

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of submissions to Proposed Plan Change
38: Strategic Directions, to the Taupo
District Plan

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF MILES ROWE

FOR

GENESIS ENERGY LIMITED

(Submitter OS84 and Further Submitter FS215)

Plan Change 38 – Strategic Directions

09 August 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Miles Rowe. I have over 26 years of experience in the field of resource management and planning in local government, consultancy and private sector roles in New Zealand. I hold a Bachelor of Science (Geology) degree from the University of Canterbury and a post-graduate Diploma in Applied Environmental Technology from Christchurch Polytechnic. I am full member of the New Zealand Planning Institute.
2. I am a Principal Planning Consultant at 4Sight Consulting Limited (now Part of SLR) (**4Sight**). I have been employed with 4Sight since May 2023. Before then, I was employed for 17 years as a Principal Planner and Environmental Planning Advisor at Mercury NZ. Previous employment includes resource management consultancy and local authority regulatory resource consenting roles in New Zealand.
3. My principal role at 4Sight is to provide resource management planning and policy advice to private sector clients in relation to various projects and planning instruments across New Zealand. This role includes policy analysis, provision of strategic policy advice, and preparation of submissions and evidence.
4. I have extensive resource management experience relating to the provision of policy advice on strategic matters involving national, regional and district planning documents, preparation of submissions and evidence, and attendance at hearings and mediations. I have been involved in numerous planning processes throughout New Zealand addressing matters relating to indigenous biodiversity, outstanding natural features and landscapes, natural hazards, activities/structures in riverbeds and wetlands, water takes and discharges, amenity values, reverse sensitivity effects, regionally significant infrastructure and climate change.
5. I have prepared this planning evidence for Genesis Energy Limited (**Genesis**) on Plan Change 38 (**PC38**) to Taupo District Plan (*the Plan*). Genesis also made submission and further submissions on Plan Change 42 – Rural Chapter (**PC42**) that will be covered in separate evidence. I was not involved in the preparation of submissions or further submissions for Genesis on PC38 or PC42 but I support the intent of changes sought in those submissions. In relation to PC38, I have considered the notified plan change and the section 42A (**s42A**) reports¹ prepared for Taupo District Council (*the Council*).
6. I am familiar with the Plan and during my employment with Mercury NZ I was involved in several plan changes to the Plan that were relevant to, or impact on, renewable electricity generation activities in the district. In 2020 (when a full District Plan Review was anticipated) I was involved in an energy working group, involving representatives from the

¹ This includes the Overarching s42A report for Plan Changes 38-43 (by Hilary Samuel), and the s42A report for PC38 (by Rowan Sapsford).

Council, Genesis, Contact Energy, Mercury NZ, and Manawa Energy. The energy working group undertook site visits over 2 days in September 2020 to a number hydro-electric and geothermal generation sites in the district, including to parts of the Tongariro Power Scheme (*TPS*).

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXPERT WITNESSES

7. While this is not an Environment Court process, I acknowledge that I have read the Environment Court's Practice Note January 2023 as it relates to expert witnesses. My brief of evidence is prepared in compliance with the Code of Conduct, and I agree to comply with it in appearing before the hearings panel. I am not, and will not behave as, an advocate for my client. I confirm that my evidence is within my area of expertise and that I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from my expressed opinions. I have not relied on the evidence or opinion of any other person, in preparing my evidence. I am engaged by Genesis as an independent expert.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

8. This statement of evidence relates to the Strategic Directions in PC38. My evidence addresses the following matters raised in the Genesis submission:
 - (a) A new Energy Chapter.
 - (b) Strategic Direction 4 on Climate Change, including objectives and policies.
 - (c) Strategic Direction 5 on Significant and Local Infrastructure, including objectives and policies.
 - (d) Strategic Direction 6 on Natural Environment Values, including policies.
9. There are some matters raised in the submission and further submissions by Genesis relating to PC38 where I agree with the recommendations in the s42A report and further discussion on these matters is not warranted. For ease of reference, I have addressed these matters in **Schedule C** to this evidence.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT TO THE GENESIS ENERGY SUBMISSION

Genesis Energy interests Taupo District

10. Genesis owns and operates the TPS, which comprises three hydro power stations – Rangipo (120MW, underground), Tokaanu (240MW) and Mangaio (1.8MW) that were commissioned between 1973 and 1983. Tokaanu Power Station is the control centre for TPS, as well as remotely controlling the Waikaremoana and Tekapo schemes.
11. TPS has a catchment area of more than 2,600km² in the North Island's central volcanic plateau and gathers water from 36 different rivers and streams via the Eastern and Western

Diversions. Water passes through a series of pipes, lakes, canals, and tunnels to the hydro power stations before entering Lake Taupō. The main components of the TPS are shown on the schematic diagram in **Figure 1** at the end of this section.

12. In addition to its existing operations, the Genesis Future-gen programme is identifying opportunities to decarbonise New Zealand's energy sector while continuing to supply reliable, affordable electricity. Within the Taupō District, Genesis is continuing to assess new opportunities for renewable generation to utilise the abundance of renewable energy resources within the district.

The criticality of Tongariro Power Scheme

13. The generation and supply of electricity from the TPS is of critical importance at both national and regional levels. Firstly, TPS generates approximately 1,300 GWh of electricity annually – the equivalent to the annual electricity usage by approximately 168,000 households. To put this into context, this is more than all the households combined in the cities of Hamilton, Tauranga and Rotorua.²
14. Secondly, the Eastern and Western Diversions provide up to approximately 20% of the water flowing into Lake Taupō and the Waikato River, where the water is utilised again for the generation of renewable electricity via the nine power stations on the Waikato Hydro System.
15. Thirdly, Tokaanu Power Station is one of a small number of power stations in New Zealand that can undertake a 'black start'. That is, during a major power outage on the National Grid the power station can be used to bring the National Grid back to normal operation.

National direction and importance of Renewable Electricity Generation

16. Renewable electricity generation, such as that from TPS, is recognised as being of national significance in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (**NPS-REG**). In addition, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (**NPS-FM**) recognises TPS as one of five large hydro schemes in New Zealand where regard must be had to the importance of the schemes when implementing the NPS-FM. The NPS-REG and NPS-FM highlight the important role played by renewable electricity generation in decarbonising New Zealand and achieving the nation's goals in greenhouse gas emissions reduction to address the climate change crisis.

² Hamilton, Tauranga and Rotorua – approximately 143,000 households combined. 2018 Census data: [2018 Census place summaries | Stats NZ](#)

Tongariro Power Scheme in the Taupo District Plan

17. For the purpose of the evidence on PC38 (and the separate evidence on PC42), it is important to understand the environment and surrounds in which TPS operates.
18. One of the key features of the catchment area of TPS is the Tongariro National Park. While most of the TPS assets are located outside of the National Park boundary, there are some underground components and communication facilities within the boundary of the Park.
19. Part of the Eastern and Western Diversions, and two power stations are located in the Taupō District under the General Rural Environment. The remainder of the Scheme, including Mangaio Power Station, are located in the neighbouring Ruapehu District. The Plan identifies key parts of TPS as being Electricity Generation Core Site (**Core Site**). The Core Site is a type of overlay that either provides for specific activities to support the existing generation or exempts the generation activities from certain rules that would otherwise apply within the Rural Environment.
20. TPS also operates within or immediately adjacent to several Natural Values areas identified in the Plan, including Outstanding Landscape Areas (**OLA**), Amenity Landscape Areas (**ALA**) and Significant Natural Areas (**SNA**). Most of the identified SNA coincide with the areas of OLA or ALA.
21. The OLA rules for the Rural Environment would significantly restrict the scale of structures and earthworks if it were not for the Core Site overlay. Similarly, indigenous vegetation clearance is restricted within SNAs.
22. It is with consideration of these settings and restrictive overlays that Genesis made submissions on PC 38 and PC42 with the goal of enabling the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of TPS and to recognise and provide for its national and regional significance.

