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**Supplementary Evidence of Amelia Ching for the Director-General of Conservation  
(as requested by the hearing panel, 10 August 2021)**

**Summary of evidence given at hearing**

1. In my evidence I've provided an overview of the strategic directions purpose as detailed in the s32, s42A Report and Overview s42A Report. This includes that they are intended to:
  - a) direct decision-making,
  - b) express key outcomes,
  - c) set the framework for the district plan, and
  - d) provide an overarching tone and big picture.
2. The proposed Selwyn Plan includes an interpretation directive in the overview. This is that *"all other objectives and policies in all other chapters are to be read and achieved in a manner consistent with the strategic directions objectives"*.
3. In relation to this, I have a correction to make in my evidence. At paragraph 49 of my evidence, I state the Christchurch Replacement District Plan has the same interpretation statement. However, this should read 'similar'. The Christchurch District Plan states *"this chapter has primacy over the objectives and policies in the other chapters, which must be consistent with the objectives in this chapter"*. Therefore, explicitly stating "primacy".
4. In my opinion the interpretation directive in the proposed Selwyn Plan still elevates the proposed strategic directions objectives above all other provisions in the plan.
5. Therefore, when given this priority or primacy over other provisions of the plan, the strategic directions must assist Councils in carrying out its functions under the RMA and give effect to higher order documents.
6. As the Our Environment Objective (SD-DI-O4) is currently drafted, identification, recognition and protection of values is qualified by their significance to Selwyn's character, cultural heritage, or whether they are of spiritual importance to Ngai Tahu, thereby excluding e.g. intrinsic values, biodiversity, natural character etc. Amendments are required to address this gap for natural environment values.

## Recommended amendments to SD-DI-O4

7. The hearings panel requested further consideration of the proposed SD-DI-O4 and what amendments could be made to the notified SD-DI-O4 to give effect to the Director-General's relief.
8. My updated recommendation is shown in Appendix 1. Below I provide reasoning for the recommended changes.

### *Selwyn's character, cultural heritage, or are of spiritual importance to Ngāi Tahu*

9. As outlined above in paragraph 6, the key issue with the notified SD-DI-O4 is the values are qualified by their "*significance to Selwyn's character, cultural heritage or are of spiritual importance to Ngāi Tahu*."
10. My evidence outlined<sup>1</sup> issues with understanding the development of Strategic Directions Objectives. The same applies to the development of SD-DI-O4 and why values are qualified by their significance to 'Selwyn's character, cultural heritage or are of spiritual importance to Ngāi Tahu'.
11. The term 'Selwyn's character', in my opinion, is ambiguous. This is not easily understood and may incorporate the values discussed but also may involve the human appreciation or experience of those values. To provide clarification, I recommend amending this to 'Selwyn's environment'.
12. 'Environment' is defined in the RMA as:

*environment includes—*

- (a) *ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and*
- (b) *all natural and physical resources; and*
- (c) *amenity values; and*
- (d) *the social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) or which are affected by those matters*

13. In my opinion 'Selwyn's environment' provides the clarification required. I note the hearings panel questioned whether reference to 'intrinsic values' within the SD-DI-O4 would address the Director-General's concerns. I consider 'Selwyn's

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<sup>1</sup> Amelia Ching Evidence – paragraph 48

environment' addresses the Director-General's concern and reference to intrinsic values is not necessary.

14. In my evidence I recommended an additional strategic directions objective to capture cultural and historic values<sup>2</sup>. This additional objective is no longer required as these matters are included in the amended SD-DI-O4.

*'Significance'*

15. In my evidence I outlined some relevant higher order document provisions that apply to SD-DI-O4<sup>3</sup>. To give effect to higher order documents, I consider broadening from 'significant' is appropriate to incorporate other matters e.g. maintenance of indigenous biodiversity, preservation of natural character.
16. Instead, I recommend the phrase "which make an important contribution to". This provides the strategic aspect of the objective whilst not limiting the application of it to only 'significant' values.
17. With this amendment consequential changes are required to ensure the outcomes in the SD-DI-O4 are aligned with higher order documents i.e. 'protected, where appropriate'.
18. The determination of 'appropriate' will be set by subsequent plan provisions which can be more specific to activities and effects.

16 August 2021

Amelia Ching

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<sup>2</sup> Amelia Ching Evidence – paragraph 61

<sup>3</sup> Amelia Ching Evidence – paragraph 52-53

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## Appendix 1 –Updated SD-DI-O4 Recommendations – Amelia Ching

### Our Environment

**SD-DI-O4** ~~Places, landscapes, and features, and indigenous biodiversity which are significant which make an important contribution to Selwyn's environment character, cultural heritage, or are of spiritual importance to Ngāi Tahu, are identified, recognised for their values, and identified and protected, where appropriate, for future generations.~~

~~Selwyn's natural environment is managed for future generations, including through:~~

~~1) identifying and protecting outstanding natural landscapes and features;~~

~~2) identifying and protecting areas of significant indigenous biodiversity;~~

~~3) maintaining indigenous biodiversity; and~~

~~4) preserving the natural character of the coastal environment.~~

### Character and Identity

**SD-DI-O6** ~~Recognise and provide for the protection of Selwyn's historic and cultural heritage items, places and areas.~~