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## **Waikato Regional Council – Letter to be Tabled for Plan Change 38, Strategic Directions**

**To:** Hearing Panel for Plan Change 38, Strategic Directions, Taupō District Council Proposed District Plan

**Name of submitter:** Waikato Regional Council

1. This is a letter to be tabled for the hearing on the Plan Change 38 – Strategic Directions, Taupō District Council Proposed District Plan.
2. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) lodged a submission on Plan Change 38 (PC38) to the proposed Taupō District Plan. Through its submission, WRC generally supported PC38 but requested a series of amendments to the provisions.
3. Since lodging the submission, WRC, through its agent, has had multiple conversations with Taupō District Council staff and has reviewed the s42A report. Following these further conversations and review, the purpose of this letter is to generally support the proposed PC38 as amended through the s42A report – and continue to request consideration of two changes to PC38.

### **Recognition of Geothermal Resources and Features**

4. WRC's submission requested several changes to PC38 to better recognise the geothermal resources present within Taupō District. These requests were rejected by the s42A writer.
5. Taupō District is one of the few areas of New Zealand where geothermal resources including rare and fragile geothermal features are present. Taupō and Tokaanu are the only two towns in New Zealand apart from Rotorua that overlie large geothermal systems. Taupō District contains most of the country's geothermal vegetation. In addition, the electricity generated through geothermal resources is significant. Geothermal resource is a particular feature of Taupō District and it is appropriate for this resource to be described within the Proposed Strategic Directions chapter. This adds context to the generally worded provisions.
6. WRC's submission requested several specific wording changes or additions. For the majority of these specific changes, it is proposed by the s42A writer that these are rejected as they are better addressed through the more specific chapters of the plan. WRC generally accepts this response, however for the reasons provided in the primary submission and this letter, continues to seek acknowledgement of the geothermal resources with the proposed Strategic Directions chapter.

He taiao mauriora ▲ **Healthy environment**

He hapori hihiri ▲ **Vibrant communities**

He ōhanga pakari ▲ **Strong economy**

The following (or words to similar effect) is requested to be added as a new paragraph 2 to the introduction to Section 2.6 Strategic Direction 6 – Natural Environment Values:

Taupō District contains significant geothermal resources including most of the country's geothermal vegetation. Geothermal areas are valued for their thermal energy, mineralised fluids and increasingly for their unique ecosystems, amenity values, historical values and cultural values.

## Conclusion

7. WRC generally supported PC 38 however, requested several specific changes. Following the review of the s42A report, WRC continues to seek one change to proposed section 2.6 as outlined in paragraph 6 above. In relation to further changes requested through the WRC submission, WRC supports the recommendations of the s42A report.
8. Given that WRC is in general support of the planners' recommendations, WRC does not consider it necessary to be heard at the hearing.
9. Should the hearings panel require clarification or wish to discuss the above matter further please contact WRC via the address for service below.

Please note that should the Section 42A author for Taupō District Council change their position or recommendations on the above, WRC's position outlined in this letter may be subject to change.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this letter please contact Dawn Pritchard, Senior Policy Advisor, Policy Implementation on (07) 949 5153 or by email [dawn.pritchard@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:dawn.pritchard@waikatoregion.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



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