

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of a Board of Inquiry appointed under s149J of the Resource Management Act 1991 to consider Notice of Requirements and applications for Resource Consent made by the New Zealand Transport Agency in relation to the East West Link roading proposal in Auckland.

**SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF ALASTAIR ROBERT JAMIESON ON BEHALF OF  
AUCKLAND COUNCIL  
OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES**

**1. Role**

- (a) I considered the potential physical effects of the Proposal on the two Outstanding Natural Features (ONFs) that are to be traversed by the road alignment. These features, scheduled in the Auckland Unitary Plan - Operative in Part, are the *Southdown pahoehoe lava flows including Anns Creek* ONF (ONF ID192), and the *Hōpua explosion crater and tuff exposure* ONF (ONF ID46).

**2. Overview of Key Conclusions of Evidence**

- (a) Overall, I consider that with appropriate mitigation measures the Proposal will result in less than minor adverse effects on the geological values for which the ONFs are scheduled.

**Lava flows ONF**

- (b) The lava flow features within the ONF can be divided into three parts, as indicated in Annexure D of Dr Smith's EIC. These are:
- Anns Creek Estuary where the alignment of the Proposal will avoid physical damage to the coastal exposures of basalt lava along the foreshore, with the viaduct piles situated well clear of the lava flows;
  - Anns Creek West where the alignment avoids the ONF entirely; and
  - Anns Creek East.
- (c) At Anns Creek East the alignment passes across the northern edge of the ONF. A detailed Construction and Pier Exclusion Area is proposed in conditions to minimise physical damage to the lava features within the alignment, however damage will not be avoided entirely. Damage could only be avoided entirely by moving the alignment further north off the ONF. However, the proposed alignment involves less modification to the feature than a more southerly alignment would.
- (d) Ecological restoration conditions proposed for lava shrublands would be beneficial for the management of the lava flows within the ONF, by removing weed material and improving the visibility of the rock surfaces.

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### **Te Hōpua**

- (e) Te Hōpua ONF is comprised of two parts; a volcanic crater landform with low surrounding tuff ring that resulted from explosive eruptions, and an associated intertidal exposure of the tuff in the harbour foreshore.
- (f) The Proposal will avoid the volcanic tuff exposure on the foreshore.
- (g) Earthworks for an off-ramp and the construction of a ramp approaching the Neilson Street overbridge will result in physical effects, although these are mainly confined to the crater floor which consists of landfill.
- (h) The proposed trench to the south of the crater, outside the mapped extent the ONF, will provide an opportunity for mitigation by way of geological investigation and analysis of tuff deposits. In addition, consent conditions are proposed to offer further mitigation by cleaning up rubbish and debris from the tuff exposure on the foreshore.

### **3. Summary of Issues Resolved and Unresolved**

- (i) During expert conferencing, Dr Smith and I largely agreed on the magnitude of physical effects that the Proposal will have on the two ONFs. We also agreed on several mitigation measures which are included in the proposed consent conditions.
- (j) A concern about the potential effect of a proposed artwork at Te Hōpua has been resolved with the inclusion of a new condition LV.5B, clarifying that the artwork will avoid modification of the natural ground within the ONF.
- (k) It was agreed that the embankment north of the Aotea Sea Scout Hall should be reconstructed to pull the base back off the tuff exposure and improve the aesthetics the structure. Condition C.4A(a)(ii) has been proposed to address this matter. In order to clarify that the tuff exposure and any natural boulders in the area are not disturbed, the following minor amendments to the wording of the condition were agreed with Ms Hopkins last week:

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*C.4A (a) The Consent Holder shall undertake the following enhancement works in the foreshore area adjacent to Orpheus Drive and Onehunga Harbour Road identified in the Auckland Unitary Plan as Outstanding Natural Feature:*

*(i) Remove rubbish, concrete debris and broken disused pipes from the Outstanding Natural Feature foreshore; and*

*(ii) To the immediate north of the Aotea Sea Scouts Building remove loose boulders **from the base of the seawall** to improve visibility of the intertidal volcanic tuff exposure.*

*(b) The debris removal shall be carried out under the guidance of Suitably Qualified Persons and in a manner which does not **damage the ONF** or compromise the structural integrity of the existing seawall.*

- (l) In relation to Te Hōpua, two other issues were agreed during conferencing but have not been addressed in conditions.
- (m) Dr Smith and I agreed that a stormwater outfall south of the Aotea Sea Scout Hall should be relocated if it were possible to do that without detracting from the stormwater purpose of the pipe. This is evidently not the case, so rather than risking further damage to the tuff from modifications of the outfall I would prefer to let the matter lie.
- (n) Lastly, the possibility of redesigning the ramp to the Neilson St overbridge as an open structure without retaining walls was discussed. This possibility could maintain some views between the volcanic explosion crater and Manukau Harbour. This would not be necessary to mitigate physical effects of the Proposal on the geological values of the ONF.