David Ian Falconer for Christchurch City Council and Canterbury District Health Board

Summary of Evidence: Hearing Topic 1 – Strategic Directions

1. I have reviewed the section 42A report prepared by Mr Love for Selwyn District Council and am generally supportive of the recommended changes he has proposed, and the reasoning given (which largely address the matters raised in Council's submissions).

2. However, in my evidence I outline several issues with the way in which the Strategic Directions provisions, specifically SD-UFD-01, relate to, and provide direction for, the matter of urban growth. The approach taken by the proposed Selwyn District Plan to this matter is of strategic significance to Christchurch City Council, and the other members of the Greater Christchurch Partnership.

3. A summary of these issues is as follows:

3.1 There needs to be greater integration and/or alignment between the CRPS, the Strategic Directions and the Urban Growth sections of the PDP. I consider it important that the Strategic Directions clearly align with, and give effect to, the directive "avoid" framework provided by the CRPS in relation to urban growth. Giving effect to the CRPS is a requirement of section 75(3) of the RMA, and because of the directive language used in the CRPS (via Objective 6.2.1, and now Change 1 – which has been approved by the Minister), there should be no ambiguity in relation to the strategic approach to managing growth within the Greater Christchurch urban area.

3.2 SD-UFD-01 needs to be clarified so that it is clear that the approach to urban growth in the context of the Township network (within the Selwyn District) does not conflict with the CRPS framework. While I support the recommended amendment to SD-UFD-01, it is my view that this objective needs further amendment to properly align with the CRPS framework.

3.3 There is the potential to strengthen the Strategic Directions of the PDP in relation to the matter of urban growth. In relation to this issue, I consider it appropriate for a new objective (similar to UG-P3) to be included in the Strategic Directions, so that there is a strategic objective that clearly aligns with the CRPS framework. This is particularly important given that the Strategic Directions are intended to apply to plan interpretation, and implementation.

David Falconer, 23 July 2021