

**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL
OF AUCKLAND COUNCIL**

**I MUA NGĀ KAIKŌMIHANA MOTUHAKA
I TE TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU ROHE**

UNDER the Resource Management Act 1991 ("**RMA**")

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application to Auckland Council by Watercare Services Limited ("**Watercare**") for a resource consent to construct, commission, operate and maintain a wastewater tunnel and associated activities in Herne Bay, Auckland ("**Project**")

**JOINT STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF
JEREMY JAMES ELLEY-BROWN AND WILLIAM LING-ON HUNG
ON BEHALF OF WATERCARE SERVICES LIMITED**

(CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT)

2 FEBRUARY 2024

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Watercare has responsibilities to the public to provide high quality water and wastewater services. As part of its responsibilities Watercare regularly engages with members of the community, being conscious of the potential impacts that essential wastewater infrastructure can have on the environment and the community. Watercare works hard to engage with iwi partners, communities, customers and other stakeholders on our infrastructure projects. This Project is no exception.
- 1.2 As a result of engagement with the local community (which included holding a number of public drop-in sessions), Watercare became aware of a number of concerns held by the community about the Project. These included concerns relating to construction noise and vibration effects, construction effects, traffic effects, use of Salisbury Reserve as a construction support area ("**CSA**") for the Project and questions relating to engineered overflow points ("**EOPs**") and how they operate.
- 1.3 Watercare has been in ongoing engagement with a number of stakeholders (some of whom have since made formal submissions), which has involved Watercare actively listening to the concerns raised and providing detailed information and assessments seeking to address those concerns. As part of this, Watercare has made its Project team available to meet with stakeholders, both before and after notification of the consent application. Watercare has also incorporated requested mitigation by way of consent conditions.
- 1.4 Overall, twenty-four submissions (including two late submissions) were received on the Project. Since the submission period closed for the Project, we have continued to engage with submitters through both letter and email correspondence and have met with some of the submitters to discuss their concerns. We have actively addressed the concerns raised by submitters where we could. For example, we obtained further expert advice regarding the potential amenity effects from use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA and engaged a structural engineer to assess the potential for structural damage to occur to the masonry building on the corner of Wallace and Sarsfield Streets.
- 1.5 Moving forward, Watercare takes its responsibilities to the public and its customers seriously. Watercare will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders for this Project and the community at large, in an open and transparent manner, as the Project progresses through construction and into operation.

2. INTRODUCTION

Qualifications and Experience

Jeremy James Elley-Brown

- 2.1 My full name is Jeremy James Elley-Brown. I am a Stakeholder Liaison Advisor at Watercare.
- 2.2 I have the qualification of a Masters of Planning Practice from Auckland University. I hold an IAP2 Certificate in Engagement (which I obtained in 2019) and an IAP2 Certificate in Facilitating the Tough Stuff course (which I obtained in 2023).
- 2.3 I have been employed by Watercare for one and a half years. Before working at Watercare I worked at a range of private and public organisations including Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and Haines Planning. In these roles I was responsible for preparing and/or processing a range of resource consent applications and preparing and implementing stakeholder management plans and undertaking community consultations.
- 2.4 My experience relevant to this Project includes:
- (a) I was responsible for leading the communications and stakeholder engagement for the Huia 1 watermain project. The Huia 1 watermain is a new 15,556 metre watermain that runs from the water reservoir in Konini Road, Titirangi through to Gillies Avenue in Epsom. Specific communications/stakeholder engagement tasks for this project included:
 - (i) Sending emails to the community about new sections of works with information on works areas, construction effects, traffic management in place etc.
 - (ii) Updating the project webpage and organising social media posts for new sections of work.
 - (iii) Responding to customer inquiries/complaints.
 - (iv) Setting up and attending "meet the contractor" events to provide the community with a chance to learn about the project and construction effects in their neighbourhood.

