

Summary of Statement of Planning Evidence of Dr Charlotte Drury on behalf of Horticulture NZ

1. Horticulture NZ made submissions on the provisions of the subdivision and earthworks chapters.
2. While recommendations have been made by the reporting officers to accept some of the relief sought, further information was requested in relation to submission points seeking two additional permitted earthworks rules, to help officers better understand the need for the relief sought. My evidence contains that information.
3. In short
 - a. A new rule that explicitly permits earthworks associated with the burying of material infected by unwanted organisms as declared by the Ministry for Primary Industries Chief Technical Officer or an emergency declared by the Minister under the Biosecurity Act 1993 across all zones is needed because:
 - i. A biosecurity emergency has never been declared in New Zealand, and unless one is, RMA provisions (ie. district plan rules) remain relevant.
 - ii. Time is critical when responding to a biosecurity incursion. Any delays resulting from a need to apply for resource consent threaten the effectiveness of a successful response.
 - iii. Burning infected material is time and situation dependent - at some times of the year it may not be available as a disposal option.
 - iv. Whole orchards or large portions of them may need to be buried, and depending on the organism, deep burial (at least 2-3m below the earth surface) may be required. The necessary response is dependent on the nature of an incursion, and it is critical that all options are available to growers.
 - b. A new rule that explicitly permits ancillary rural earthworks across the rural lifestyle and production zones is needed to enable normal horticultural activities such as orchard redevelopment to occur.