SAUNDERS - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR PANEL

Kia ora, I'm Dr Wendy Saunders, Senior Natural Hazards Planner at GNS Science, Lower Hutt. For my PhD I researched risk-based planning, which led to the development of an online risk-based toolkit for land use planning.

Noting the further information provided on the 24 February 2020, my evidence relates to:

(a) The 2013 Matatā hind-testing of the risk-based approach, and a revised version of the hind-test based on new information available since 2013; and

(b) My assessment of the Proposed Plan Changes and issues raised in the submissions.

I have reviewed my evidence in chief for the questions asked by the panel, and found I mis-interpreted the likelihoods presented by other experts, which changed the assessment I provided. I consider the implications of this error to be minor, as the Regional Policy Statement sets the framework for likelihoods and assessment of consequences.

Nothwithstanding this error, a desktop re-assessment of the Saunders et al (2013) Matata example has been undertaken. Based on a technical risk information now available, the number of houses within the hazard area and new climate change projections, the re-assessment of Matatā shows the 'risk' for land use planning purposes would result in activities within the hazard zone as being discretionary has changed from 'discretionary' in 2013, to 'non-complying' or 'prohibited'. I'd like to reiterate that the original assessment was undertaken to show how the risk-based approach could be applied. It did not include any engagement with landowners or other stakeholders (for example the council, KiwiRail, iwi), which would inform the outcome.

In my opinion, I consider the Proposed Plan Changes provide an appropriate planning response to the risk, ensuring the sustainable management of a high risk area. The Proposed Plan Changes provide for people's health and safety by changing the land use in the high risk areas, manage the significant risk posed, and are consistent with the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement (RPS).