- (v) Meeting with stakeholders as and when required to discuss project (ie schools, businesses, residents).
- (b) I was responsible for leading the communications and stakeholder engagement for the Waikōwhai water pump station and watermains project. This project is approximately 5,750 metres of watermains and a new water booster pump station adjacent to the Akarana golf club. This involved similar tasks to the Huia 1 project.
- (c) I was responsible for leading the communications and stakeholder engagement for the Ōwairaka and Wesley water upgrades project. The project involves the construction of approximately 4,200 metres of new watermains in the Wesley/Ōwairaka area. This also involved similar tasks to the Huia 1 project.

2.5 In relation to the Herne Bay Project, I was responsible for:

- (a) Managing various communications tasks including creating content for Project webpages and developing Q&A documents.
- (b) Drafting letters to potentially affected landowners and key stakeholders and doing letter drops when required. This included drafting and dropping letters relating to the required geotechnical investigations, noise and vibration effects along the alignment and traffic affects associated with Shaft 1.
- (c) Writing (with the Project team) emails to the wider community using Adobe Marketo Engage (a marketing tool for sending emails to a large audience). Marketo was used to send Project updates, invites to drop-in sessions, and updates about the resource consent application, including the consent being publicly notified and open for submissions.
- (d) Organising social media posts (with Watercare's social media team) to provide Project updates and advertise Project drop-in sessions.
- (e) Organising and attending four drop-in sessions on the Project with members of the Project team. Preparing communications for these drop-in sessions including information boards.
- (f) Responding to customer inquiries/complaints into the Project email address hernebayproject@water.co.nz.

- (g) Writing the Project newsletter with the Project team to provide updates. This included an update that the resource consent had been publicly notified by Council and was open for submissions.
- (h) Meeting directly with submitters on the resource consent application to discuss submission points.
- (i) Meeting with the St Marys and Herne Bay Resident Associations to discuss the Herne Bay project and wider WIWQIP programme of works.

William Ling-On Hung

- 2.6 My full name is William Ling-On Hung. I am a Senior Resource Consent Planner at Watercare. I hold a bachelor's degree from University of Auckland in Town Planning.
- 2.7 I have been employed by Watercare for five years and before that I worked at Auckland Council for 13 years processing a range of resource consent applications in the Auckland City Isthmus area.
- 2.8 Over the past five years I have worked on different Watercare Projects. My role has included undertaking planning assessments, development of consenting strategies, and the preparation of assessment of environmental effects documents. As part of my work, I also brief technical experts and review application documents.
- 2.9 The projects I have worked on that are relevant to this Project include:
 - (a) Replacement of the Huia 1 watermain - construction of a new 15,556 metre watermain that runs from the water reservoir in Konini Road, Titirangi through to Gillies Avenue in Epsom.
 - (b) Upgrade of the Mairangi Bay pump station - construction of a new pump station adjoining the existing pump station site at Sidmouth Street.
 - (c) East Coast Bays Link Sewer project - installation of a new 1,600 metre pipeline to direct wastewater from within the East Coast Bays area to the Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is part of the strategic wastewater transmission network pipeline to meet population growth and protect the Hauraki Gulf from non-compliant discharges.

- (d) Waikōwhai water pump station and watermains project - construction of approximately 5,750 metres of watermains and a new water booster pump station adjacent to the Akarana golf club.
- (e) Ōwairaka and Wesley water upgrades project - construction of approximately 4,200 metres of new watermains in the Wesley/Ōwairaka area.

2.10 In relation to the Herne Bay Project, I was responsible for:

- (a) Managing the resource consent application to construct the wastewater trunk sewer and connections to the existing network.
- (b) Attending community drop-in sessions for the Project with members of the Project team.
- (c) Participating in letter drops and communication to potentially affected landowners.
- (d) Engagement with mana whenua, providing Project updates and organising site meetings.
- (e) Communication with key stakeholders being Auckland Transport ("AT"), Waka Kotahi, Ministry of Education ("Ministry"), Council Land Advisory department, and Healthy Waters.

3. SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

3.1 This statement of evidence will:

- (a) Outline Watercare's general approach to consultation and engagement with property owners and other stakeholders;
- (b) Describe the consultation and engagement that was undertaken for this particular Project, in respect of the wider community and stakeholders, and potentially affected landowners; and
- (c) Describe the consultation undertaken with those parties who have made submissions on the Project including steps taken by Watercare to address matters raised by submitters, and the status of those submissions.

4. WATERCARE'S APPROACH TO CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 As the provider of Auckland's water and wastewater services, Watercare directly and indirectly affects the quality of life of all Aucklanders – and the wider wellbeing of New Zealand. We take this responsibility seriously and seek to create shared value with the community through a range of forums and information channels.
- 4.2 Watercare is conscious that the construction of essential wastewater infrastructure can have impacts on the community served – it has the potential to create effects on the environment. This drives the company's commitment to high standards of performance.
- 4.3 Watercare's overall approach is to engage with the public at all stages of project planning and development. This includes consulting with affected stakeholders, iwi and communities during early project planning, and then later about specific statutory processes under the RMA (ie when Watercare is planning to apply for resource consent for new infrastructure). As construction of approved projects gets underway, Watercare also continues to engage directly with stakeholders and communities, with a view to minimising disruption during the construction period. Often the operation of our completed infrastructure will also involve engagement with our communities, as part of appropriately managing potential effects of the essential water and wastewater services we provide.
- 4.4 Watercare is proud of our strong record of positive engagement and working collaboratively with our iwi partners, communities, customers and other stakeholders on our infrastructure projects. This Project is no exception. Below I set out the approach to consultation and engagement for this Project, in the context of the broader WIWQIP works.

5. PROJECT CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 On behalf of Watercare, I consider that we have undertaken an extensive consultation and engagement process in relation to this Project. The process for this Project has included directly engaging with key stakeholders and potentially affected landowners. It has also continued with submitters following the receipt of their submissions right up to the date of this evidence. It is our intention to continue engaging with submitters, neighbouring landowners and other stakeholders during this current hearing process, and (should consent be granted) through the Project's construction and its operation.

Approach to engagement for this Project

- 5.2 To ensure consistency and a well targeted approach to engagement for this Project, Watercare developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan ("**Engagement Plan**"). The Engagement Plan set out the key aspects of the Project, including critical details, scope and estimated timeframes for the various Project stages (design, consenting and construction). The Engagement Plan also summarised the key messages and benefits of the Project we wanted to communicate to key stakeholders and neighbouring landowners.
- 5.3 Despite the long list of benefits that will result from the delivery of this Project, we were conscious that the construction of the Project will have impacts on the community served, particularly as various construction activities will be disruptive to parts of the surrounding environment. As such, we commenced a programme of communications with the local community in September 2022. This included:
- (a) Establishing a webpage and providing updates on that webpage as details of the Project progressed.
 - (b) Creating the project email address hernebayproject@water.co.nz and responding to customer inquiries.
 - (c) Sending various letters and emails to residents and key stakeholders with information regarding the Project and potential effects on those residents.¹
 - (d) In August 2023 a Project newsletter was sent to the whole of St Marys Bay/Herne Bay and a portion of Ponsonby. This newsletter provided an update on the project and advised that the resource consent had been publicly notified and was open for submissions.
 - (e) Providing regular updates to the Waitematā Local Board and Councillors.
 - (f) Regular social media posts to provide Project updates and advertise upcoming Project drop-in sessions.

¹

A total of 10 emails have been sent for the Project as at the date of my evidence. We have sent letters advising of the Project and potential noise and vibration effects to all properties adjacent to the shaft locations. We have also sent letters advising of the Project and potential traffic effects to properties around the proposed location for Shaft 1 (Sarsfield Street, Curran and Emmet Street).

