

13 May 2024

Independent Hearings Panel
Far North Proposed District Plan
Far North District Council
Private Bag 752
Kaikohe 0440

By email to: tammy.wooster@fndc.govt.nz

Dear Commissioners,

Far North Proposed District Plan – Hearing 1

KiwiRail Holdings Limited (**KiwiRail**) is the State-Owned Enterprise responsible for the management and operation of the national railway network. This includes managing railway infrastructure and land, as well as rail freight and passenger services within New Zealand. KiwiRail is also the Requiring Authority for land designated "Railway Purposes" in District Plans throughout New Zealand.

KiwiRail supports the Council Officer's recommendation contained in the "Section 42A Report – Strategic Direction" to accept KiwiRail's submission point in relation to Objective SD-IE-O2.¹ The Council Officer recommended the amendment to include the term "repair" (in addition to the "operation, maintenance and upgrading" of infrastructure) requested by KiwiRail be made to SD-IE-O2, in order to ensure consistent plan-wide terminology around infrastructure.² Repair is a critical part of KiwiRail's regular activities on its railway lines and it is appropriate that it is included in this objective as well as operation, maintenance and upgrading activities.

KiwiRail also notes the relief sought by Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail Charitable Trust (**Trust**) to introduce a new overlay chapter in the District Plan to recognise and provide for the Twin Coast Cycle Trail (**Cycle Trail**) as regionally significant infrastructure.³ This has not been accepted in the "Section 42A Report – Part 1 and General / Miscellaneous".⁴ KiwiRail is supportive of community infrastructure and alternative transport modes, but considers there may be some issues with the Trust's current approach of introducing a new overlay chapter given that some of the Cycle Trail is located on railway corridor land. KiwiRail is happy to work with the Trust and relevant parties to agree on a solution to manage this piece of infrastructure and the supporting activities, while also ensuring the ongoing safe and efficient operation and development of the railway corridor.

I can confirm that KiwiRail will not be filing evidence for Hearing 1 at this stage and does not wish to be heard at the hearing. However, I am available to answer any questions from the Hearing Panel either in writing or via videoconference if required.

Yours faithfully,



Michelle Grinlinton-Hancock
RMA Team Leader
KiwiRail Holdings Limited

¹ S416.010.

² Section 42A Report - Strategic Direction at [198].

³ S425.010 by Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail Charitable Trust.

⁴ Section 42A Report - Part 1 and General / Miscellaneous at [182] and [184]

