

**BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
HUTT CITY COUNCIL**

UNDER the Resource Management Act 1991

IN THE MATTER of the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan
Hearing Stream 1: Opening Hearing

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF KAAREN ROSSER (PLANNING) ON BEHALF
OF ENVIRO NZ SERVICES LTD – SUBMITTER (323)**

13 APRIL 2026

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 By way of summary, it is my opinion that the changes sought to the provisions of those sections of the Proposed District Plan relating to Part 1: Introduction and General Provisions; Strategic Directions (limited scope); and General Definitions as detailed in the evidence below are appropriate and should be adopted by the Hearings Panel.
- 1.2 For those parts of the Strategic Directions chapter discussed at this hearing, Enviro NZ only made a submission point relating to UDSD-O2: Outcomes for Well-Functioning Urban Environments. The reporting planner incorrectly summarised the submission point made by Enviro NZ whereby clause (c) was requested to be amended to include local infrastructure, as follows:
- c. Serviced by the necessary infrastructure (including local infrastructure) appropriate to the intensity, scale and function of the development*
- 1.3 The reporting planner agreed with the relief requested by Connexa, Chorus, FortySouth and Spark to delete the words ‘the necessary’ from clause (c), and I agree with this relief given that the clause already qualifies the infrastructure needed by the type of development. However, Enviro NZ did not seek this relief and instead sought to expand the meaning of infrastructure to include other infrastructure not currently defined as infrastructure in the proposed plan.
- 1.4 While Enviro NZ requested ‘local infrastructure’ to be added to this clause, I consider that, given the release of the National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 (“NPSI”) since submissions were tabled, this clause should be amended to include “additional infrastructure”. This would then allow for consistency with the NPSI where the infrastructure definition includes those types of infrastructure defined as additional infrastructure in the Statement.
- 1.5 It would also align with Policy 1(2) of the NPSI which states that “*Decision-makers must recognise that the benefits of infrastructure include: ... (b) creating, supporting and enhancing well-functioning urban and rural environments; ...*”
- 1.6 There are no General Definitions listed in the Section 42A report that Enviro NZ made a submission on.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 My full name is Kaaren Adriana Rosser.
- 2.2 I am an Environmental Planner with Enviro NZ Services Limited (Enviro NZ). My qualifications and experience are detailed at **Attachment 1**.
- 2.3 My evidence is given on behalf of Enviro NZ in relation to those matters to be heard within Hearing 1: Opening Hearing of the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan (PDP). This only relates to a submission point in relation to Strategic Directions : Urban Form and Development, where it relates to the Natural Environment or Tangata Whenua. Within my evidence I have addressed the matters relating to the provision of waste collection, treatment, recycling and disposal relevant to this submission point.
- 2.4 I have reviewed the Hearing Report completed for the Council with respect to Hearing 1, including the recommended revisions to the plan change provisions. I have reviewed the S32 Report (General Report and Strategic Directions), and the Summary of Submissions document relating to Hearing 1.
- 2.5 I am generally familiar with the Lower Hutt area.

Code of Conduct

- 2.6 While this matter is being heard at Council level, I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses, contained in the Environment Court Practice Note (2023) and I agree to comply with it (as if I was presenting to the Environment Court). I can confirm that the issues addressed in this statement are within my area of expertise and that in preparing my evidence, I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

3. Scope of Evidence

- 3.1 This statement of evidence will, in the context of Enviro NZ's submission, address the following matters:
- (a) The background and reasons for the submission
 - (b) Comment on the Hearing Report in terms of UDSD-O2: Outcomes for Well-Functioning Urban Environments;

4. Background and Reasons for Submission

- 4.1 Enviro NZ Services Limited is the second-largest solid and liquid waste management company in New Zealand.
- 4.2 Enviro NZ owns and/or operates significant portions of the Country's waste management infrastructure including landfills, waste treatment facilities, recycling facilities and waste transfer facilities. Enviro NZ also provides waste and recycling collection services for Councils, businesses and households throughout New Zealand. Within Hutt City, Enviro NZ

operates waste, waste diversion, and recycling collection services within Hutt City. It operates these services from a site in Gracefield.