- (g) Sending letters to residents who would be potentially affected by changes to the transport network as a result of the construction of Shaft 1 (ie properties on Sarsfield Street, Curran Street and Emmett Street).
- (h) Door knocking and meeting directly with affected residents near the proposed Shaft 1 location.
- (i) Holding a number of public open days about the Project (on 12 October 2022, 15 December 2022, 8 March 2023, and 20 June 2023).

5.4 From the above, it became clear to the Watercare Project team that overall, the community was in support of the Project outcomes. However, there were a number of concerns raised, including:

- (a) The potential for noise and vibration effects to result during construction (which could cause damage to properties along the proposed alignment);
- (b) Traffic disruption; and
- (c) The use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA for the Project.

5.5 There were also a number of questions raised regarding the potential for separation to occur instead of the proposed Project, and some questions regarding construction duration.

Engagement and consultation with stakeholders and wider community

- 5.6 Some of the key stakeholders for this Project included the St Marys Bay Association and the Herne Bay Residents Association ("**Associations**"). Watercare has a long-standing history with the Associations, so discussions about this Project were introduced through pre-established channels.
- 5.7 Watercare also engaged with Ponsonby Primary School ("**School**") on the requirements of the Project and the proposed mitigation required to ensure the safety of students would be protected at all times. This included meeting with the School's principal and separate email correspondence with the Ministry.

Herne Bay Residents Association and St Marys Bay Association

- 5.8 Engagement with the Associations needs to be viewed in the context the broader WIWQIP programme of works.
- 5.9 The Associations have been consulted within the context of the proposed WIWQIP works. As is set out in the evidence of Mr Deutsche, the 2017 WIWQIP originally included planned separation for the Herne Bay and St Marys Bay catchments.² However, due to a range of factors, separation is no longer being proposed and the WIWQIP 2017 was revised to include an extension to the Central Interceptor from Grey Lynn to Point Erin Park, and this Project.
- 5.10 During a meeting held on 20 September 2022 with the Associations, Watercare representatives advised the Associations that stormwater and wastewater separation would not progressing. A subsequent email was then sent out on 28 September 2022 to residents (1,692 people) in the Herne Bay and St Marys Bay catchments informing that separation of the networks was no longer going ahead but an alternative solution which included extending the Central Interceptor and creating the new Herne Bay Branch 5 sewer would be pursued.
- 5.11 Watercare has engaged independent engineer Ian Wallis as previously agreed with the Residents' Associations, to undertake a peer review of the programme of works to ensure it achieves the required reduction in overflows. This will be addressed in Mr Deutsche's evidence.³

Ponsonby Primary School / Ministry of Education

- 5.12 As soon as Watercare became aware that there were potentially traffic effects on Curran Street, Watercare engaged with the School and the Ministry in relation to those potential effects and what mitigation would be appropriate to always ensure students' safety. A meeting with representatives from the School was held on 8 June 2023. At this meeting representatives for the School raised concerns relating to:
- (a) The importance of ensuring the safety of children, staff, and parents which could be affected as a result of the increased traffic from the Project (particularly truck movements); and

² Evidence of Mr Deutsche dated 2 February 2024 at section 5.

³ Evidence of Mr Deutsche dated 2 February 2024 at [8.10] – [8.13].

- (b) the importance of good traffic management.

5.13 I am aware that the Ministry has submitted on Watercare's application and is neutral on the application, provided minor amendments are made to the proposed consent conditions. Those amendments are agreed by Watercare and have been included in the proposed conditions. In my view, our engagement with the Ministry has resulted in an excellent outcome for both parties. I am proud of the Project team's efforts to ensure students' ongoing safety is a top priority in the construction of the Project.

