



Hilary Samuel  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Taupō District Council  
30 Tongariro Street,  
Taupō 3330

**RE: PC 43 – Taupō Industrial Land: letter of support in lieu of presenting at the hearing.**

Dear Hilary

I submitted on this plan change as an independent ecologist and advocate for geothermal ecosystems. I have reviewed the Section 42a Report (Matt Bonis, 13 July 2023) on the Taupō Industrial Land plan change, and Appendix 5 of the s42a by William Shaw of Wildlands Consultants.

This further ecological survey addresses my concerns that the site had not had adequate ecological assessment completed as part of this proposed plan change. The additional ecological survey by Wildlands Consultants identified further geothermal habitats, mapped as Geothermal constraints 1 and 2 in Figure 1 of the s42a Appendix 5, that I had raised as potential geothermal vegetation which had not been included on the original S32 report.

Mr. Shaw states that areas of cool, geothermally altered soils, where no indigenous vegetation is present (mapped as Geothermal constraints 3 in Figure 1 of the s42a Appendix 5) do not in his opinion meet the criteria of significant geothermal features under the Waikato Regional Plan. I agree with this assessment based on a review of Table 9-1 of the WRP.

I note that my submission point regarding a hydrological assessment of effects of development on groundwater recharge has been rejected. My point in this regard is that shallow surface water recharge may be impeded by industrial development through an increase in impervious surfaces. The nearby Otumuheke hot springs is believed to be re-charged by rainwater which is heated by steam within the shallow surface water aquifer (Bromley and Glover 1996). Ongoing development within the shallow surface water catchment of Otumuheke Hot Springs may have downstream detrimental effects on the temperature and flow at this site. However, I accept that requiring a hydrological assessment may be excessive for what is a hypothesised shallow groundwater connection of the Broadlands Road site to Otumuheke Hot Springs.

I acknowledge point 193 of Mr. Bonis report that "the rezoning to Taupō Industrial Environment as now recommended through this s42A Report introduces protections for these ecologically significant features that would not otherwise exist under the operative Rural Environment".

In summary, I am supportive of the recommendations of Mr. Shaw in appendix 5 of the s42a report, and of the proposed additional rules 4h.4.1, and 4h.4.2 outlined in point 125 of Mr. Bonis' report.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Independent Hearing Panel.



Ngā mihi

Alana Delich

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'alana', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senior Ecologist, Singers Ecological

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## References

Bromley, C. J. and Glover, R. B. (1996). CHANGES IN SHALLOW HYDROLOGY OF THE TAUHARA GEOTHERMAL FIELD.  
Proceedings 18th NZ Geothermal Workshop 1996. P. 63-68.