

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Proposed Waikato Regional
Plan Change 1: Waikato and Waipā River
Catchments

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF ROBERT JAMES DRAGTEN

For the Waikato Regional Council

DATED 18 APRIL 2019

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Introduction

1. My name is Robert (Rob) James Dragten. I am an independent consultant, assisting clients to develop regulatory implementation strategies to achieve policy objectives. I have worked as an independent consultant since October 2015.
2. I graduated from Waikato University in 1999 with a Master of Science (Technology) degree with 1st class honours, majoring in earth sciences, particularly soil science, hydrology, climatology, and geo-chemistry. For that degree, I wrote a thesis entitled “The effect of land use on soil properties and groundwater nitrate contamination in the Waikato”. During this degree, I developed expertise of how contaminants are lost from rural land in the Waikato Region.
3. Prior to my current independent consultant role, I was employed at Waikato Regional Council (WRC) for five years as the Division Manager Compliance and Education, where I was responsible for leading the development and implementation of the WRC’s strategies to improve compliance with the RMA. Before this, I was the WRC’s Complaints and Enforcement Manager for four years, with responsibility for the WRC’s compliance functions, and prior to that, I was the WRC’s Environmental Services Manager, directly managing a team of enforcement officers who provided the WRC’s compliance and complaint response services. A large proportion of the work I did while employed with the WRC was focused on implementing and improving compliance with the Waikato Regional Plan, particularly in the rural sector. During this time at the WRC, I was seconded to the policy project team that developed Plan Change 5 to protect Lake Taupo, where I provided implementation expertise to guide the development of the policy.
4. I have been engaged by the WRC in various capacities since January 2016, initially to provide the Plan Change 1 (PC1) Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) with policy implementation advice, and more latterly to assist the WRC with its implementation planning, including the writing of the WRC’s initial implementation plan for the notified version of PC1. I am currently engaged by the WRC to give technical advice regarding the implementation of PC1, to both the WRC’s Section 42A report writer, and to the WRC’s team planning for implementation of PC1.
5. I confirm that I am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses as set out in the Environment Court Practice Note 2014. I have read and agree to comply with the Code. Except where I state that I am relying upon the specified evidence or advice of another

person, my evidence is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

Evidence

6. I confirm I was the author of the document “Good Farming Practice as an approach to reducing contaminant losses from farms in the Waikato and Waipa Catchment under PPC1”. That document is reproduced at page 61 of the Section 42A report, although I note a typographic error in the heading, in that the words “Good Farming Practice” are missing from the title.
7. I was engaged to write this document by the WRC. While the report accurately describes the approach to Good Farming Practice preferred by the WRC, there is a range of further work ongoing to refine the concept. This includes a workshop of practitioners and planners to inform the Block 3 Section 42A report recommendations on Schedule 1 of PC1.

ROBERT JAMES DRAGTEN

18 APRIL 2019