

Before the Napier City Council

Under the Resource Management Act 1991

and

In the matter of Plan Change 12: Mission Special Character Zone.
Operative City of Napier District Plan

Statement of Evidence of Dianne Vesty
On Behalf of the Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Assn Inc (HBFA)

Introduction

My name is Dianne Vesty, and I am the sole employee of the Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association Inc. (HBFA)

HBFA was formed in 1899 and is a voluntary membership industry representative body for Fruitgrowers in Hawke's Bay, it was Incorporated in 1974.

The role of the Association is to carry out a range of services for its members including education, research, promotions, events and advocacy, representing the views and interests of Hawke's Bay fruit grower members. It is the largest Fruitgrower Association in New Zealand.

Our aim is to support grower activities that foster and promote sustainable fruit production in Hawke's Bay, and to protect the productive capacity of the land of the Heretaunga Plains for future food production.

The HBFA is not opposed to progress and development however does have a strong mandate from its members to protect the productive capacity of the land resource, within the Heretaunga Plains, for future generations. The Association believes the best way to achieve this, is through a consultative and strategic approach. So, during the consultative period of Heretaunga Plains Urban Development Strategy (HPUDS) the Association allowed for significant resource to ensure there was fruitgrower/horticulture input to the Strategy.

Our members appreciate the opportunity to present the Associations statement of Evidence.

Statement of the HB Fruitgrowers Association Inc.:

The Fruitgrowers' Association supports the Plan Change application with minor changes.

The Plan change is for land which is within the Heretaunga Plains Urban Development (HPUD) Strategy. Where versatile/productive land sits within the Plan Change, it has been earmarked for

agriculture, horticulture or viticulture uses and the activities will be limited to those usually permitted in the Main Rural Zone under the Napier District Plan.

In the section 42A hearing report the planner has recommended supporting the HBFA submissions to update references to “versatile and/or productive soils to ‘versatile and/or productive land’.

We ask that the Commissioner support the recommendation.

In the HBFA submission it was requested to change the activity status of the places of assembly, we do accept the planner’s recommendation in the sections 42A report to address this issue as part of the upcoming review of the Napier District Plan.

Places of assembly - reason why requested. Not a die in the ditch issue. Looking forward to participating in the upcoming District Plan Review.

With reference to the final point in the HBFA Submission, the HBFA remains of the view that this Plan change offers the potential for the balance of the elevated land to utilised as efficiently as possible so that it will provide a range of affordable housing at suitable density for people wishing to settle in the area.

HBFA fully supports the planner’s recommendations the Section 43 Report and conclusion to approve the plan change with minor changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to our submissions.

Ends