

## **Summary of evidence – Henry Whyte**

My name is Henry Whyte, Owner and Director of EcoResto. We are a Tauranga based environmental management company with a focus on ecological restoration. EcoResto is a WBOPDC *Approved Ecologist* and a TCC *Approved Contractor*.

The role of EcoResto is to conduct ecological assessments and to generate management plans for landowners with respect to the ecological features on their properties. Additionally, EcoResto provides the services required to undertake ecological restoration activities for landowners if required.

I have been asked to conduct an ecological assessment of the TPIL Project at 297 Te Puna Station Road for the purpose of understanding the condition of the ecological characteristics of the property and to identify any ecologically sensitive areas. Additionally, I have been asked to provide an opinion on the ecological aspects of the project itself.

I have undertaken this activity in the context of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2020) and its amendments of 2023, and the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (2023). I have reviewed the scheme plan for the project, the landscape plan, and the Te Puna Industrial Limited s92 Response Report. I have read the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Section 42A Report, and the WBOPDC Section 42 Report and their respective recommended consent conditions. I have read the Pirirākau Assessment of Cultural Effects ("PACE") and the public submissions made with respect to the project. After the consideration of that information, I have provided a report and a Statement of Evidence to be used today.

A synopsis of my findings and opinions are as follows...

1. The site has been subject to significant amounts of modification over many years and is in a highly degraded ecological state. The previously existing wetland that would have been present has been disestablished through channelization to lower the water table and the deposition of infill to raise the ground level.
2. The intended location of the container yard is not an ecologically sensitive area on account of its highly modified state.

3. The devices for water treatment outlined in the WSP Report appear well engineered and fit for purpose.
  
4. I believe the BOPRC recommended consent conditions and the discharge quality, monitoring and maintenance guidelines are appropriate for a development of this nature.
  
5. I believe a wetland provides the appropriate receiving environment to further mitigate any water quality issues and that the water leaving the wetland would not adversely affect the Hakao Stream or Wairoa River. Moreover, the reinstatement of the wetland will provide habitat of considerable value to the area.

In summary, I believe the Project considered in its entirety will be of a net ecological benefit. I am open to questions on this topic.