ENERGY CHAPTER

Submissions for Genesis (submission point 84.47)

23. Genesis seeks a new Energy Chapter in the Plan in accordance with the National Planning Standards, either as a result of Plan Change 38 or by way of a subsequent Plan Change in the near future.

Council's s42A assessment and recommendation

24. The s42A report records that a new Energy Chapter is out of scope of the plan change and has not accepted the submission point. However, the report acknowledges that such a chapter will form part of a later stage of the sectional review of the Plan.

Analysis

25. I agree with the s42A report that a new Energy Chapter is out of scope of the plan change, and that no changes are need as a result of this submission.
26. However, it is worth acknowledging the significant contribution that renewable electricity generation provides in the district. The Genesis submission records that there are more than 20 hydro and geothermal power stations in the district, making renewable electricity generation one of the most significant activities in the district. Further, the submission of Waikato Regional Council³ identifies that renewable electricity generation facilities in the district accounts for up to 27% of New Zealand's total electricity demand. I understand that the evidence for Contact Energy provides a map showing the location of all existing renewable electricity generation sites in the District.
27. While I have not done a comparison with other districts, the proportion of renewable electricity generation within Taupō District is likely to be the highest of any district in the North Island, if not across all of New Zealand. For this reason, I support the view in the s42A report that an Energy Chapter form part of a later stage of the sectional review of the Plan. To help achieve this, well-constructed and framed Strategic Directions addressing issues relevant to renewable electricity generation will be important, including the changes addressed in this evidence.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: CLIMATE CHANGE

2.4.2 Objectives

Submissions for Genesis (submission point 84.4)

28. Genesis supports the proposed directions for community resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change. However, Genesis considers a new objective should be included that explicitly recognises the increasing contribution renewable electricity generation in the

³ Submission OS29.10.

District has on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the potential effects of climate change.

Council's s42A assessment and recommendation

29. The s42A report does not accept the submission point seeking a new objective in Section 2.4.2 but has not provided any reasons.

Analysis and Relief

30. I accept that 2.4.2 Objective 1 applies to all use and development in the district so as to result in positive climate change outcomes. That is, the Objective encompasses all renewable electricity generation use and development activities. This Objective is achieved by several policies, including (but not limited to) 2.4.3 Policy 1 to support land use that has positive climate change outcomes and 2.5.3 Policy 1 that recognises the benefits of renewable electricity generation in relation to climate change.
31. However, there is no specific reference in the Strategic Direction objectives (in Section 2.4.2 or Section 2.5.2) to the significant role that renewable electricity generation plays to help meet the climate change directives. In my view, this fails to address the statement in the introductory section of Section 2.4 that the “*Strategic Directions for climate change are consistent with the Government’s obligations to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and accords with the target for 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030.*”
32. In my opinion, this introductory statement acknowledges the strong relationship that exists between positive climate change outcomes and the provision of renewable electricity generation. Addressing this through the Strategic Direction objectives helps to support a future Energy Chapter, as discussed earlier in this evidence, as well as give effect to the Objective of the *NPS-REG*⁴.

Conclusion and Relief

33. For the reasons noted, I support a Strategic Direction objective to explicitly recognise the increasing contribution of renewable electricity generation in the District. The Genesis submission proposed that this be addressed through a separate objective and I believe this will give a stronger, more explicit, direction. However, an alternative approach is to address the matter through an amendment to 2.4.2 Objective 1 as follows (insertions underlined, deletions ~~struck-out~~):

⁴ NPS-REG Objective – To recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities by providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, such that the proportion of New Zealand’s electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to a level that meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government’s national target for renewable electricity generation.

2.4.2 Objective

1. *Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will result in positive climate change outcomes, including through an increase in the generation of electricity from renewable energy resources.*

2.4.3 Policies

Submissions for Genesis (submission point 84.5)

34. Following from the submission on 2.4.2 Objective above, Genesis considers two new policies are necessary to specifically provide for and enable activities that will help address climate change. The policies sought seek to recognise and provide for the use and development of renewable energy resources to facilitate decarbonisation and enable the upgrading and maintenance of existing renewable electricity generation activities.

Council's s42A assessment and recommendation

35. The s42A report notes that the Strategic Directions in Section 2.5 specifically recognise and provide for renewable electricity generation activities. Proposed 2.5.3 Policy 1 specifically identifies the benefits of renewable electricity generation in relation to climate change, while proposed 2.4.3 Policy 1 implicitly supports renewable electricity generation activities.
36. The s42A report states "*Given the current level of recognition of such activities in the strategic directions chapter of the plan I do not feel that it is necessary to include additional policies that duplicate the intent of existing. ... Each section does not intend to provide detailed direction on all activities in every case, especially where they are appropriately provided for in the wider chapter.*"
37. The s42A report recommends that the Genesis submission point is rejected.

Analysis

38. The submission point seeking new policies in Section 2.4.3 follows the discussion above recommending a change to 2.4.2 Objective 1.
39. 2.4.2 Objective 1 and 2.4.3 Policy 1, as notified, are about positive climate change outcomes from land use, but the Policy does little to expand on the way in which the Objective is to be achieved. Renewable electricity generation of itself does not reduce greenhouse gas emissions but it facilitates decarbonisation of the economy through other activities that utilise the electricity generated, particularly where it substitutes fossil fuel use in the industrial process heat and transport sectors.
40. The success of renewable electricity generation to facilitate decarbonisation of the economy depends on its ability to meet the energy trilemma, being security of electricity

supply that is sustainable and affordable. The Taupō District has an abundance and diversity of renewable energy resources, including, hydro, geothermal, wind and solar, but addressing the energy trilemma requires the right regulatory and policy settings to support existing and new renewable electricity generation.

41. The first policy sought by Genesis is intended to support the role of renewable electricity generation to facilitate decarbonisation. In my view, this matter is not currently addressed through the proposed Strategic Direction policies in Sections 2.4.3 or 2.5.3.
42. The second policy sought by Genesis is about enabling the maintenance and upgrading of existing, and the development of new, renewable electricity generation where it contributes to climate change adaptation, increases electricity output or efficiency, or is to ensure its safe, efficient and secure operation. I support the intent of the policy sought, but I do not consider that it will result in the best fit for the Strategic Direction objectives in Section 2.4.2 as it is broader than matters relating to the effects on, or effects of, climate change. However, I consider that the first policy sought by Genesis (including an increased electricity generation capacity and improved security of supply) is adequate to capture the core elements that are sought in the second policy.