Engagement with potentially affected landowners

Letter drops

- 5.14 Engagement with adjacent and potentially affected landowners has comprised letter drops to properties along the tunnel alignment, including in relation to traffic management for construction of Shaft 1. These letter drops comprised:
- (a) 3 March 2023 – Letter drop to the Herne Bay community about potential noise and vibrations effects. Letters were delivered to properties close to the shaft sites proposed within the road corridor.
 - (b) 15 March 2023, 3 April 2023, 28 April 2023, 11 May 2023 and 26 May 2023 – Letter drop advising of geotechnical investigations in the area. Letters were delivered to properties along the proposed tunnel alignment.
 - (c) 25 June 2023 – Letter drop to affected properties along Sarsfield Street, Curran Street and Emmett Street. A letter advising traffic management during shaft construction, involving full and partial road closure at Sarsfield Street and traffic detour through Curran Street and Emmett Street.
 - (d) 5 July 2023 and 13 July 2023 – Letter drop for properties in which we needed to undertake service investigations of manholes located on properties.

Emails received

- 5.15 There has also been over 60 emails received from members of the community, with the queries relating to the current state of the asset, concerns with further flooding following the cyclone event, damage to property, construction noise and vibration, traffic impacts and how can people get in touch or be updated

if they had further queries going forward. Watercare has responded to all of these emails to date.

Door knocking

- 5.16 I undertook door knocking of 87 properties along Sarsfield Street, Emmett Street and Curran Street to discuss the Project, and the associated construction effects on 25 June 2023. The conversations were generally positive with specific questions around traffic impacts, and construction timeframes for the Project.

Engagement with submitters on the Project

15 Cremorne Street

- 5.17 Following receipt of the submission from the landowners of 15 Cremorne Street, Watercare's Project team met with representatives for the landowner on 1 November 2023 to discuss the concerns raised in their submission. At this meeting, it was clear that the main concern from the submitters was in relation to the proposed works on their property to connect to an engineering overflow point, EOP1019. After various correspondence with representatives for the landowner, it became clear that there was an error in our application documents (which showed EOP1019 on a different property), when it is in fact located on 15 Cremorne Street. On this basis, Watercare decided to remove the proposal to connect to EOP1019 from the scope of this Project. Watercare will need to seek approval to connect to EOP1019 in the future and engagement with the landowner is ongoing in this regard.

3 and 6 River Terrace

- 5.18 On 22 September 2023, the Project team met with residents from 3 River Terrace and a representative for 15 Cremorne Street, Herne Bay. The key issue raised was that the property owners did not want a connection to EOP1019 through private property at all, now or in the future.
- 5.19 On 13 November 2023, the Project team met further with the owners of 3 and 6 River Terrace. At this meeting Watercare confirmed that it had decided to remove the section of the resource consent that sought approval to connect to EOP1019 at 6 River Terrace as this was in fact an error in the application material. Watercare also advised that the Project team were currently working on a design to avoid works on properties on River Terrace completely. To avoid this, works would be required to be completed on 15 Cremorne Street including raising the weir level of EOP1019 on the property. As a next step, Watercare advised the property owners that the Project team needs to survey

EOP1019 on 15 Cremorne Street, which will assist the team in obtaining data that will lead into detailed design for these works. Watercare is currently in communications with the representative for 15 Cremorne Street on this matter and discussions are positive.

Owners of townhouses in the Masonry building on the corner of Wallace and Sarsfield Streets

- 5.20 These owners raised concerns relating to the potential for the Project to cause damage to their properties. To respond to these concerns, Watercare engaged a structural engineer (Mr Clarke) to undertake a survey and prepare evidence as to whether the characteristics of the building made it more susceptible to damage from the construction of the Project.
- 5.21 We met with the landowners of the Masonry building with Mr Clarke on 16 January 2024 and Mr Clarke then prepared pre-condition surveys for each townhouse and prepared his evidence. These pre-condition surveys have been sent to the landowners, and Watercare continues to communicate with the landowners on this matter. Discussions remain constructive.

