

ATTACHMENT 5 - Statement of Experience and Qualifications

Michael Ian Farrow

My name is Mike Farrow. I am a landscape architect I hold Diplomas in Horticulture and Landscape Technology, a Bachelor of Science and a Postgraduate Diploma of Landscape Architect. I have been an Associate (Full Member_ of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects since April 1992.

I have been the Principal of Littoralis Landscape Architecture since forming that practice in 1996.

My experience includes the preparation of a number of District and Regional-scale landscape assessment studies; most during the early to mid-1990's when local government were preparing new Plans under the Act. These included assessments of Whangarei District, Far North District and Kaipara District. I have recently led the landscape assessment portion of a mapping project for Northland Regional Council's RPS.

A portion of my office's work involves the creation of assessments and landscape / spatial planning studies for urban fringe areas, including much of the periphery of Whangarei's settled margins. I have contributed to a number of structure planning projects, including studies for Kerikeri (Far North District Council), Silverdale North and Orewa West (Rodney District Council) and am currently engaged in similar work on the northern margin of Warkworth.

I have been involved in the landscape components and site planning of commercial developments, subdivisions and utility projects, often on sites of heightened sensitivity where particular care is required to avoid and manage potential effects. My office has prepared numerous reviews and assessments of applications received by statutory bodies from a landscape or natural character basis, particularly for the Whangarei, Far North, and Kaipara Districts.

I confirm that the evidence on landscape-related matters that I present is within my areas of expertise and I am not aware of any material facts which might alter or detract from the opinions I express. I have read and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses as set out in the Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note 2014. I have also read and am familiar with the Resource Management Law Association / New Zealand Planning Institute "Role of Expert Planning Witnesses" paper. The opinions expressed in this evidence are based on my qualifications and experience, and are within my area of expertise. If I rely on the evidence or opinions of another, my evidence will acknowledge that position.

I have been engaged by Whangarei District Council (WDC), alongside Mr Mortimer, to assist in the preparation of PC114. Whilst I have provided advice upon the detail of the provisions of the proposed new chapter, my primary role has been to undertake reviews of the Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL) boundaries from the Regional Policy Statement for Northland (RPSN) that relate to Whangarei District Council. That role commenced in response to

feedback from landowners in response to the draft version of the PC114 that WDC circulated to all landowners whose properties were affected by the ONL found in the RPSN.

Mr Mortimer and I visited all of those landowners who accepted WDC's invitation for us to do so and examined the placement on the RPSN ONL relative to the detail of the landscape elements found on a property by property basis. I then prepared initial mapping that illustrated adjustments to the RPSN ONL (as it would apply to the Whangarei District Plan) where those amendments were justified relative to the assessment criteria that were used to determine the RPSN ONL. The RPSN allows for such refinement within its provisions. Copies of those maps showing my recommended adjustments were then provided to landowners who provided feedback upon the Draft PC114 in advance of notification of the proposed plan change. Most were accepting of those amendments, but I have undertaken some very limited further refinements to mapping during the formal proposed plan change process.

The maps that appear within the volume of officer's reporting (via the material prepared by Mr Mortimer under his engagement with WDC) are those that have been prepared by my office under my supervision. I confirm that I have also reviewed Mr Mortimer's report and concur with the rationale and recommendations that he provides in that document.

I advise that part of my brief for PC114 has been the preparation of the Landscape Guidelines that inform the proposed plan change, where my role was to prepare the content of those guidelines and to oversee the graphic presentation of the document that was undertaken by WDC graphics staff.