse Byrne agrees that the examples provided in the peer review report are a suitable baseline for assessing level of effects.</p>	Nil	Nil
2	<b>Landscape effects</b>	The existing 'Nikau tree land' (H - refer LVA figure 2) requires removal following a slip on site. (refer Wildlands Assessment of ecological effects of quarry expansion at Linton Quarry, Palmerston North. Oct 2022)		Nil	Nil

		<p>Shannon Bray suggests that a buffer be installed around the other area of native vegetation 'Indigenous forest' (I - refer LVA figure 2) to help prevent any future slips which could impact the indigenous forest.</p> <p>An increase in bund height to the existing overburden piles in the vicinity of area D (refer LVA figure 2) will have very limited landscape effects, given the nature of the existing activity and significant modification of the site already undertaken. Refer to Wildlands EMP</p> <p>Shannon Bray highlighted the benefits of saving the Nikau Palms, and that relocation to the proposed ecological mitigation area J (refer LVA figure 2) be considered.</p>	<p>Agreed, position is covered by proposed condition no. 27 and noting this is now included on the updated site plan (refer AEE figure 1.1)</p> <p>Both agree, landscape effects at site level will be low-moderate. And at the wider scale low overall.</p> <p>Agreed position is covered by proposed condition no. 35 and 36</p> <p>Agreed position is covered by proposed condition no. 28 and 29.</p> <p><b>Condition 27.</b> <i>15 metre setback fencing to be constructed around the indigenous forest remnant area.</i></p> <p><b>Condition 35.</b> <i>A Concept Quarry Closure and Rehabilitation Plan (CQCRP) shall be submitted two (2) years after the grant of this consent for approval by PNCC and Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council, including a summary of consultation undertaken with Best Care (Whakapai Hauora) Charitable Trust in the development of the plan. The CQCRP shall cover the entire quarry site and shall include but not be limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Measures to ensure long term slope stability</i></li> <li><i>b. Filling of pit and measures required to ensure water quality is suitable</i></li> <li><i>c. Riparian planting of pit areas where applicable</i></li> </ul>		
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			<p>d. <i>Pest control and maintenance / protection of indigenous vegetation</i></p> <p>e. <i>Measures to reduce the height of the overburden areas/bunds and integrate them with the surrounding landform</i></p> <p>f. <i>Planting or grassing of the overburden areas/bunds</i></p> <p><b>Condition 36.</b>  <i>A Final Quarry Closure and Rehabilitation Plan (FQCRP) shall be submitted at least 12 the months prior to closure of the quarry to PNCC and Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council for approval, including a summary of consultation undertaken with Rangitāne o Manawatū in the development of the plan. The FQCRP shall cover the entire quarry site and shall include but not be limited to:</i></p> <p>a. <i>Measures to ensure long term slope stability</i></p> <p>b. <i>Filling of pit and measures required to ensure water quality is suitable</i></p> <p>c. <i>Riparian planting of pit areas where applicable</i></p> <p>d. <i>Pest control and maintenance / protection of indigenous vegetation</i></p> <p>e. <i>Measures to reduce the height of the overburden areas/bunds and integrate them with the surrounding landform</i></p> <p>f. <i>Planting or grassing of overburden areas/bunds</i></p> <p><b>Condition 28.</b>  <i>Prior to removal of the nikau palms, Rangitāne o Manawatū shall be invited to undertake any desired procedures and tikanga. Hirock shall provide two (2) weeks' notice of their intention to remove the trees.</i></p> <p><b>Condition 29.</b>  <i>Harvesting of nikau palm seeds from the existing trees on site shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified person for planting in the reforestation area along the unnamed tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream.</i></p>		
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3	<b>Visual effects</b>	There is a very limited visual catchment of the proposal and the visual effects have been assessed as low.	Both agree with the assessment of visual effects.	Nil	Nil
4	<b>Conclusion</b>	Landscape and visual effects of the proposal have been assessed as low.	<p>Both agree with the assessment of effects, and the proposed conditions.</p> <p>Relevant conditions not previously listed are recorded below.</p> <p><b>Condition 24</b>  <i>An Ecological Management Plan (EMP) shall be submitted prior to the commencement of activities, for approval by PNCC and Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council, including a summary of consultation undertaken with Rangitāne o Manawatū in the development of the plan. The EMP shall include but not be limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Mapping the distribution and abundance of pest plant species.</i></li> <li><i>b. Methods for the control of pest plant species.</i></li> <li><i>c. A summary of active pest animal management and further recommendations (if required).</i></li> <li><i>d. Indigenous revegetation recommendations, including planting schedules, and site preparation and monitoring requirements.</i></li> <li><i>e. Recommendations for the protection of habitats, including fencing.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Condition 26</b>  <i>All works are to be undertaken in accordance with the EMP and the Indigenous Vegetation Monitoring Plan unless otherwise restricted by the conditions of consent.</i></p> <p><b>Condition 30</b>  <i>Within two (2) years of grant of consent, planting of the reforestation area along the unnamed tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream as proposed in the EMP. The reforestation area shall be planted with nikau palms grown from the recovered seed pods and all other plants shall be sourced locally from the Manawatū Plains Ecological District.</i></p>	Nil	Nil



			<p><b>Condition 31</b>  <i>The final planting plan for the reforestation area along the unnamed tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream and the Indigenous Vegetation Monitoring Plan shall be prepared in consultation with Whakapai Hauora, and feedback shall be incorporated into the final documents.</i></p> <p><b>Condition 32</b>  <i>Pest control in accordance with the EMP to be undertaken in the indigenous forest area and the reforestation area along the unnamed tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream (once planted).</i></p> <p><b>Condition 33</b>  <i>A QEII covenant, or similar to be entered into within 10 years of the grant of consent for the reforested area along the unnamed tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream.</i></p> <p><b>Condition 34</b>  <i>An Indigenous Vegetation Monitoring Plan be submitted prior to the commencement of activities, for approval by PNCC and Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council.</i></p> <p><b>Condition 38</b>  <i>The consent holder shall update the Quarry Management Plan 12 months after the grant of this consent and submit it for approval by PNCC and Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council. The updates shall include but not be limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Updated description of site activities</i></li> <li><i>b. Updated description of cultural values of the site</i></li> <li><i>c. Reference to Ecological Management Plan</i></li> <li><i>d. Reference to Traffic Management Plan</i></li> <li><i>e. Reference to Memorandum of Understanding with Rangitāne o Manawatū (if required)</i></li> <li><i>f. Reference to Memorandum of Understanding with PNCC for the on-going maintenance of Kendalls Line</i></li> <li><i>g. Updated dust monitoring requirements</i></li> <li><i>h. Updated noise monitoring requirements</i></li> <li><i>i. Updated Erosion and Sediment Control Plan requirements</i></li> <li><i>j. Cleanfill record keeping procedures</i></li> <li><i>k. Updated regulatory framework i.e., resource consents</i></li> <li><i>l. Updated driver induction</i></li> </ul>		
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