Conclusion and Relief

43. For the reasons set out, and to assist in achieving the changes sought in 2.4.2 Objective 1, I support a new Strategic Direction policy in Section 2.4.3 as requested in the Genesis submission as follows (insertions underlined, deletions ~~struck-out~~):

Recognise and provide for the use and development of the District's renewable energy resources to facilitate decarbonisation of the economy, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, increased electricity generation capacity and improved security of supply including transmission.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5: SIGNIFICANT AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

2.5.2 Objectives

Submissions for Genesis (submission point 84.7)

44. Genesis supported 2.5.2 Objectives which appropriately recognises the strategic importance and benefits of infrastructure, including electricity infrastructure. The Genesis submission sought to strengthen the 2.5.2 Objectives 1 and 2 through minor changes, including:
 - That the wider benefits of Nationally and Regionally Significant Infrastructure be recognised “and protected” in decision making and land use planning (2.5.2 Objective 1); and

- The benefits of the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation resources and activities are recognised and “achieved” (2.5.2 Objective 2).

Council’s s42A assessment and recommendation

45. The s42A report does not accept the submission point relating to 2.5.2 Objective 1 with the report stating “*The change proposed by the submitter to 2.5.2.1 seeks the protection of the benefits and strategic importance of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure to the district. The focus of this objective is to ensure that these benefits are recognised in planning and decision making. Protection of these benefits is out of the scope of the plan, and it is my view that the recognition of these benefits will provide an appropriate guide to decision makers etc of their relative importance.*”
46. In relation to the change sought to 2.5.2 Objective 2 the s42A report states “*The change proposed by the submitter to 2.5.2.2 seek the achievement of the benefits of the sustainable development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation resources and activities. It is my view that instead of ‘achievement’ these benefits can be recognised and provided for. Such an amendment is more consistent with national policy guidance as it relates to renewable electricity generation.*”

Analysis

47. Dealing first with the change to 2.5.2 Objective 2, the alternative recommended in the s42A report relating to the benefits of renewable electricity generation and transmission be recognised and “provided for” is acceptable in my opinion. This change would give effect to the NPS-REG and the National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission.
48. Objectives 1 and 2 both deal with the benefits of specific matters but Objective 2 is aimed at certain resources and activities and in this context, I consider that it is appropriate for those resources and activities to be “provided for”. On the other hand, Objective 1 relates the benefits and strategic importance of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure more broadly. In this context, I do not consider it necessary for these wider benefits to be expressly “protected”. Therefore, no further change is sought to Objective 1.

Conclusion and Relief

49. For the reasons set out, I recommend that 2.5.2 Objective 2 be amended as recommended in the s42A report follows (insertions underlined, deletions ~~struck-out~~):

The local and national benefits of the sustainable development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation resources and activities are recognised and encouraged provided for.

2.5.3 Policies

Submissions for Genesis (submission point 84.8)

50. The Genesis submission supported the general intent of 2.5.3 Policies but sought a change to Policy 2 to strengthen and provide clarity to the provision. In particular, the submission seeks to recognise “and provide” for the functional and operational needs of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.

Council’s s42A assessment and recommendation

51. The s42A report acknowledges that direction to ‘recognise and provide for’ is consistent with that found in the NPS-REG but dismisses the submission point. The reasons given is that Policy 2 “*has a scope which is wider than renewable electricity generation activities and extends to all nationally and regionally significant infrastructure. Not all nationally and regionally significant infrastructure are matters of national importance by the Act and therefore there is no direction to recognise and provide for it. Policy 2.5.3.1 is focussed specifically to such activities and includes the terms requested by the submitters. It would not be appropriate to extend this same level of provision to all the activities captured under Policy 2.5.3.1 as they don’t enjoy the same level of support from higher order statutory documents. Renewable Electricity Generation activities will still be recognised and provided for under the NPS REG.*”

Analysis

52. I don’t agree with the s42A report that there needs to be national direction in order for the Plan to provide for nationally and regionally significant infrastructure. It is appropriate for Plan policies to determine when affirmative action is needed to address a matter of significance to the district. I accept that Policy 1 seeks to recognise and provide for renewable electricity generation and transmission but there is other infrastructure that is important to support these activities.
53. Policy 2 addresses the functional and operational needs⁵ of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure. The functional and operational needs acknowledge the constraints and barriers associated with the provision of infrastructure in certain locations or environments. The first step is to recognise whether such a constraint and barrier is present for the infrastructure, and the second step is to determine whether more affirmative action should be taken to provide for the infrastructure in that location or environment.
54. In my view, amending the policy as sought does not provide a greenlight to all nationally and regionally significant infrastructure. It simply allows a proposal to be assessed on its

⁵ “Functional need” and “operation need” being terms defined in the National Planning Standard.

merits based on its functional and operational needs and will ensure the objectives in Section 2.5.2 can be achieved.

Conclusion and Relief

55. I consider that the changes sought to 2.5.3 Policy 2 are appropriate for the significance and scale of activities associated with nationally and regionally significant infrastructure. I therefore support changes to Policy 2 as follows (insertions underlined, deletions ~~struck out~~):

Recognise and provide for the functional and operational needs associated with the use and development of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT VALUES

2.6.3 Policies

Submissions for Genesis (submission point 84.10)

56. The Genesis submission supports the policies in Section 2.6.3 but considers the potential benefits provided by offset measures and compensation should be explicitly provided for, particularly when considered against development and activities that have a wider benefit, such as renewable electricity generation and regionally significant infrastructure. The new policy sought in the submission is:

Recognise the benefits of offset measures and compensation and provide for their use as feasible alternatives to manage significant residual adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities and Regionally Significant Infrastructure.

Council's s42A assessment and recommendation

57. The s42A report does not accept the submission point, and in particular records that:

Incorporation of an effects hierarchy approach into the management of biodiversity etc. is a method which is more appropriately considered through the subsequent review of the natural values chapter of the Plan. That review will be undertaken once there is clarity on national level direction through the gazettal of the NPS-IB. This review will establish a more detailed framework for how the Council meets its obligations under Section 6c and 7d of the RMA. A clear understanding of that framework will ensure that the use of methods such as offsetting and compensation are able to be considered with the use of other methods, including regulation, which may be proposed. In the interim it is my view that the proposed and existing policy in the TDP do not preclude the use of offsetting to mitigate the effects of development on areas of indigenous biodiversity.

Analysis

58. The reasons given in the s42A report is focussed only on matters relating to the management of biodiversity. I generally agree with these reasons, in so far as it relates to biodiversity matters, that this should be comprehensively reviewed and addressed as part of future plan changes.
59. The recently gazetted National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (**NPS-IB**) should set the direction for a comprehensive review of biodiversity management, including any biodiversity offset measures and compensation. In undertaking this comprehensive review across the district, it is important that it appropriately establishes how biodiversity management is to be applied to renewable electricity generation and transmission activities given the direction in clause 1.3 of the NPS-IB that “*nothing in this National Policy Statement applies to the development, operation, maintenance or upgrade of renewable electricity generation assets and activities and electricity transmission network assets and activities.*” I consider that this is a critical step given the significant role of renewable electricity generation in the district, but I am of the view that it is beyond the scope of this Plan Change.
60. For the same reasons as noted above, I do not support the submissions of the Department of Conservation⁶ that PC38 is reviewed and revised to give effect to the NPS-IB or provisions specifically relating to biodiversity offsetting and compensation. Any such changes are outside scope of the plan change and need to be addressed comprehensively and progressed by way of a future plan change.
61. The policy sought by Genesis is broader than biodiversity management and gets its direction from Policy C2 in the NPS-REG⁷ which has been in place since 2011. The NPS-REG Policy recognises the challenges faced by large-scale renewable electricity generation activities that it will have some degree of localised adverse environmental effect. Further, the NPS-REG establishes that offset measures or compensation is an appropriate mechanism to address residual environmental effects that cannot otherwise be avoided, remedied or mitigated. The policy sought by Genesis is also consistent with Method EIT-M1 of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement relating to plan provisions that *inter alia* “*provides for renewable energy by having particular regard to: ...any residual environmental effects of renewable electricity generation activities which cannot be*

⁶ DOC Submission 89.1 and 89.2; and Genesis further submission 215.9 and 215.10.

