

Summary of evidence – Richard Sheild

- My evidence focuses on integrated management of freshwater and urban development and giving effect to the NPS-FM.
- Section 3.5 of the NPS-FM 2020 includes direction to local authorities to recognise the interconnectedness of the whole environment and interactions between land and freshwater, manage land use and development to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on the health and wellbeing of freshwater bodies and freshwater ecosystems.
- Territorial authorities must include provisions to promote positive effects and avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects of urban development on freshwater.
- The NPS-FM directs that the NPS-FM must be given effect to as soon as reasonably practicable.
- Hutt City Council is required to provide capacity for an additional 9,708 dwellings by 2031 and 15,064 dwellings by 2051 – the second highest number of new dwellings in the Wellington region.
- As shown by tables on pages 406 of my evidence, several waterbodies in Hutt City are below the NPS-FM national bottom lines. The Wainuiomata urban streams and Waiwhetu stream are below the national bottom line for macroinvertebrates, and Te Awa Kairangi urban streams and the Wainuiomata urban streams are also below the national bottom line for suspended fine sediment.
- Allowing for intensification without accounting for the effect of intensification on freshwater bodies would not give effect to Policy 5 of the NPS-FM, which requires that the health of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems is maintained at a minimum and improved where degraded.
- Hutt City Council officers have recommended the rejection of the submission points rejection of the submission points made by Greater Wellington relating to implementing the NPS-FM and ensuring the integrated management of urban development and freshwater. The rationale provided is that implementing the NPS-FM is a complex task and is better done through a full district plan review.
- I cannot dispute that implementing the NPS-FM is a difficult task. However, I do not agree that means doing so should be left to a future district plan change. As discussed in my evidence, doing so would decouple urban development from its effects on freshwater and so risks allowing further decline in freshwater health, which is contrary to the direction of the NPS-FM.
- I also want to be clear that Greater Wellington is not asking for full implementation of the NPS-FM through the IPI. Instead, the Council is seeking amendments to ensure that the effects of urban development that this IPI provides for on freshwater are appropriately managed.
- I am happy to answer any questions the Panel has regarding my evidence.