

BEFORE THE MANAWATU DISTRICT COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER OF

a review of the Manawatu District Plan

and

IN THE MATTER OF

Plan Change 50 concerning the Roding Hierarchy

DECISION OF COMMISSIONERS

Date: 4 July 2014

DECISION OF COMMISSIONERS

Introduction

- [1] This is the first Plan Change that we must decide under RMA, Schedule 1 as part of the sectional review of the Operative Manawatu District Plan.
- [2] The Plan Change addresses transportation related matters and in particular seeks to better align the roading hierarchy in the Manawatu District Plan with the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS 2010-2040) and the study called the Palmerston North – Manawatu Strategic Transportation Study.¹
- [3] A boundary change between Palmerston North City and Manawatu District Council was confirmed by the Local Government Commission on 17 April 2012. The boundary change came into effect on 1 July 2012. There will be an interval when the Manawatu District Plan will continue to apply to roads now in the Palmerston North City boundary until such time as the Palmerston North City Council, through its District Plan review process, makes provision for those roads in its transportation chapter of the Palmerston North District Plan.
- [4] Plan Change 50 as notified, seeks to:
- (a) Amend the roading hierarchy in Appendix 2B of the District Plan, to ensure consistency with the recommendations of the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2010-2040 (RLTS) and the Palmerston North – Manawatu Strategic Transportation Study;
 - (b) Ensure that the hierarchy of roads reflects both the current function of roads while ensuring that adequate corridor management controls are in place to protect strategic routes of importance for the future roading hierarchy;
 - (c) Retain the existing hierarchy of those roads that are located within the Palmerston North City and Manawatu District boundary;
 - (d) Amend the roading hierarchy of these roads located along the new boundary with Palmerston North City and Manawatu District;
 - (e) Revise the existing plan provisions to ensure that the explanations, objectives, policies and rules are clear, concise and necessary;

¹ Traffic Design Group (June 2010). *Palmerston North – Manawatu Strategic Transport Study*. Contract No. 2009/18 Phase 2 report.

(f) Review the definitions and names used by each level of the roading hierarchy in light of the RLTS.

[5] The proposed changes to the District Plan are set out in the District Plan Change document at Section 2. It is not necessary to recite all of the changes, other than to note there are definitional changes, changes to text in the District Plan and alterations to maps. Accompanying the draft Plan Change is the Section 32 report that addresses the matters specified in RMA, s 32.

Submissions

[6] The Plan Change was notified on 13 June 2013. The closing date for submissions was 11 July 2013. The Manawatu District Council received four submissions. A summary of submissions and decisions requested was notified on 15 August 2013, with the closing date for further submissions being 30 August 2013. No further submissions were received. The submitters were:

- (a) Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council
- (b) Rangitane o Tamaki nui a Rua Incorporated
- (c) Palmerston North City Council
- (d) New Zealand Land Transport Agency

[7] Broadly, the submitters were in support of the Plan Change and only sought minor modifications.

Hearing

[8] The hearing on this matter was a short one. No submitters sought to be heard. The Manawatu District Council commissioned a report pursuant to RMA, s 42A and that report was prepared and presented by Wendy Thompson, the Principal Planner of the Manawatu District Council.

[9] Ms Thompson's report analysed the purpose of the Plan Change and the statutory framework against which the submissions are to be analysed. She then provided in her report a recommendation that the Plan Change be adopted with five additional amendments that respond to submissions and in essence constitute "tweaking". Those recommendations are:

- (a) That SH 54 and SH 6 are added as Major Arterial Routes under Section 4.13 Traffic Safety and Efficiency is outlined in Appendix 2;
- (b) Campbell Road is retained as a Minor Arterial Route and Waugh's Road be retained as a Major Arterial Route as outlined in Appendix 3;
- (c) An additional map is included into the District Plan that identifies those roads in the boundary change area, that are currently subject to Manawatu District Plan, but they will be incorporated into the Palmerston North City District Plan, attached as Appendix 3;
- (d) The addition of a sunset clause to the Plan Change stating that these roads will no longer be subject to the Manawatu District Plan following the adoption of the Palmerston North City Plan Change to incorporate these roads. This is located at the base of the map attached as Appendix 3;
- (e) The removal of the terminology "National Routes" replacing this with the term "Major Arterial" as outlined in Appendix 2.

Decision

[10] We have read the comprehensive material supplied, the submissions and the report by Wendy Thomson. We are satisfied that it is appropriate to adopt the Plan Change in accordance with the officer recommendations and modifications in her RMA, s 42A report. And accordingly that is our decision. The effect of our decision on the submission points by submitters is set out in Ms Thompson's report.

[11] We observe that the roads referred to in paragraph 9 (d) refer to those mentioned in paragraph 9 (c) We note that the area subject to boundary change is shown in the plan attached to Appendix 3, called "Manawatu District Road Hierarchy – Boundary Change" and the notation to that figure states:

The road shown within the boundary change area will no longer be subject to the Manawatu District Plan following adoption of the Palmerston North City District Plan Change to incorporate these roads.

John Maassen

Howard Voss

Tony Jensen