⁷ NPS-REG Policy C2 - When considering any residual environmental effects of renewable electricity generation activities that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, decision-makers shall have regard to offsetting measures or environmental compensation including measures or compensation which benefit the local environment and community affected.

avoided, remedied or mitigated can be offset or compensated to benefit the affected community or the region”.

62. In my view, the notified policies in Section 2.6.3 lack any strategic direction beyond protection, enhancement and restoration, and that the policy sought by Genesis provides an appropriate level of balance when considering matters relating to natural environment values.

Conclusion and Relief

63. For the reasons set out, I recommend the relief sought in the Genesis submission for a new policy in Section 2.6.3 as follows (insertions underlined, deletions ~~struck-out~~):

Recognise the benefits of offset measures and compensation and provide for their use as feasible alternatives to manage significant residual adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities and Regionally Significant Infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

64. The Strategic Directions in the Plan are important to help achieve the key strategic and significant resource management matters for the district. Of relevance to the Genesis submission, the district has an abundance of natural and physical resources that are used, planned to be used, or potential to be developed, for renewable electricity generation activities. Protecting existing renewable electricity generation and providing for the further development of renewable electricity generation activities is critical to decarbonising the economy and addressing climate change.
65. In order to appropriately address these matters, this evidence recommends changes or additions to:
- (a) An objective and policy for Strategic Direction 4 on climate change;
 - (b) An objective and policy for Strategic Direction 5 on significant and local infrastructure; and
 - (c) A policy for Strategic Direction 6 on natural environment values.
66. All requested changes sought in this evidence are set out in the attached **Schedule A**. A s32AA evaluation of the requested changes is provided in the attached **Schedule B**.
67. A number of submission and further submission points by Genesis have been accepted, accepted in part, or not accepted in the s42A report where I agree with the recommendations in the s42A report. These matters have been recorded in the attached **Schedule C** and the evidence does not provide further discussion or evaluation of these matters.

Miles Rowe

09 August 2023

SCHEDULE A: TRACK CHANGES OF AMENDMENTS SOUGHT IN EVIDENCE

The recommended amendments to the provisions are listed in the order that they appear in the PC38, with insertions underlined, deletions ~~struck-out~~.

2.4.2 Objective

1. *Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will result in positive climate change outcomes, including through an increase in the generation of electricity from renewable energy resources.*

2.4.3 Policy

X. Recognise and provide for the use and development of the District's renewable energy resources to facilitate decarbonisation of the economy, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, increased electricity generation capacity and improved security of supply including transmission.

2.5.2 Objective

2. *The local and national benefits of the sustainable development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation resources and activities are recognised and ~~encouraged~~ provided for.*

2.5.3 Policy

2. *Recognise and provide for the functional and operational needs associated with the use and development of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.*

2.6.3 Policy

X. Recognise the benefits of offset measures and compensation and provide for their use as feasible alternatives to manage significant residual adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities and Regionally Significant Infrastructure.

SCHEDULE B: S32AA EVALUATION OF AMENDMENTS SOUGHT IN EVIDENCE

The s32AA is undertaken at a level of detail that corresponds to the scale and significance of the changes to:

- show that changes to objectives are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA;
- show that changes to policies are the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives,
- identify and assess the benefits and costs, and assess the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions.

Recommended Amendments	S32AA evaluation
<p>2.4.2 Objective</p> <p>1. <i>Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will result in positive climate change outcomes, <u>including through an increase in the generation of electricity from renewable energy resources.</u></i></p>	<p>I consider that the amendments recommended to the objective are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA as it provides greater clarity as to the outcome sought while not changing the underlying intent.</p> <p>The objective gives effect to higher order instruments (NPS-REG) and better integrating s7 (i) and (j) RMA relating to climate change and the use and development of renewable energy, and better integrates with Strategic Direction 5 objectives relating to infrastructure.</p> <p>The recommended amendment is efficient as it links the relationship between the provision of renewable electricity generation with positive climate change outcomes and will be more efficient when considering the merits of applications of renewable electricity generation activities.</p> <p>The risk of not acting is that electrification and decarbonisation of the economy will be more difficult, will not assist in achieving in the outcome in the objective.</p>
<p>2.4.3 Policy</p> <p><i><u>X. Recognise and provide for the use and development of the District's renewable energy resources to facilitate decarbonisation of the economy, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, increased electricity generation capacity and improved security of supply including transmission.</u></i></p>	<p>I consider that the recommended policy is the most appropriate way to achieve the 2.4.2 Objectives and expands on the way in which Objective 1 (and recommended amendments) is to be achieved by assisting decarbonisation initiative and meeting the energy trilemma.</p> <p>The policy is efficient as it is complementary to the Strategic Direction policies in 2.4.3 and 2.5.3, which will assist in achieving multiple objectives.</p> <p>The risk of not acting is that electrification and decarbonisation of the economy will be more difficult, will not assist in achieving in the objective.</p>
<p>2.5.2 Objective</p> <p>2. <i>The local and national benefits of the sustainable development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation resources and activities are recognised and <u>encouraged provided for.</u></i></p>	<p>I consider that the amendments recommended to the objective are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA and higher order documents (NPS-REG) as the benefits of renewable energy use and development, as required by s7(j) RMA, can only be achieved where those benefits are recognised and provided for. The recommended amendment provides clarity without changing the underlying intent.</p> <p>The recommended amendment is efficient as “provided for” is more directive and certain than “encouraged”.</p> <p>The risk of not acting is that benefits of renewable electricity generation and transmission activities are not fully realised within the district.</p>

Recommended Amendments	S32AA evaluation
<p>2.5.3 Policy</p> <p>2. <i>Recognise <u>and provide for</u> the functional and operational needs associated with the use and development of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.</i></p>	<p>I consider that the recommended amendment to the policy is the most appropriate way to achieve the 2.5.2 Objectives, including recommended amendments to Objective 2, by requiring more affirmative action to “provide for”.</p> <p>The recommended amendment is efficient as it will enable the functional and operational needs to be realised when considering consent applications for nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>The risk of not acting is that the functional and operational needs are not adequately taken into account.</p>
<p>2.6.3 Policy</p> <p><i>X. <u>Recognise the benefits of offset measures and compensation and provide for their use as feasible alternatives to manage significant residual adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities and Regionally Significant Infrastructure.</u></i></p>	<p>I consider that the recommended policy is the most appropriate way to achieve the 2.6.2 Objectives by providing clarity in relation to the appropriateness of development to achieve the outcomes relating to the protection of natural values. The recommended policy also gives effect to higher order documents (NPS-REG).</p> <p>The policy is efficient as it will provide greater certainty for resource consent applications and Plan users.</p> <p>The risk of not acting is that applications for renewable electricity generation activities are not able to be considered on their merits where there are significant residual adverse effects.</p>