51 Wallace Street

- 5.22 Through inspection of the Masonry building and discussion with the property owner of 51 Wallace Street, it was confirmed that the existing vehicle crossing and garage door to the rear of the property is not used for vehicle access since the rear area is used as a patio. This has been updated and accurately reflected in Mr Shield's evidence.⁴

Salisbury Reserve Residents' group

- 5.23 In late August 2023, a newsletter was sent to the Herne Bay community (which included properties adjacent to Salisbury Reserve) advising that the resource consent application for the Project would soon be publicly notified by Council and would then be open for submissions. The newsletter contained a link and QR code to the application documents on the Council's webpage.
- 5.24 Further, on 6 September 2023 a Marketo email was sent to Herne Bay residents and surrounding suburbs (approximately 5000 people) advising that the resource consent had been publicly notified and is open for submissions. The email contained a link to the resource consent documents and online submission link.

4

Evidence of Mr Shields dated 2 February 2024 at [7.35].

- 5.25 On 20 November 2023 a meeting was held with the Associations about the Project including with Dirk Hudig representing the Herne Bay area. Mr Hudig discussed that a large portion of the community are against the use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA. The Project team outlined the reasons that the use of a portion of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA is required for the Project.
- 5.26 On 21 November 2023, Watercare received a late submission from a group of residents surrounding Salisbury Reserve ("**Residents' Group**"). One of the main matters raised in this late submission was use of a portion of Salisbury Reserve as our primary CSA. The Residents' Group also proposed a range of other locations that they considered could be used as a CSA (instead of Salisbury Reserve). Watercare met with this group on 7 December 2023. At this meeting the Residents' Group outlined their concerns about the use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA. The Project team responded by outlining the rationale for the use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA and explaining why some of the alternative options presented by the Residents' Group were not a feasible option for Watercare.
- 5.27 On 12 December 2023, Watercare facilitated a meeting where members of the Residents' Group presented to the Watercare Board. This provided the residents with a chance to express their concerns about the use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA. Following the presentation, the Watercare Board responded with a letter dated 22 December 2023 to the residents thanking them for their time and outlining the background to the Project, CSA selection criteria, the rationale for Salisbury Reserve being Watercare's preferred primary CSA for the Project, background to the Curran Street site and next steps. That letter is included at **Attachment 1** to Mr Deutschle's evidence. Watercare also asked Mr Bishop to consider the proposed alternative locations from the Residents' Group from a construction feasibility point of view. As a result Mr Bishop prepared a memo which is included with his evidence at Attachment 2.
- 5.28 I am aware that the Residents' Group are still strongly opposed to the proposed use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA for the Project, however, I consider that the approach taken by Watercare to explain why use of Salisbury Reserve is required for the Project, and to hear the concerns from the Residents' Group has been comprehensive.
- 5.29 Finally, at the date of this evidence Watercare is in the process of sending a letter and Q&As to properties adjacent to Salisbury Reserve outlining the proposed use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA and the rationale behind our decision. We will also send out a Marketo email to the wider Herne Bay/St

Marys Bay community with a Project update on the use of Salisbury Reserve as a CSA and a link to the Q&A document.

Engagement with mana whenua

- 5.30 Through Watercare's established mana whenua engagement forum, Watercare provides a "Kaitiaki Managers Projects List" on a monthly basis to nominated representatives of all 19 mana whenua in the Auckland Council area.
- 5.31 The Project was included on the managers list in October 2022. At the time of lodgement, Te Ākitai Waiohūa was the only mana whenua group to register an interest to be engaged with in relation to the Project.
- 5.32 A site meeting was held on 3 August 2023 to discuss the proposed pipeline alignment, construction methodology and mitigation measures involved. Te Ākitai Waiohūa provided a formal response on 6 September 2023 confirming the adverse cultural effects generated by the Project can be appropriately managed through conditions of cultural induction and cultural monitoring over the construction period. Watercare accepted the proposed cultural mitigation measures and incorporated them into the proposed consent conditions (as are included in the proposed conditions included with Ms Drury's evidence).
- 5.33 During Council processing of the consent application, Ngāti Maru registered an interest to be engaged with in relation to the Project. Watercare provided Ngāti Maru with a Project summary to respond with any comments or questions about the Project. No specific concerns have been raised by Ngāti Maru.
- 5.34 Watercare has agreed to continue to keep Te Ākitai Waiohūa and Ngāti Maru informed as the Project progresses.

