

Evidence of Gerard Willis (Planning- Regional Policy Statement): Summary

My evidence addresses the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement (BOPRPS). It covers four topics.

1. A response to the suggestion made by a GHD technical assessment that it would be possible to assess the risk to the Awatarariki Fanhead at a property by property scale. My planning opinion to that suggestion was sought by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's (BOPRC) Policy and Planning Manager and is attached to my statement of evidence. In brief I conclude that the BOPRPS requires the risk assessment be undertaken at the *natural hazard zone* scale. Defining that area to be an individual property risks defeating the purpose and benefits of considering risk at a community scale. Furthermore, it could only be implemented by planning provisions that would, in my opinion, be both impractical and unenforceable.
2. A second attachment to my evidence is a brief report commissioned by the BOPRC. That report provides an overview of the natural hazards provisions of the BOPRPS, their development and the obligations that flow from them. In summary, it concludes that to give effect to the natural hazards provisions of the BOPRPS the Whakatane District Plan must, in relation to the debris flow hazard on the Awatarariki Fanhead:
 - Define the debris flow *hazard susceptibility area* (Policy NH 7A)
 - Define *natural hazard zones* and assess the natural hazard risk within each zone using the Appendix L methodology or a RRAM, such as the AGS - provided it includes the AGS as part of the associated plan change. (Policy NH 8A (a) &(b))
 - Classify the level of risk within each zone as either High, Medium or Low (Policy NH 8A (c))
 - Implement the risk outcome strategy of reducing risk to existing uses where it is assessed as High or Medium (Policies NH3A and NH 12A).

It also concludes that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has no mandatory responsibilities under the BOPRPS in respect of taking specific action to reduce debris flow risk on the Awatarariki Fanhead (or anywhere else).

3. In the body of my evidence I also comment on the section 42A report and the evidence of Mr Craig Batchelar (Planning witness for Whakatane District Council) insofar as that report and evidence refers to the BOPRPS natural hazards provisions. I record my agreement with the interpretation of the BOPRPS natural hazards provisions as set out in that s42A Report and in Mr Batchelar's evidence.

Gerard Willis
3 March 2020