SCHEDULE C: S42A REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED IN RELATION TO SUBMISSIONS AND FURTHER SUBMISSIONS BY GENESIS

Submission point	Provision	Position	Submission Reasons	Relief sought (deletion struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	S42A recommendation	S42A reasoning (deletions struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	Genesis position
Original Submissions							
OS84.47	Strategic Directions – Energy Chapter				Accept in Part	Report Section: 4.2.4	Agree Addressed in evidence from paragraph 23
OS84.1	2.3.2 Objectives	Support in part	Genesis generally supports the proposed objectives. A minor edit is suggested to provide clarity.	Retain 2.3.2 Objectives with amendment below. 2.3.2 Objectives ... 4. Subdivision, use and development of land <u>in appropriate locations</u> which will have demonstrable social and cultural benefits to the District’s community will be supported.	Not Accepted	Report Section: 4.5.9 Genesis Energy (OS84.1) are also seeking amendments to Objective 2.3.2.3 qualifying support for development based on its location. High level land use patterns are established via zoning and the provisions of the Plan that relate to that zone or activity. Higher level guidance is provided through the strategic directions which reference the 2018 District Wide Growth Management Strategy, TD2050. It is my view that the reference to TD2050 provides a suitable level of direction relating to land use throughout the district. More site-specific guidance can be provided throughout the wider plan. <i>2.3.2 Objectives</i> <i>4. Subdivision, use and development of land which <u>can demonstrate</u> will have demonstrable social and cultural benefits to the District’s community is recognised and provided for will be supported.</i>	Agree The changes recommended to 2.3.2 Objectives are considered appropriate.
OS84.2	2.3.3 Policy	Support in part	Genesis generally supports the proposed policies. However, in respect of Policy 10, Genesis considers conflicts need to be avoided with activities in the wider surrounding environment, not just on adjoining properties. In addition, reverse sensitivity effects do not arise from “existing uses” – they arise from new or expanded sensitive activities locating in proximity to existing uses. Suggested changes are therefore made to accurately reflect the intent of Policy 10.	Retain 2.3.3 Policy subject to amendments below. 2.3.3 <u>Policies</u> ... 5. Require urban subdivision and land development to be efficiently and effectively serviced by infrastructure (including development and of additional infrastructure), according to the capacity limitations of that infrastructure. ... 7. Provide for the development of Papakāinga on Māori Māori land to facilitate Māori occupation on their ancestral lands. ... 9. Restrict the location and development of retail and commercial activities within non-commercial areas of the district to ensure that the town centres continues to be the districts District’s pre-eminent retail, commercial and mixed-use centres. 10. Manage subdivision use and development of land to ensure that it will not: a. have an adverse effect on the functioning of the environment where it is located, b. unduly conflict with existing activities on adjoining properties <u>and</u>	Accept in Part	Report Section: 4.5.6 I agree with the proposed change to 2.3.3.10 that extends the consideration of reverse sensitivity to areas wider than adjoining properties. The proposed wording limits the application of the policy in a manner that does not reflect the wider effects associated with activities within parts of the district. Some existing activities within the Rural Environment for instance have wide reaching effects which need to be considered to ensure their continued operation. This would also apply to existing activities located over the road from proposed ones which would not be picked up by this policy. 2.3.3.10 d is proposed to be removed by other submissions. It is recommended to change 2.3.3.10.b as follows: <i>Policy 2.3.3.10.b: unduly conflict with existing activities on adjoining properties <u>and the surrounding areas</u>.</i>	Agree The recommended change to 2.3.3 Policy 10(b) is appropriate to address the reverse sensitivity issue.

Submission point	Provision	Position	Submission Reasons	Relief sought (deletion struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	S42A recommendation	S42A reasoning (deletions struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	Genesis position
				<p><u>the surrounding areas.</u></p> <p>C. compromise development consistent with the intent and planned urban built form of the environment where it is located.</p> <p>d. give rise to reverse sensitivity effects from existing uses</p> <p>...</p>			
OS84.3	2.4 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4 CLIMATE CHANGE	Support in Part	<p>Climate change is one the most significant issues facing the entire planet. As noted in section 2.5 Strategic Direction 5 Significant and Local Infrastructure, the Taupō District provides up to 20% of New Zealand’s electricity supply. There are more than 20 renewable electricity power stations in the Taupō District, mostly located in the Rural Environment. It is therefore one of the most significant land uses in the Taupō District.</p> <p>Genesis consider the importance of renewable electricity generation needs to be appropriately recognised and provided for in the Taupō District Plan, particularly within this section that sets out how climate change is to be addressed within the Taupō District. In that regard, the first priority should be to support activities that will help avoid climate change occurring in the first place. High on that list is renewable electricity generation.</p> <p>The minor changes are therefore suggested to strengthen the overview statement leading to the objectives and policies in this section.</p>	<p>Retain 2.4 overview statement subject to amendments below.</p> <p>2.4 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4 CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Climate change has been identified as an issue which is important <u>globally and</u> within the Taupō District. A warming environment, longer and drier droughts and increased intensity of storm events are anticipated. It is important that the District and its communities are able to adapt to the effects of climate change to be resilient and safe.</p> <p>For environmental management and planning purposes there are two separate, but important aspects of climate change:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Effects on climate change – which refers to activities that may lead to an increase in greenhouse gasses and those which may result in a reduction of greenhouse gasses from discharged to the atmosphere or help to facilitate efforts towards decarbonisation, <u>including the electrification of home heating, transport and industry.</u> Effects of climate change – which are the effects caused by climate change such as more frequent flooding, droughts and intensive weather events which can endanger communities, assets and infrastructure. <p>It is important to consider both of these aspects of climate change to effectively enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety. Supporting positive climate change outcomes and ensuring that the effects of climate change are recognised and provided for will assist in planning for a district which <u>helps avoid</u>, does not contribute to, and is resilient to, climate change. The Strategic Directions for climate change are consistent with the Government’s obligations to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and accords with the target for 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030.</p>	Accept in Part	<p>Report Section: 4.6.2</p> <p>Genesis seek changes to the introduction text and the addition of new provisions to specifically recognise and provide for renewable power generation activities in section 2.4. This is based on renewable power generation activities having positive climate change outcomes. As noted in the preamble of the NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 “The contribution of renewable electricity generation, regardless of scale, towards addressing the effects of climate change plays a vital role in the wellbeing of New Zealand, its people and the environment.”. This point is reiterated in Policy A of that NPS.</p> <p>The amendments to the introductory text proposed by the submitters are supported, as they add additional context to the nature of climate change effects and activities etc</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Effects on climate change – which refers to activities that may lead to an increase in greenhouse gasses and those which may result in a reduction of greenhouse gasses from discharged to⁵⁹ the atmosphere or help to facilitate efforts towards decarbonisation. <p>Other changes sought in the submission are Accepted.</p>	Agree
OS84.4	2.4.2 Objective	Support in Part	<p>Genesis supports the proposed directions for community resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change. However, with the serious implications of climate change being increasingly experienced across New Zealand, Genesis considers explicit references for direct actions are required in conjunction with objectives that build resilience and adaptation. Genesis considers a new objective should be included that explicitly recognises the</p>	<p>Retain 2.4.2 Objective subject to amendments below.</p> <p>2.4.2 Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will result in positive climate change outcomes. <u>An increase in the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources within the Taupō District to assist with the decarbonisation of the economy.</u> Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will be resilient to the current and future effects of climate change on the District’s current and future communities, including any disproportionate effects on MMāori. The Taupō District is well prepared to adapt to the risks and effects 	Not Accepted	No change	Addressed in evidence from paragraph 28