- 4.3 In general, the submitter is generally supportive of the Proposed Plan but specifically seeks some inclusion of matters pertaining to waste infrastructure within the District Plan text.
- 4.4 The government acknowledges that the way that waste is generated and disposed of in New Zealand needs to be addressed in order to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and be more sustainable. The national approach with regards to waste is now focussed on shifting NZ to a circular economy. This direction is the focus of both *The New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy (Rautaki Hanganga o Aotearoa 2022 – 2052 New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy (NZ Infrastructure Commission))*¹ and *The Government's Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy (Ministry for the Environment. 2025.)*² These strategies refer to how NZ can achieve the circular economy goal. Outcome 2 of the Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy is as follows:
- Goal 2:**
Increasing reuse and recycling of materials and products so that we retain valuable resources in the economy.
- 4.5 The continued operation and future diversification of waste management facilities is therefore necessary to achieve a circular economy. District Plans have a key part to play in enabling and maintaining waste resource recovery and infrastructure.
- 4.6 Diversification of waste infrastructure is also required in order to meet climate change directives. The First and Second Emissions Reduction Plan (May 2022 and Jan 2026) is a requirement of the Climate Change Response Act 2002. As waste plays a major role in climate change (being approximately 5% of emissions), this document is relevant to consideration of waste in the Proposed Plan.
- 4.7 This first plan details at p34 that '*Local government makes decisions in many sectors that will need to transition. Councils provide local infrastructure and public services, such as roading and transport, three waters, kerbside collections and waste management, building consenting and compliance, and flood and coastal hazard management.*'
- 4.8 Against this context, the provision of an effective and efficient waste management system is a vital component to any town or district, which also ensures the safe and effective delivery of a quality built and a well-functioning urban environment as directed by the National Policy Statement on Urban Development. Waste is generated by both residential households and businesses as well as through construction and farming activity. The function and growth of the Hutt area cannot be supported if there is no infrastructure in place to deal with waste generated and this should be recognised at a strategic level.
- 4.9 As waste management specialists and the operator of facilities within Lower Hutt City, Enviro NZ considers the continued operation and future diversification of these facilities is necessary to achieve a circular economy.

¹ [rautaki-hanganga-o-aotearoa-new-zealand-infrastructure-strategy.pdf \(umbraco.io\)](https://www.umbraco.io/rautaki-hanganga-o-aotearoa-new-zealand-infrastructure-strategy.pdf)

² [Te-rautaki-para-Waste-strategy.pdf \(environment.govt.nz\)](https://www.environment.govt.nz/te-rautaki-para-waste-strategy.pdf)

5.0 Strategic Direction

5.1 **Objective UDSD-O2** - Enviro NZ sought a change to Objective **UDSD-O2: Outcomes for Well-Functioning Urban Environments** (Submission Point 323.022) whereby the addition was to add “including local infrastructure” to Clause (c) as follows:

“c. Serviced by the necessary infrastructure (including local infrastructure) appropriate to the intensity, scale and function of the development.”

5.2 Notwithstanding that submission points regarding the Infrastructure definition will be heard in another hearing, adding local infrastructure to the objective was sought by Enviro NZ to allow for district or regional resource recovery or waste disposal facilities to be considered (amongst other infrastructure) in relation to integration with urban growth and development.

5.3 The reporting planner agreed with the relief requested by Connexa, Chorus, FortySouth and Spark to delete the words ‘the necessary’ from clause (c), and I agree with this relief given that the clause already qualifies the infrastructure needed by the type of development. However, Enviro NZ did not seek this relief and instead sought to expand the meaning of infrastructure to include other infrastructure not currently defined as infrastructure in the proposed plan.

5.4 While Enviro NZ requested ‘local infrastructure’ to be added to this clause, I consider that, given the release of the National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 (“NPSI”) since submissions were tabled, this clause should be amended to include “*additional infrastructure*”.

5.5 The additional infrastructure definition under the NPSI includes “(g) resource recovery or waste disposal activities” but also includes schools, health facilities, defence and correction facilities, etc, that are not defined as infrastructure under the RMA but are required to support well-functioning urban environments.

5.6 I therefore propose alternative wording to the submission wording as follows:

... (c) serviced by the necessary infrastructure (including additional infrastructure) appropriate to the intensity, scale and function of the development,..

5.7 This would then allow for consistency with the NPSI. It would also align with Policy 1(2) of the NPSI which states that “*Decision-makers must recognise that the benefits of infrastructure include: ... (b) creating, supporting and enhancing well-functioning urban and rural environments; ...*”, noting that a broader range of infrastructure is required to support urban development.

5.8 To conclude, the S42A report detailed the submission point as removing the word necessary in Clause (c), however the submission point was inaccurately commented upon and my suggested relief is shown above.

Attachment 1

Qualifications and Experience

I hold a Bachelor of Science (Earth Sciences) from the University of Waikato and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Natural Resources from the University of Canterbury, along with a Certificate of Proficiency in Planning from the University of Auckland. I am an Associate Member of the New Zealand Planning Institute.

I have over 25 years' experience, which includes both working in local government and the private sector. I have undertaken policy analysis and the preparation of submissions for a wide range of clients as a consultant planner and I have also written precinct provisions for the Auckland Unitary Plan (Clevedon Waterways Precinct). I have advised clients on a wide range of planning matters, but with a particular focus on water and air discharge matters relating to industrial sites and airport infrastructure. I have also processed complex planning applications for Auckland Council including chicken farms and large multi-unit developments.

I currently specialise in waste management sites and processes, undertaking consenting and policy analysis for this specialised sector.