

Before the Wellington City Council Proposed District Plan Hearings Panel

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

In the matter of the Wellington City Council Proposed District Plan–
Hearing Stream 11:
Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

- **Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity (ECO)**
- **Indigenous Infrastructure - Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity (INF-ECO)**
- **Schedule 8 – Significant Natural Areas**
- **Appendix 2 – Biodiversity Compensation**
- **Appendix 3 – Biodiversity Offsetting**
- **Appendix 15 – Ecological Assessment Definitions**

Between **Wellington City Council**
Local authority

And **Horokiwi Quarries Limited**
Submitter 271 and Further Submitter FS28

Response to Panel Request - Hearing Stream 11

Pauline Mary Whitney for Horokiwi Quarries Limited

Dated 17 September 2024

Panel Request

- 1.1. In its planning hearing evidence to Hearing Stream 11, Horokiwi Quarry Ltd proposed the following standard within ECO-S2 to allow vegetation trimming, pruning or removal within an SNA within the Horokiwi zoned site associated with the continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction. Amendments recommended through the S42A Report are shown in red, and those amendment sought through this evidence are shown in blue. The proposed standard gives effect to ECO-R1 Quarry Zone:

ECO-R1	Trimming, pruning or removal of vegetation within a significant natural area	
<u>Quarry Zone</u>	<p>3. Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>a. The trimming or removal of vegetation is to:</p> <p>i. Enable the continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction and ECO-S2 is complied with.</p>	
Standards		
ECO-S2	<p>Vegetation trimming, pruning or removal associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance or repair of public walking and cycling tracks including parks maintenance and repair • the continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction • maintenance and repair of existing buildings and structures 	
All Zones	<p>Vegetation trimming, pruning or removal must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not be greater than 2.5m in width to accommodate the track; and 2. Not involve removal of any tree with a trunk diameter exceeding that in Schedule 9 as measured 1.4m above ground. 	<p>Assessment criteria where the standard is infringed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extent to which the trimming, pruning or removal of indigenous vegetation limits the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area; and 2. The effect of the vegetation trimming, pruning or removal on the identified biodiversity values.
<u>Quarry Zone</u>	<p><u>Vegetation trimming, pruning or removal must not exceed 3000m² of a contiguous area per site.</u></p>	<p>Assessment criteria where the standard is infringed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extent to which the trimming, pruning or removal of indigenous vegetation limits the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area; and 2. The effect of the vegetation trimming, pruning or removal on the identified biodiversity values.

- 1.2. In the hearing on Hearing Stream 11, the Hearings Panel canvassed the issue around the continued operation of the Horokiwi quarry in recognition and context of clause 3.15 of the NPS-IB, and whether clarification could be provided within the above rule (or standard) as to what is an existing quarry operation and how an extension would be managed within the above SNA provisions. No position was provided on the 3000m²

area proposed by Horokiwi. The panel requested Horokiwi provide some draft wording for consideration.

- 1.3. The following provides potential wording (amendments recommended through the S42A Report are shown in red, those amendment sought through planning evidence are shown in blue, and amendment proposed though this hearing response are shown in green).

ECO-R1	Trimming, pruning or removal of vegetation within a significant natural area	
<u>Quarry Zone</u>	<p><u>3. Activity status: Permitted</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p><u>a. The trimming or removal of vegetation is to:</u></p> <p><u>i. Enable the continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction (associated with the existing and any former quarry operation) and ECO-S2 is complied with.</u></p> <p><u>Note: The above rule does not apply to any extension of quarrying activities into an area not forming part of the existing or previous quarry operation.</u></p>	
Standards		
ECO-S2	<p>Vegetation <u>trimming, pruning or removal</u> associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance or repair of public walking and cycling tracks including parks maintenance and repair • <u>the continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction</u> • <u>maintenance and repair of existing buildings and structures</u> 	
All Zones	<p>Vegetation <u>trimming, pruning or</u> removal must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not be greater than 2.5m in width to accommodate the track; and 2. Not involve removal of any tree with a trunk diameter exceeding that in Schedule 9 as measured 1.4m above ground. 	<p>Assessment criteria where the standard is infringed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extent to which the trimming, <u>pruning</u> or removal of indigenous vegetation limits the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area; and 2. The effect of the vegetation <u>trimming, pruning or</u> removal on the identified biodiversity values.
<u>Quarry Zone</u>	<p><u>Vegetation trimming, pruning or removal must not exceed 3000m2 of a contiguous area per site.</u></p>	<p>Assessment criteria where the standard is infringed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extent to which the trimming, <u>pruning</u> or removal of indigenous vegetation limits the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area; and 2. The effect of the vegetation <u>trimming, pruning or</u> removal on the identified biodiversity values.

Pauline Whitney

17 September 2024