SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE - SHARN HAINSWORTH

5/03/2024

- I appear today as a pedologist and expert in Land Use Capability and soil conservation with experience in some aspects of forestry.
- I have expertise in soil conservation and have been Secretary of the Middle Districts Farm Forestry Association since 2022. I have post-graduate level papers in silviculture, forest management and soil conservation from Massey University. I used to monitor forestry consents when I worked for Horizons Regional Council in the early 2000s. As a part of my role in doing MPI Māori Agribusiness Pathway for Improving Productivity on Farms farm and forest development plans and Horizons Regional Council SLUI Whole Farm plans I have made recommendations for 20 years about "right tree, right place".
- As an expert in pedology and Land Use Capability I have drawn from the Land Use Capability Survey Handbook (Lynn et al., 2021) and from other relevant information such as Pagadala (2023) and Pagadala et al (2024), to make an evaluation about land versatility and Land Use Capability, and thus discuss the physical characteristics of the land on the site as defined in the definition of "productive capacity" in the NPS-HPL.
- I draw your attention to the final paragraph in Section 4.3 of Pagadala et al (2024) referred to in Footnote 3 of my evidence, which states that "some of the commonly grown fruit trees and shrubs (apple, pear, raspberry, blueberry) that we tested in this study were highly flammable and thus pose a significant fire hazard in fire-risk and fire-prone areas".
- 5 I have not visited the site.
- I want to pick up on a point Mr Ford made yesterday. In questioning, Mr Ford was asked about the suitability of forestry on the site. My point is: The site contains poorly drained soils. These make the site more constrained in what forestry trees will grow easily on the site but this is a matter of choosing the right tree, for the right place. For example, some species of Alders, Oaks, Liquidambers, Plane Trees, Redwoods, Eucalyptus and Cypress, not to mention Kahikatea will tolerate, even thrive, in a poorly drained environmental niche. A thorough on-site evaluation would be required before any tree selection was ever made. This LUC Class 2 land is currently capable of supporting forestry as a land use.

Signed

Sharn Bernard Hainsworth

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5 March 2024