Submission point	Provision	Position	Submission Reasons	Relief sought (deletion struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	S42A recommendation	S42A reasoning (deletions struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	Genesis position
			increasing contribution renewable electricity generation in the District has on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the potential effects of climate change.	from climate change, such as natural hazards.			
OS84.5	2.4.3 Policy		As outlined in 2.4.2 Objective above, Genesis considers two new policies need to be included which specifically provide for and enable activities that will help address climate change.	<p>Retain 2.4.3 Policy subject to amendments below.</p> <p>2.4.3 Policies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Land use activities which will result in positive climate change outcomes, including through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonisation, will be supported and encouraged. <u>Recognise and provide for the use and development of the District’s renewable energy resources to facilitate decarbonisation of the economy, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, increased electricity generation capacity and improved security of supply including transmission.</u> <u>Enable the upgrading and maintenance of existing and the development of new renewable electricity generation activities, including where contributing to one of the following:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>adaptation required to mitigate risks from climate change</u> <u>provides for more electricity output, or greater efficiency</u> <u>continued safe, efficient and secure operation.</u> 24. Land use activities which will unduly accelerate the effects of climate change will be discouraged. <p>...</p>	Not Accepted	Report section 4.6.2 No Change	Addressed in evidence from paragraph 34.
OS84.6	Strategic Direction 5 Significant and Local Infrastructure	Support in Part	Genesis generally supports the proposed overview statement which identifies the range of infrastructure important within the District. Minor changes are however suggested to provide clarity and accuracy. In particular, Genesis considers “energy generation” should be more accurately referenced as “electricity generation”. In addition, as “significant infrastructure” is not (and should not be) a defined term, Genesis considers the quotation marks should be removed to avoid confusion.	<p>Retain 2.5 overview statement subject to amendments below.</p> <p>2.5 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5 SIGNIFICANT AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Infrastructure, as defined in the Resource Management Act generally encompasses physical services and facilities which enable society to function, such as the three waters network, transport, communications, energy electricity generation, transmission and distribution networks, and any other network utilities undertaken by network utility operators.</p> <p>Infrastructure is critical to the social and economic wellbeing of people and communities, including providing for their health and safety, and has national, regional and local benefits. However, inappropriately located or designed land use activities can adversely affect the safe and effective functioning of significant and locally important infrastructure <u>and the natural resources on which they rely on to operate.</u></p> <p>The Taupō District plays an important role in the location and provision of nationally ‘significant infrastructure’. Its central location and natural resources means that Taupō is home to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State highways (1, 5, 32, 41 and 47). the national grid electricity transmission network renewable electricity generation facilities that connect with the national grid, accounting for up to 20% of New Zealand’s total electricity demand Airports used for regular air transport services by aeroplanes <p>The Taupō District is also home to Regionally Significant Infrastructure including municipal waste water systems, the telecommunications and electricity networks.</p>	Accept	<p>Report Section: 4.7.1</p> <p>Changes Accepted</p> <p>Genesis have requested that the introduction of section 2.6 and Policy 2.5.3.1 should more refer to “electricity generation” and not “energy generation”. This definition is more consistent to those terms used in the national and regional planning documents. Recognition of the importance of the natural resources on which they rely on to operate is also considered to be an important part of supporting the establishment and operation of this infrastructure</p> <p>The following amendments should be made to PC38:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Introduction: “...transport, communications, energy electricity generation...”</i> <i>Introduction: “...effective functioning of significant and locally important infrastructure and <u>the natural resources on which they rely on to operate.</u>”</i> <i>Policy 2.5.3.1: “Recognise and provide for the national, regional and local benefits of renewable energy electricity generation activities...”</i> <p>The definition of regionally significant infrastructure in the WRPS and the BOPRPS refer to electricity generation where it is supplied or fed into the national grid or network etc. The connection of the generation facilities to the national grid is what gives it its regional</p>	Agree Genesis supports the recommended changes to 2.5 Introduction, including reference to nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.

Submission point	Provision	Position	Submission Reasons	Relief sought (deletion struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	S42A recommendation	S42A reasoning (deletions struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	Genesis position
				In addition to nationally and regionally significant infrastructure, local roads and other infrastructure (including development and additional infrastructure) is vital for the ongoing functioning of the Districts <u>District's</u> urban and rural communities.		and or national significance and as such its reference should be retained.	
OS84.7	2.5.2 Objectives	Support	Genesis supports 2.5.2 Objectives which appropriately recognises the strategic importance and benefits of infrastructure, including electricity infrastructure. Minor changes are suggested to strengthen the objectives.	Retain 2.5.2 Objectives subject to amendments below. 2.5.2 Objectives 1. The wider benefits and strategic importance of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure to the District and wider, including the economic, cultural and social wellbeing of people and communities and for their health and safety, are recognised <u>and protected</u> in decision making and land use planning. 2. The local and national benefits of the sustainable development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation resources and activities are recognised and <u>encouraged achieved</u>	Accept in Part	Report Section: 4.7.2 Genesis seek an amendment to Objectives 2.5.2.1 and 2.5.2.2. It is recommended that these policies are amended as follows <i>1. The wider benefits and strategic importance of aNationally and #Regionally significant infrast<u>ru</u>cture⁷⁰ to the District and wider, including the economic, cultural and social wellbeing of people and communities and for their health and safety,⁷¹ are recognised in decision making and land use planning.</i> <i>2. The local and national benefits of the sustainable development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation resources and activities are recognised and encouraged <u>provided for</u>.</i>	Addressed in evidence from paragraph 44.
OS84.8	2.5.3 Policy	Support in Part	Genesis generally supports the proposed policies; however, minor changes are suggested to strengthen the provisions and to provide clarity and accuracy as outlined elsewhere in Genesis' submission.	Retain 2.5.3 Policy subject to amendments below. Amend to read as follows: 2.5.3 Policie <u>s</u> 1. Recognise and provide for the national, regional and local benefits of renewable energy-electricity generation activities and resources, and transmission activities, in relation to climate change, security of supply, and social, and economic wellbeing of people and communities and for their health and safety. 2. Recognise <u>and provide for</u> the functional and operational needs associated with the use and development of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure. ...	Accept in Part	Report Section: 4.7.2 Amendment to Policy 1 accepted Amendment to Policy 2 not accepted.	Policy 1 – Agree Policy 2 – Addressed in evidence from paragraph 50.
OS84.9	2.6.2 Objectives	Support	Genesis generally supports the proposed objectives. Minor changes are suggested for accuracy.	Retain 2.6.2 Objectives with amendments below. 2.6.2 Objectives 1. Recognise the importance of the districts <u>District's</u> natural values and landscapes and their significance to the Taupō Districts <u>District's</u> communities and identity. ... 4. Recognition of the extent of indigenous vegetation and habitat <u>under on</u> Māori land tenure , and the need to provide for the important relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands and wā ā <u>ā</u> hi tapu. ...	Accept in Part	Amendment to objective 1 accepted Amendment to objective 4 accepted (with minor change to spelling of wāhi tapu)	Agree
OS84.10	2.6.3 Policy	Support in part	Genesis generally supports the proposed policies. However, in addition to minor changes suggested for accuracy, Genesis considers the potential benefits provided by offset measures and compensation should be explicitly provided for, particularly when	Retain 2.6.3 Policy subject to amendments below. 2.6.3 Policie <u>s</u> ... 7. Recognise the benefits of offset measures and compensation and <u>provide for their use as feasible alternatives to manage significant residual adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities and</u>	Not Accepted	Report Section: 4.8.2 No Change	Addressed in evidence from paragraph 56.

