Otaika Quarry Pegram Block OBA Hearing: Response to Landscape Matters Raised

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Visual Simulation from toe of Enabling Works

This series of visual simulations is from a low point on the south-eastern side of the OBDA. This viewpoint is the closest GPS referenced viewpoint to the area indicated by Commissioner Hill. (Photograph was taken in October 2016). The key map showing the location of the viewpoint also has included the angles of the slopes, which vary (i.e. 1 in 2.3 on the eastern and southern faces of the OBDA and 1 in 3.5 and 1 in 3.5 and 1 in5 as shown).

The angle of view and the height of the Enabling Works would obscure the General Works from this location.

Aerial Photography

I've covered the aerial photography used in my figures in my evidence at paras 8.24 & 8.25 and in Attachment 13.

The resolution and quality of the aerial photography is important for the 3D modelling and the preparation of the visual simulations and other figures. We used the latest aerial photography that was available as opposed to say using Google Earth as was suggested.

Despite some of the dwellings not being shown on the aerial photographs we used, as raised by Mr Thomas yesterday (i.e. his daughter's house at No. 3 Grove Lane), my assessment still covered the properties without dwellings. One of the sets of visual simulations is from Mr Thomas' daughter's property at 3 Grove Lane.

As the Chairman noted yesterday, there is no need to assess views from every property in an area and prepare visual simulations from each of them. Instead it is a matter of ensuring that there is a representative range of viewpoints and visual simulations prepared from these.

Visual Simulations

One point to note with simulations is that those in the Landscape and Visual Assessment have an 'Optimum Viewing Distance' noted on each page to show the correct distance to hold the image when you're looking at it. The interactive images that I presented at the hearing were prepared to make it easy to illustrate the sequence of the different phases of the Enabling and General Works and the proposed mitigation planting as opposed to having to reply on a large number of the paper visual simulations.

The viewing distance is of the interactive images because they are projected on a screen is different.

Landscape Rehabilitation Plan

The LRP should include specific sections to deal with the situation, that if for some reason, the OBDA is not fully completed. It would deal with how the landform should be reshaped to create a sympathetic landform profile and the type of tree planting or tree management or other measures that would need to be carried out. This can be covered by wording in the consent conditions.

Mitigation Planting

The Pegram is a working rural landscape and the proposed planting mitigation has been designed to reflect this character. The mitigation planting is a combination of fast-growing exotic tree species, widely-spaced to allow grazing to continue underneath and with native revegetation in the two areas where it is appropriate that these are planted; that is:

- A 4200m^2 area adjacent to the existing totara-dominated stand that will be retained in part. Revegetating this area with locally sourced (i.e. eco-sourced) native tree and shrub species will create a larger area of native vegetation; and
- Native riparian vegetation along both sides of the 500m of waterway as described by Dr Boothroyd.

The areas selected for planting in native species are those where these species will establish well and flourish. The exotic species because of their ability to grow in a far wider range of sites and environmental conditions will be able to better cope with being planted on the placed overburden slopes.

GBC Winstone Flat Top Quarry, Kaukapakapa

I refer to my Figure 15 in the Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment, which shows the OBDA that has been carried out in four stages. This photograph shows the landform shaping and re-grassing on the finished slopes that has been progressively carried out. In the left-hand photograph, the works on Stage 4 at the top of the image are still in progress.

Andrew Norman's Fly-Through

We have been provided with an electronic copy of the fly-through and will study it. It would be helpful to understand how the fly-through was constructed, what software was used to create it and how the model of the OBDA was imported into the fly-through.

My initial comments are that apart from the existing landform and site features such as vegetation being 'flat' it appears that the vertical scale of the OBDA has been exaggerated.

A fly-through can be useful to illustrate a development from various oblique angles but they are not very helpful in illustrating views from particular land-based viewpoints where people will actually see the development from.

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