

1. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE FOR MAGGIE ROSE BURNS – KAIWAIKAWE WIND FARM

- 1.1 Ecological evidence from Dr Burns, Dr Williams and Ms Thurley have raised concerns about potential adverse effects on indigenous species, of most concern are Australasian bittern or matuku.
- 1.2 I consider that the applicant has not adequately demonstrated the proposal will avoid, remedy or mitigate, or in the case of residual adverse effects offset or compensate for potential adverse effects.
- 1.3 Additional monitoring has occurred; however, it is still inadequate for quantify whether the proposal is in line with objectives and policies in National Policy Statements, the Northland Regional Policy Statement and the Kaipara District Plan.
- 1.4 I acknowledge the proposal will have positive effects in providing renewable Energy. However, I note additional objectives and policies of particular relevance. As has already been discussed, in the NPRS Policy 4.4.1 (1) has a requirement to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects so that they are no more than minor on indigenous taxa that are 'threatened' or 'at-risk'. Matuku meet these criteria which is also detailed in Appendix 5 of the RPS.
- 1.5 Importantly, policy 4.4.1 (4) recognises where effects may be irreversible, they are likely to be more than minor and that effects may be more than minor where minor effects are cumulative.
- 1.6 Section 104 (ab) of the RMA requires regard be had to offsetting and compensation measures.
- 1.7 I note the conditions include creation of 2 wetland areas to compensate for effects on matuku. The NRPS provides definitions for biodiversity offsetting and environmental compensation and notes limits where biodiversity is irreplaceable or vulnerable. Matuku fall under this definition.
- 1.8 I note issues, objectives, and policies in the KDP highlights limits in information for SEA identification in the district and consider, alongside criteria in appendix 5 of the NRPS that the area could be considered as an SEA. The policies in the KDP indicate SEAs are not fixed or limited to the DP maps.

- 1.9 Conditions have been discussed and worked through conferencing to discuss alternative conditions that would go further to first understand potential effects on indigenous species, and then avoid, remedy, mitigate so that effects are no more than minor. I still consider It would be most beneficial to get additional understanding, specifically through GPS tracking, which I understand would ensure flight height data is understood which I believe is critical information in understanding the use of the site and potential effects.
- 1.10 Ecological evidence identifies a level of uncertainty and level of risk associated with the application, even with the additional monitoring undertaken. I therefore consider gathering further information would be the most appropriate approach to ensure avoidance, remediation and mitigation measures are wholly understood and considered before introducing an additional potential threat from the wind farm.

Dated 26 January 2022



Maggie Rose Burns