Submission point	Provision	Position	Submission Reasons	Relief sought (deletion struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	S42A recommendation	S42A reasoning (deletions struck-out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	Genesis position
			considered against development and activities that have a wider benefit (e.g. regional, national and global) such as renewable electricity generation activities and Regionally Significant Infrastructure	Regionally Significant Infrastructure			
Further Submissions							
FS215.12 (OS22.23 NZ Pork Industry Board)	Strategic Directions	Oppose	Genesis opposes the relief sought by the submitter unless the new strategic direction adequately provides for all activities that have a strategic need to be located in the District, including existing strategic infrastructure that are regionally and/or nationally significant. This new strategic direction must be inclusive of all rural industry that have a functional and/or operational need to be located in the rural environment, not just primary production activities.	Submissions from the NZ Pork Industry Board (OS22.23) and Horticulture New Zealand (OS26.59) seek the inclusion of a new strategic direction or new objectives and policies that recognise of the importance of the Taupō District rural environment. Genesis reject the relief sought by the submitters unless the new strategic direction adequately provides for all activities that have a strategic need to be located in the District.	Accept in part	Report Section: 4.2.1 It is recommended that Objective 2.3.2.2 be amended as follows: <i>Subdivision, use and development of land will be consistent with TD2050 2018 to <u>protect the effective functioning of the Rural Environment</u>, maximise the efficient use of zoned and serviced urban land and is co-ordinated with the provision of cost effective infrastructure.</i> It is recommended that Policy 2.3.3.3 be amended as follows: <i>Avoid fragmented <u>urban</u> development that results in inefficienties:</i> <i>a. <u>Use of land in</u>,</i> <i>b. the provision and functioning of infrastructure, and</i> <i>c. land use <u>functioning of the General Rural Environment</u></i>	Agree
FS215.13 (OS26.59 Horticulture New Zealand)	Strategic Directions	Oppose	Genesis opposes the relief sought by the submitter unless the new strategic direction is inclusive of all rural industry that have a functional and/or operational need to be located in the rural environment, not just primary production activities.		Accept in Part		Agree
FS215.15 (OS58.1 Pukawa D2 Trust)	Strategic Directions	Oppose	Genesis opposes the proposal to create a hierarchy for the Strategic Directions, as this would imply a priority between them which is not appropriate as they should all be considered equally	The original submission seeks that a hierarchy be assigned to the strategic directions generally and the objectives associated with Strategic Direction 1 Genesis Reject the relief sought by the submitter	Accept	Report Section: 4.2.3 No changes made There is no legal requirement or direction for establishing such a hierarchy of provisions	Agree
FS215.7 (OS59.9 Ryman Healthcare)	2.3.3 Policy 10	Oppose	Genesis opposes the proposed softening of Policy 10, which would only require existing uses and reverse sensitivity effects to be 'considered' instead of adhered to. They seek to retain the policy as it is, with the relief sought in their primary submission	Reject the relief sought and retain Policy10 subject to the relief sought by Genesis in its primary submission.	Accepted in Part	Report Section 4.5.3 In respect to the submission points made on 2.3.3.10, it is my view that the requested changes remove important direction from the proposed policy. The proposed policy has been drafted to be purposefully restrictive of the activities or effects listed in a – d. The direction provided by '....ensure that it will not:', is purposeful to set clear direction that those effects or activities are not anticipated by the plan. The wording proposed by the submitter will diminish that direction and reduce the effectiveness of the policy in achieving its aim.	Agree
FS215.8 (OS98.9 Retirement Villages Assoc. of NZ Inc)	2.3.3 Policy 10	Oppose	Genesis opposes the proposed softening of the policy that would only require conflict on existing uses and reverse sensitivity effects		Accepted in Part	I do agree that matters 'b' and 'd' address the same subject of reverse sensitivity and agree that removing one of them will increase the effectiveness of the policy. As it is recommended to	Agree

Submission point	Provision	Position	Submission Reasons	Relief sought (deletion struck out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	S42A recommendation	S42A reasoning (deletions struck out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	Genesis position
			to be considered, and instead seeks to retain the 2.3.3 Policy 10 as it is.			make changes to 'b' because of another submission, I recommend that 'd' should be removed. Amend the policy as follows: 1. <i>Manage subdivision use and development of land to ensure that it will not:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>have an adverse effect on the functioning of the environment where it is located,</i> b. <i>unduly conflict with existing activities on adjoining properties <u>and the surrounding areas</u>⁵⁴,</i> c. <i>compromise development consistent with the intent and planned urban built form of the environment where it is located</i> d. <i>give rise to reverse sensitivity effects from existing uses</i> 	
FS215.11 (OS89.7 DOC)	2.3.3 Policy 12	Oppose	Genesis opposes the submitter's request for relief, as they believe that any development in areas with important natural and landscape values should be assessed on its individual merits, rather than using absolute language such as 'avoid'	The original submission requests that policy 2.3.3.12 be amended to use the term 'avoid' instead of 'do not support', Reject the relief sought by the submitter.	Accept	Report Section: 4.5.7 The Department of Conservation (OS89.7) has submitted that policy 2.3.3.12 be amended to use the term 'avoid' instead of 'do not support', this is based on having regard to Section 6 of the RMA. The policy refers generally to historic sites and areas of important natural and landscape values. These are matters which are covered under Sections 6 and 7 of the RMA. These sections of the RMA require the protection, maintenance, and regard to be had to the intrinsic values of these matters. They do not require an avoidance of inappropriate effects. More detailed direction will be provided on these matters in the wider plan. The use of the term 'do not support' does not preclude an 'avoid' response as the wider plan is reviewed. No changes should be made to policy 2.3.3.12 because of this original submission	Agree
FS215.2 (OS114.18 Taupō Climate Action Group)	2.4 Strategic Direction 4 Climate Change	Support in Part	Amendments to support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions are supported insofar as any amendments recognise the significance of renewable electricity generation within the District and is consistent with the original submission by Genesis.	The original submitter seeks stronger direction in the proposed provisions to drive low emissions development in the district Genesis accept the relief sought insofar as it recognises the role of renewable electricity generation within the District and is consistent with the original submission by Genesis	Accept In part	Report Section: 4.6.5 The Taupō Climate Action Group (OS114.1 and OS114.18) seek stronger direction in the proposed provisions to drive low emissions development in the district. It is important to note that there will be other non-regulatory measures instigated by local and central government as well as private initiatives which will be part of this emissions reduction effort. The district plan has an important role in this process however, as noted in the Section 32 assessment, is limited in its scope as they only consider new activities and the Council's role in this process as a district council, i.e. they do not regulate discharges etc. On review of the amendments proposed to Objective 2.4.2.1, I do not feel that they add anything to the objective which is not already present. Minimising greenhouse gas emissions is captured by the focus on creating positive climate change outcomes. No change should be made to the provisions as a result.	Address in evidence in relation to Genesis submission 84.4 from Paragraph 28.
FS215.3 (OS110.3 Transpower)	2.5 Strategic Direction 5 Significant	Support in Part	Genesis supports the inclusion of a definition for 'nationally significant infrastructure' which includes existing power station sites, and their associated infrastructure and	The original submitters seek the introduction into the plan of definitions of the following terms that are used in provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nationally Significant Infrastructure• Regionally Significant Infrastructure	Accept	Report Section: 4.7.1 These terms are defined in national and / or regional planning documents and their inclusion would improve the understanding	Agree

