

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

UNDER

Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

Notices of requirement for designations and resource consent applications by the New Zealand Transport Agency for the East West Link Project.

**HEARING STATEMENT OF ALASTAIR MURRAY HULBERT
ON BEHALF OF T&G GLOBAL LIMITED**

CORPORATE

DATED 21 AUGUST 2017

**Russell
McAugh**

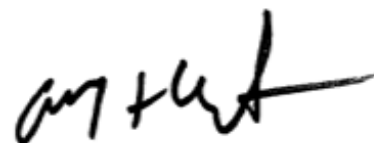
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1. HEARING SUMMARY

- 1.1 T&G Global Limited ("**T&G**") has been in business in New Zealand for 120 years, beginning in 1897 as a fruit auction business before amalgamating with a grower cooperative in 1921 to form Turners & Growers Ltd.
- 1.1 Today, T&G is a grower, marketer and exporter of produce (fruit and vegetables) with operations across the globe. T&G is a major contributor to New Zealand's national and regional economies. T&G supports a large number of independent growers throughout the country, with over 650 growers supplying produce to the Site. T&G also has over 1,300 permanent New Zealand employees and employs thousands of additional seasonal staff during harvest time.
- 1.2 Since 2012, T&G has invested over \$200 million to grow the business and workforce globally. Moving forward, T&G has an ambitious global strategy to continue to develop and grow its core business of providing fresh produce to customers in markets around the world, and provide an important gateway for New Zealand produce to be exported globally. The business will continue to invest in significant capital projects, its network and its people in order to meet its growth and development targets.
- 1.3 As the Chief Executive Officer of T&G I have overall responsibility for all of T&G and its various business units. I am ultimately accountable to all of T&G's staff, customers, growers and shareholders for its ongoing success.
- 1.4 I remain of the view set out in my statement of evidence that the Transport Agency's proposed alignment of the East West Link ("**Project**") as it relates to T&G's Mt Wellington site ("**Site**") (and associated construction and utilities reconfiguration activities), will have significant adverse effects on the Site, and wider business. As CEO, I find this deeply concerning.
- 1.5 Mr Andrew Keaney (T&G's Executive General Manager) and our expert witnesses will set out in detail why the reconfiguration proposed in the

rebuttal evidence of Mr David Baird (the "**Babbage Plan**") is unworkable, and outline the engagement they have had with the Transport Agency in relation to the Project since our evidence was filed.

- 1.6 The Site plays a critical role within T&G's overall business operation, and is T&G's most important facility. Around \$8.75 million has been invested in redeveloping and reconfiguring the Site since 2014 to achieve an optimum level of functionality. This functionality contributed to the \$135m in revenue that T&G earned from the Site in 2016.
- 1.7 Aside from the financial benefits of the co-location of facilities on the Site, from my perspective as CEO the co-location of the Group Head Office with the Site's key day-to-day operations, such as the produce market and distribution areas, is a major factor in both the Site's and the business' overall success. It means myself and the wider T&G executive team are easily accessible to the operations we are responsible for, to the customers we supply and to the producers upon whose product our business is founded. I consider this is critical for fostering a collaborative and connected business culture.
- 1.8 Accordingly, the Project's alignment encroachment on the Site is unacceptable. No site reconfiguration or partial relocation of T&G's operations has been offered that satisfactorily addresses the effects of this encroachment. As such, the Project's adverse effects on the T&G Site have in no way been avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 1.9 Therefore, as T&G's CEO and on its behalf, I have no option but to continue to seek that the Board decline to confirm the Transport Agency's notice of requirement, and decline to grant the associated resource consent applications for the Project, to the extent that the requirement and applications seek to authorise works on T&G's Site.



Alastair Murray Hulbert
21 August 2017