

31 May 2022

PO Box 127
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Attention: Hearing Commissioners

Dear Hearing Commissioners

Fire and Emergency New Zealand – Letter to be tabled at Hearing Stream 3: Rural environment

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fire and Emergency) made a submission on the Proposed Central Hawke’s Bay District Plan (Proposed District Plan). Fire and Emergency has opted not to attend Hearing Stream 3 – Rural environment, scheduled to commence 15 June 2022 and requests that, in lieu of attendance, this letter be tabled for the Hearing Commissioners’ consideration.

The section 42A reports for Hearing Stream 3 have been received. Overall, there is a good level of agreement with the Reporting Officer’s recommendations in relation to Fire and Emergency’s submission. The sections below therefore focus on those matters that are not yet agreed and / or where agreement is met in relation to recommendations within.

New policy

Fire and Emergency sought a new policy in the GRUZ - General Rural Zone and RPROZ – Rural Production Zone chapters to *‘Ensure all development and subdivision provide a suitable on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system, stormwater systems, and water supply unless an approved alternative system is available’*.

The Reporting Officer concurs with Fire and Emergency’s submission that it would be appropriate to include a new policy in the GRUZ-General Rural Zone and RPROZ – Rural Production Zone chapters, but with some amendments to achieve better consistency with the RLZ – Rural Lifestyle Zone chapter.

Fire and Emergency supports the recommended amendment to these policies. Fire and Emergency notes that the recommended policy in Appendix A - RPROZ - Rural Production Zone chapter needs updating as it currently refers to GRUZ - General Rural Zone.

New standard

Fire and Emergency also sought a new standard for the provision of a firefighting water supply for new developments across all zones within the Proposed District Plan. At Hearing 1, the Panel directed Fire and Emergency and the Reporting Officer, Rowena Macdonald, to work together to develop suggested provisions for firefighting water supply across the relevant zones. This was to be undertaken on a ‘without prejudice’ basis with a view to coming back to the Commissioners with a resolution at Hearing Stream 3.

On behalf of Fire and Emergency I met with Rowena Macdonald on 17 March 2022 to discuss options for a suitable firefighting water supply standard. At this meeting, a number of approaches to firefighting water supply were discussed and a range of examples from district plans across the country were provided as reference. These examples are discussed in the s42A report prepared by Janeen Kydd-Smith.

Subsequent to these discussions, the Reporting Officer has recommended the following new revised servicing standard be added to the GRUZ-General Rural Zone, RPROZ – Rural Production Zone and RLZ – Rural Lifestyle Zone:

| <u>GRUZ-S15 Water supply for firefighting</u> | |
|---|--|
| <u>RPROZ-S17 Water supply for firefighting</u> | |
| <u>RLZ – S16 Water supply for firefighting</u> | |
| <u>All buildings (excluding accessory buildings that do not include a habitable room)</u> | <p>1. <u>Where water is not supplied to a site by Council or a private community supply, or water is supplied by Council but is a restricted supply flow, access to a water supply for firefighting purposes shall be made available to all buildings on a site that is or will be:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>accessible to firefighting equipment; and</u> b. <u>between 6 and 90 metres from the buildings on the site; and</u> c. <u>on the same site as the buildings (except where the specified volume or flow of water is in a pond, dam or river that is within the required distances); and</u> d. <u>either:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>stores at least 45,000 litres, in addition to a potable water supply on the site; or</u> ii. <u>provides at least 25 litres per second for a minimum of 30 minutes.</u> <p><i>Note: Further advice and information about managing fire risk and storage of water for firefighting purposes can be obtained from Fire and Emergency New Zealand and SNZ PAS 4509:2008 New Zealand Fire Service Firefighting Water Supplies Code of Practice.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The above does not replace Regional Council rules which control the taking and use of groundwater and surface water.</i></p> |

This proposed provision sets out the minimum requirements for Fire Water Classification 2 (FW2) of the New Zealand Fire Service Firefighting Water Supplies Code of Practice SNA PAS 4509:2008 (Code of Practice) and would apply to permitted activities listed in the GRUZ-General Rural Zone, RPROZ – Rural Production Zone and RLZ – Rural Lifestyle Zone chapters. As per the Code of Practice, FW2 is considered sufficient firefighting water supply for:

1. Single family homes with a sprinkler system installed to an approved standard (FW1)
2. All other structures with a sprinkler system installed to an approved standard (FW2),
3. Non-sprinklered structures; housing, includes single family dwellings, multi-unit dwellings but excludes multi-storey apartment blocks (FW2).

Where compliance is not achieved with this new standard, the Reporting Officer has recommended a restricted discretionary activity status and be subject to the following assessment matter:

GRUZ-AM15/ RPROZ-AM16 / RLZ-AM12 Water supply for firefighting

1. The extent of compliance with SNZ PAS 4509:2008 New Zealand Fire Service Firefighting Water Supplies Code of Practice and health and safety of the community, including neighbouring properties.
2. Technical advice provided by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Fire and Emergency is supportive of the recommended standards and assessment matters for GRUZ-General Rural Zone, RPROZ – Rural Production Zone and RLZ – Rural Lifestyle Zone chapters and consider that this approach will provide for firefighting water for new buildings where supplies may be inadequate.

Fire and Emergency would welcome the opportunity to work further with the Reporting Officers on developing suitable provisions for the remaining zone chapters of the Proposed District Plan.

Yours sincerely



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on behalf of

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