

Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region – Hearing Stream 3

Tom Anderson Speaking Notes 29.08.2023

1. My name is Tom Anderson. My qualifications and experience are outlined in my evidence in chief for this hearing, dated 14 August 2023. I reiterate that I have read and am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses (section 5 of the Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note 2014).
2. My position on Policy 29 and 51 are also outlined in my evidence in chief. The primary purpose of today's appearance is to answer any questions that the panel may have as a result of mine and Mr McCarrison's evidence.
3. However, I have also read the rebuttal evidence of Dr Dawe and Mr Beban, and make the following observations.
4. I agree with Dr Dawe and Mr Beban at Paragraph 7 of their rebuttal evidence that infrastructure is wider than just telecommunication companies, hence the relief requested to Policy 29 at Paragraph 25 of my evidence in chief is limited to telecommunications infrastructure.
5. At Paragraph 9 of Dr Dawe's and Mr Beban's rebuttal evidence it is noted that they are *not aware of the reasons to why the National Environmental Standard [NES] sought to regulate some activities and not others*. My understanding is that the primary reason for this was to encourage telecommunication facilities to be located either within legal road or on existing buildings, where typically they better visually assimilate into existing environments. It was not related to natural hazards.
6. I am also aware that, as also stated at Paragraph 9 of Dr Dawe's and Mr Beban's rebuttal evidence, *there can be differences in natural risk profiles between road reserve and private property boundaries (particularly in relation to flood hazards) and there is the potential for there to be off site effects*.
7. In reviewing this statement, I have taken the opportunity to look at the flood hazard mapping in a number of recently operative or proposed district plans in the Wellington Region, being the Kapiti Coast District Plan, the Proposed Porirua District Plan and the Proposed Wellington District Plan. As shown in the following figures, it is often legal road which is identified as Flood Hazard.



Figure 1: Flood Hazards in Eastern Porirua as shown in the Proposed Porirua District Plan

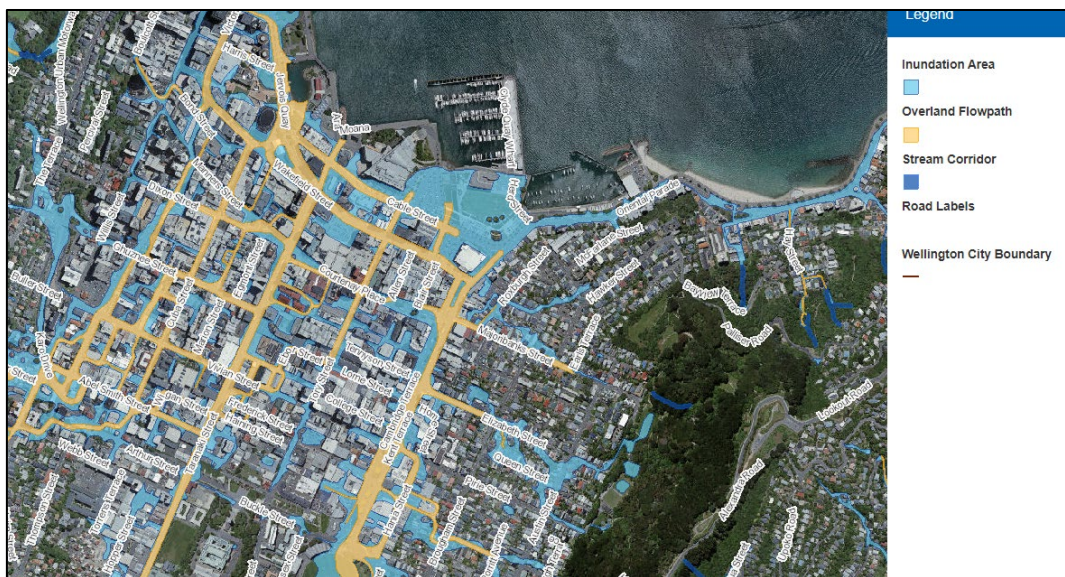


Figure 2: Flood Hazards in Central Wellington as shown in the Proposed Wellington District Plan

8. As stated in my evidence in chief, any telecommunication facility in legal road is, under the NES, exempted from having District Plan natural hazard standards apply.
9. The reason for this, as explained in Paragraph 19 of my evidence in chief, is, as detailed in the NES User Guide published by the Ministry for the Environment because *resilience is already factored into industry practice, and [telecommunication companies] will either avoid hazard areas or engineer structures to be resilient to the natural hazard.*
10. Essentially, in regard to Policy 29, when it comes to the resilience of telecommunication infrastructure, why does there need to be a divergence from national direction at a regional level? In my view if it is appropriate to not regulate the resilience of telecommunication infrastructure in natural hazard areas at a national level, then it is appropriate at a regional and therefore district level.