Engagement with Auckland Council

Waitematā Local Board

- 5.35 The Project was first introduced to the Waitematā Local Board ("**Local Board**") during a workshop on 15 November 2022. A more detailed brief outlining the extent of works was sent via email to elected members on 16 January 2022.
- 5.36 The Local Board members were advised by email of the drop-in sessions, the geotechnical investigations and survey, and when the application was lodged

and subsequently uploaded to the Council website once the application was publicly notified.

- 5.37 On 30 January 2024, Watercare representatives attended the Local Board hearing considering the lease of Salisbury Reserve. Watercare prepared and presented a slide pack to update the Local Board on the revised land requirement plan for Salisbury Reserve, the process for site selection, as well as the proposed activities that could be expected in the reserve. As at the date of this evidence the local board has not yet made its decision regarding the lease of Salisbury Reserve to Watercare.

Healthy Waters

- 5.38 The Project team has been working with Auckland Council Healthy Waters since the original separation projects were included in the 2017 WIWQIP. Watercare continues to engage with Healthy Waters in relation to the Project and in relation to the wider WIWQIP of works.

Community Facilities

- 5.39 Auckland Council Community Facilities ("**Communities Facilities**") has been made aware of the Project, and applications to utilise Salisbury Reserve and 94a – b Shelly Beach Road as CSAs were submitted to Auckland Council Land Advisory department in early February and May 2023 for landowner approval. Watercare remains in ongoing discussion with Council in relation to obtaining landowner approval to utilise Salisbury Reserve and 94a-b Shelly Beach Road as CSA's.
- 5.40 Given the works will also impact trees within the road reserve and parks, a tree asset owner approval has also been submitted to Auckland Council Urban Forest Specialist.
- 5.41 Watercare is in ongoing discussions with Community Facilities in relation to the works and temporary occupation of open space for CSAs.

Utility providers

- 5.42 Since early on in the Project planning, Watercare has been in direct contact with Network Utility Operators ("**NUO**") with assets within the vicinity of the proposed Project works. Consultation with these NUO will be on-going until the proposed utilities treatment is approved for construction.

Engagement with Auckland Transport

- 5.43 Watercare has consulted with AT regarding the extent and impact of the proposed works within the road corridor. An early introductory discussion was held on 30 November 2022, where discussions were largely centred around Watercare providing high level options for sequencing of works for the Project, the impact to local traffic and public services and the reinstatement to be provided. At this meeting AT noted that the proposed construction areas in the road corridor were generally located in the local road with low traffic volume. There were specific interests in exploring ways to minimise impacts on Curran Street, being a busy arterial road with a frequent bus service from the city to Albany.
- 5.44 A further discussion was held with Watercare representatives, AT and Waka Kotahi on 22 March 2023. At this meeting Watercare was able to talk to the further detail and traffic effects assessment that had been undertaken for the Project. The discussion focused on managing of construction traffic to and from the CSA at 94a – b Shelley Beach Road in minimising the disruption on traffic to the motorway onramp.
- 5.45 As at the date of this evidence, engagement with AT remains constructive and is ongoing.

6. SECTION 42A REPORT

- 6.1 I have reviewed the s42A report and there is nothing specific that I wish to comment on in my evidence.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This Project is an essential component of the broader WIWQIP programme of works, which will lead to a reduction in the frequency and volume of wastewater overflows in the Herne Bay catchment. Watercare has worked hard to design the Project to mitigate effects on its neighbours and to avoid significant disruption to the community as a whole.
- 7.2 As a Council-controlled organisation, Watercare takes its responsibilities to the public and its customers seriously. Watercare will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders and landowners for this Project, and the community at large, in an open and transparent manner, as the Project progresses.

Jeremy Elley-Brown and William Hung

2 February 2024