Submission point	Provision	Position	Submission Reasons	Relief sought (deletion struck out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	S42A recommendation	S42A reasoning (deletions struck out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	Genesis position
	and Local Infrastructure		ancillary activities, in order to accept the relief sought by the submitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Grid Genesis accept the relief sought by the submitter subject to the definition including the existing power station sites, and associated infrastructure and ancillary activities.		of the plan to users. On this basis, the following definitions should be added to section 10 of the TDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Nationally Significant Infrastructure: has the same meaning as in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020</u> <u>Regionally Significant Infrastructure: has the same meaning as in the relevant Regional Policy Statement</u> <u>National Grid: has the same meaning as provided in the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008.</u> 	
FS215.4 (OS110.6 Transpower)		Support in Part	Genesis supports the relief sought by the submitter, which includes the definition of 'nationally significant infrastructure' and 'regionally significant infrastructure' that includes existing power station sites, and their associated infrastructure and ancillary activities		Accept in Part		Agree
FS215.6 (OS112.1 Radio NZ)		Support	Genesis supports the inclusion of the definition for 'regionally significant infrastructure' in the Waikato RPS and agrees to the relief sought.		Accepted		Agree
FS215.14 (OS29.10 Waikato Regional Council)	Policy 2.5.3.2	Support	The submitter supports the relief sought by the original submitter as long as it is in line with the original submission by Genesis. The relief requested is in agreement with Genesis' original request.	The original submission seeks amended wording by changing the percentage from 20% to 27% and providing wording that recognises the local and national importance of Taupo's electricity-producing capability Accept the relief sought by the submitter insofar as it is consistent with the original submission by Genesis	Accept	Report Section: 4.7.2 The proposed amendments to Strategic Directions 2.5.2 of the District Plan would recognise the importance of the district's electricity generating capacity to the local and national economy, increasing the percentage from 20% to 27% and providing wording that acknowledges	Agree
FS215.16 (OS115.33 Ngati Tuwharetoa)	2.5.3 Policy 1	Oppose	Genesis opposes the relief sought and wants to keep 2.5.3 Policy 1, but with the relief sought by Genesis in its primary submission. Genesis believes that the wider benefits of renewable electricity generation should be acknowledged in the policy.	The original submission seeks amendments to the wording of the policy. Genesis reject the relief sought and retain 2.5.3 Policy 1 subject to the relief sought by Genesis in its primary submission	Not Accept	Report Section: 4.7.3 I acknowledge the submitters statements that the development of some of this infrastructure has had profound adverse, direct, and indirect, social, cultural, economic, and spiritual impacts on Ngāti Tuwharetoa hapū and whanau and other iwi within the Taupō District. The proposed provisions provide for the consideration of such impacts on the important natural and cultural values within the district within the wider strategic directions chapter, including sections 2.1 and 2.6. Any proposed plan change or resource consent application etc for the development etc of infrastructure would need to consider those provisions to ensure that those values will inform the outcome of any relevant application. On this basis it is not considered necessary to include additional policy in section 2.5 as it will be repeating existing direction.	Agree
FS215.5 (OS110.7 Transpower)	2.5.3 Policy 3	Support	Genesis supports the proposed relief to include a reference to not compromising the effective and safe functioning of infrastructure, but believes it is important to also retain the reference to reverse sensitivity effects	The original submitter requests specific reference, in policy 2.5.3.3, to activities which could compromise infrastructure. Genesis accept the relief to include reference to not 'compromise' the effective and safe functioning of infrastructure but retain the reference to reverse sensitivity effects.	Not Accepted	Report Section 4.7.4 The change requested by Transpower is not considered necessary. The proposed policy is purposefully high-level in its wording which reflects its strategic application. The proposed policy contains reference to effects and as such it is not considered necessary to refer to a specific type of effect within the provision. Activities which compromise the effective and safe functioning of infrastructure can be included under those activities which 'adversely affect' it.	Agree
FS215.1	Policy 2.5.3	Oppose	The proposed addition appears to misinterpret the concept of reverse sensitivity and is therefore opposed. Any adverse effect arising	Reject the relief sought by the submitter.	Accept	Report Section: 4.7.4 Including the policy requested by Federated Farmers would not be consistent with the statutory direction in national policy	Agree

Submission point	Provision	Position	Submission Reasons	Relief sought (deletion struck out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	S42A recommendation	S42A reasoning (deletions struck out , insertions <u>underlined</u>)	Genesis position
(OS91.6 Federated Farmers)			from new infrastructure on an existing land use activity would be a direct adverse effect on the existing land use, which requires an assessment of the effect in accordance with the RMA. This is already recognized in 2.5.3 Policy 5.			statements relating to renewable electricity generation and electricity generation. This direction recognises the importance of such infrastructure to the wider country and elevates it above other activities which may not have the same level of national importance.	
FS215.9 (OS89.1 DOC)	Strategic Directions	Oppose	Genesis opposes the relief sought by the submitter as it is outside the scope of the Plan Change.	The Department of Conservation (OS89.1) has requested that PC38 is reviewed and revised to give effect to the NPS-IB Genesis Reject the relief sought by the submitter.	Accept	Report Section: 4.8.6 No change As noted by the submitter, the NPS-IB has yet to be gazetted and as such is subject to change. It would not be appropriate to undertake the review requested by the submitter until the NPS is formally gazetted.	Agree Addressed in evidence at paragraph 60.
FS215.10 (OS89.2 DOC)	Strategic Directions	Support	1 Genesis supports the relief sought in its primary submission which includes a proposed new policy in Natural Environment Values 2.6.3 Policy to recognize the benefits of offset measures and compensation, and to provide for their use as feasible alternatives to manage significant residual adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities and Regionally Significant Infrastructure.	The original submission is seeking the addition of provisions specifically relating to biodiversity offsetting and compensation in the proposed provisions. Genesis accept the relief sought subject to the relief sought by Genesis in its primary submission.	Not Accepted	Report Section: 4.8.2 No change. The objectives and policies in PC38 set high level direction on key matters within the district. Incorporation of an effects hierarchy approach into the management of biodiversity etc. is a method which is more appropriately considered through the subsequent review of the natural values chapter of the Plan. That review will be undertaken once there is clarity on national level direction through the gazettal of the NPS-IB. This review will establish a more detailed framework for how the Council meets its obligations under Section 6c and 7d of the RMA. A clear understanding of that framework will ensure that the use of methods such as offsetting and compensation are able to be considered with the use of other methods, including regulation, which may be proposed. In the interim it is my view that the proposed and existing policy in the TDP do not preclude the use of offsetting to mitigate the effects of development on areas of indigenous biodiversity.	Agree Addressed in evidence from paragraph 60.