

**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL APPOINTED TO HEAR AND MAKE DECISIONS
ON SUBMISSIONS AND FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 56 TO THE
HUTT CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT PLAN**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991
(the Act)

AND

IN THE MATTER of Hearing of Submissions and Further
Submissions on Plan Change 56 to the
Hutt City Council District Plan

**SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF IAIN
NICHOLAS DAWE ON BEHALF OF WELLINGTON REGIONAL
COUNCIL**

29 March 2023

Summary of Evidence

- 1 In order to give effect to the MDRS, proposed plan change 56 to the HCC district plan has identified medium and high density residential zones that intersect medium and high hazard overlays that are currently zoned general residential, especially within the coastal areas subject to ongoing impacts of sea level rise and climate change.
- 2 For the most part, the potential impacts of development in these hazard overlays are dealt with through the objective, policy and rule framework proposed in plan change 56.
- 3 However, low lying coastal areas in the district are subject to impacts of coastal and natural hazards; impacts that will be exacerbated by the ongoing and worsening effects of sea level rise, tectonic subsidence and climate change. Sea level rise is projected to increase over a 1.0 m for Hutt City over the next 100 years but will continue to rise beyond this timeframe.
- 4 These impacts will be significantly more difficult to manage over the medium to long-term and require an approach to reduce the risks through limiting development rather than continuing to invest in assets and infrastructure that will only serve to increase the risk to development.
- 5 Continuing to invest in areas with a high risk of coastal and natural hazards is contrary to a risk reduction approach. Over time as more assets and infrastructure are exposed to hazards there will be a requirement to mitigate this risk that will ultimately fall to council to fund. Inevitably, this will require hard engineered structures that are damaging to the environment, are hugely expensive and require costly ongoing maintenance and always have a residual risk of overtopping or failure.
- 6 Greater Wellington seeks that plan change 56 more strongly employs the qualifying matters for natural hazards available to it in s771 of the RMA, namely the significant risks from natural hazards under section 6 of the RMA and the natural hazard policies in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and further limit development in the high hazard coastal overlays from two to *one* dwelling per site.
- 7 Signalling no further intensification and a gradual reduction in risk over time is an approach that is consistent with national and regional policy direction and best practice hazard risk management guidance. It allows the use of these areas in the short and medium-term whilst creating space to develop long-term adaptation pathways with the community that are more flexible and responsive to uncertainty.