

**BEFORE A BOARD OF INQUIRY  
EAST WEST LINK PROPOSAL**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of a Board of Inquiry appointed under s149J RMA to consider notices of requirement and resource consent applications made by the New Zealand Transport Agency in relation to the East West Link roading proposal in Auckland.

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF FRASER SCOTT WHINERAY  
FOR MERCURY NZ LIMITED**

**DATED 30 JUNE 2017**

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### Statement of Evidence of Fraser Scott Whineray

1. My full name is Fraser Scott Whineray.
2. I have a Bachelor of Chemical and Process Engineering with First Class Honours from the University of Canterbury, a Post graduate Diploma in Dairy Science and Technology from Massey University, and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Cambridge.
3. Since September 2014 I have been the Chief Executive at Mercury NZ Limited (**Mercury**) (formerly Mighty River Power Limited). Prior to that I was the General Manager Operations at Mighty River Power Limited.
4. My previous work experience includes a role as the Director – Operational Improvement at Carter Holt Harvey and senior roles in the dairy industry and finance sector including five years with Credit Suisse First Boston in New Zealand and abroad.
5. I am authorised to present this evidence on behalf of Mercury, in support of the company's submissions on the East West Link proposal.
6. As Chief Executive I am responsible for the strategy in relation to Mercury's long-term generation and sales portfolio, including Mercury's site at Southdown (**Southdown Site**), and the infrastructure located at that site, outlined at paragraphs 19-35 of James Flexman's evidence in chief.
7. As discussed in Mr Flexman's evidence (and shown in Mighty River Power's news release dated 24 March 2015<sup>1</sup>) at the time the decision was originally made to cease the operation of Mercury's gas-fired thermal power station at the Southdown Site the intention was to dismantle the station and sell it offshore, as entire power stations are often sought after in the second hand market (as was the case for us at Marsden), excluding all of the critical foundations, surrounding services, transformers, switchyards and consents.

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<sup>1</sup> Contained in Annexure B to the Statement of Rebuttal Evidence of Scott Wickman, 20 June 2017.

However,<sup>2</sup> Mercury subsequently sold the gas turbines and retained all remaining plant, leaving the option of re-starting power generation at Southdown using this equipment. The option to re-commission the Southdown Site remained irrespective of the sale of the moveable equipment, given the Southdown Site's strategic value.

8. In October 2016 I announced the start of construction of the Solar Research and Development Centre at the Southdown Site (discussed at paragraphs 50-52 of Mr Flexman's evidence in chief).<sup>3</sup>
9. Mr Flexman has also set out in his evidence (paragraphs 29 and 30) the significant infrastructure co-located at the Southdown Site and its strategic value.
10. I proactively visited Dave Brash, Acting Chief Executive of New Zealand Transport Agency (**NZTA**), at NZTA's offices in Wellington on 24 February 2016, some 16 months ago. The purpose was to clarify that:
  - (a) whilst we suspended gas-fired generation at the Southdown Site on 31 December 2015, the site was of immense strategic value to Auckland across the timeframes for which energy infrastructure must be considered; and
  - (b) the East West Link should be located as far to the south as possible, ideally on unoccupied land, for a satisfactory co-existence. A similar message was conveyed both in person and in writing by my General Manager responsible for the Southdown Site, Phil Gibson to the current NZTA Chief Executive, Fergus Gammie, in October 2016.
11. On 29 April 2016 in follow-up to a conversation with Auckland Council's Chief Executive, Stephen Town, I provided a summary of the situation at the

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<sup>2</sup> As shown in the email from Duncan Annandale to Scott Wickman, dated 22 January 2016, contained in Annexure A to Mr Wickman's rebuttal evidence.

<sup>3</sup> A news release relating to that announcement is also contained in Annexure B to Mr Wickman's rebuttal evidence.

Southdown Site consistent with our desire for co-existence of the East West Link and power station.

12. Despite making very early contact with NZTA, we have been unable to resolve our ability to continue to utilise the Southdown Site in the very reasonable manner described.
13. I am available to answer any questions the Board of Inquiry, the NZTA or any submitter may have regarding Mercury's strategic intentions in relation to the Southdown Site.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fraser Whineray', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Fraser Scott Whineray**

30 June 2017