

1 May 2025



The Hearing Panel  
Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region  
Wellington Regional Council

**By Email:** c/- regionalplan@gwlgovt.nz

Dear Commissioners,

**Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region – Hearing Stream 3: Earthworks**

I have been jointly engaged by Chorus New Zealand Limited (Chorus), Connexa Limited (Connexa), FortySouth Group LP (FortySouth, formerly Aotearoa Towers Group), One New Zealand Group Limited (One NZ) and Spark New Zealand Trading Limited (Spark), collectively referred to as “the telecommunication companies” (and collectively identified as Submitted S41 to these proceedings) to provide expert planning evidence and advice on Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (PC1).

The telecommunication companies submissions on PC1 have a number of submission points relevant to the Earthworks Section 42A report for Hearing Stream 3, being:

- Support the definition for Earthworks (S41.001);
- Request that Policy WH.P31 be deleted (S41.002);
- An amendment to Rule WH.R23 to exclude trenching (S41.004);
- An amendment to Rule WH.R24 to allow some winter works (S41.005);
- An amendment to Rule P.R22 to exclude trenching (S41.008); and
- An amendment to Rule P.R23 to allow some winter works (S41.009).

The officer recommends acceptance of submission points S41.001 and S41.002. Naturally, I agree with the officer’s position.

With regard to submission points S41.004, S41.005, S41.008 and S41.009, the officer recommends that these points be rejected. However, the alternate relief recommended by the officer is acceptable, for the following reasons:

- In terms of rules WH.R23 and P.R22, the officer recommends new permitted activity rules for minor earthworks associated with infrastructure (being rules WH.R23A and P.R22A). I consider that these appropriately provide for the outcomes sought by the submission. Consequently, I recommend that the Panel accept the reporting officer’s recommendations on S41.004 and S41.008.
- Recommended rules WH.R23A and P.R22A also appropriately address the concerns raised in the submissions on rules WH.R24 and P.R23. Previously, rules WH.R24 and P.R23 were engaged if the permitted activity standards in rules WH.R23 and P.R22 were not met. As rules WH.R23 and P.R22 are no longer relevant to lineal infrastructure (replaced with rules WH.R23A and P.R22A), as there is no recourse in rules WH.R24 and P.R23 for those activities which are



provided for under rules WH.R23A and P.R22A. As such, there is no winter earthworks restriction for any minor infrastructure works in any catchment in a Part Freshwater Management Unit where the target attribute state for suspended fine sediment in Table 8.4 is not met. Consequently, I recommend that the Panel accept the reporting officer's recommendations on S41.005 and S41.009.

For completeness, there were no submission points which were on (or were addressed in the Section 42A reports for) Rural Land Use or Forestry and Vegetation Clearance.

I have no further comment to make on Hearing Stream 3, and as such do not intend on appearing at the hearing. However, I am available to answer any queries or questions that the Hearing Panel may have either in writing or at the hearing. Likewise, if the provisions are further amended through the hearings process, and any conferencing occurs, my position may change. As such, if any conferencing on these provisions occurs, I request that I please be included.

Yours sincerely

**Incite**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Anderson".

Tom Anderson

**Director/Principal Planner**

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