# 6.1 PLANNING REPORT FOR PLAN CHANGE 82 - POST HARVEST ZONE REVIEW OF PROVISIONS

File Number: A3735939

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#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report titled "Planning Report for Plan Change 82 – Post Harvest Zone Review of Provisions" dated 4 May 2020 be received.

- 2. That pursuant to Clause 10(1) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the District Plan Committee makes the following decisions on Plan Change 82 ...decisions to be inserted here.
- 3. That staff be authorised to make minor editorial changes to the decision of the District Plan Committee in consultation with the Committee Chairperson.
- 4. That pursuant to Clause 10(4)(b) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the decision on Plan Change 82 be publicly notified.
- 5. That pursuant to Clause 11 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the decision on Plan Change 82 be served on every person who made a submission on the Plan Change and be made available at all Council offices and all public libraries in the District.

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations on submissions and further submissions to Plan Change 82 – Post Harvest Zone - Review of Provisions.

The current Western Bay of Plenty District Plan was made operative on 16 June 2012. This included Section 22 – Post Harvest which contains provisions relating to 15 post harvest sites which were described at the time as the "strategic" post harvest facilities (packhouses and coolstores) that generally had an output of more than 1 million trays per annum.

The Post Harvest Zone was created because the horticultural (mainly kiwifruit) industry's post-harvest requirements had evolved to the extent that their operations and their modern facilities were major activities in their own right and involved a significant investment in land, buildings and plant. The industry was growing and every time a facility wanted to alter or expand operations they had to go through a resource consent process, which took significant time and resources.

In creating the Post Harvest Zone, the Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Council) recognised the importance of the horticultural sector (particularly the kiwifruit industry) to the District, its investment in existing facilities, and the need for these facilities to be able to respond quickly and efficiently to changes. The modern large scale post-harvest facilities are now very much separate entities that are not rural in nature but do significantly support the rural sector.

Horticultural industry representatives tell us that kiwifruit production is increasing, post harvest facilities are getting larger and there is an increasing need for large numbers of seasonal workers particularly during the peak harvesting period. They also inform us that there are significant

economies of scale and new technologies meaning that larger packhouses are delivering better performances than smaller ones.

Council can continue to assist the local horticultural industry to thrive by making sure that there are no unnecessary barriers to the industry continuing to do their business-as-usual. One way this can manifest is by reviewing the Post Harvest Zone provisions of the District Plan to ensure that the zone continues to meet the needs of the District's horticultural industries, but also the needs of the community generally and the purpose of the Resource Management Act.

The ongoing operation and further development of activities in the Post Harvest Zones has raised a number of issues that have warranted investigation as to whether changes to the zone provisions should be made in advance of a full District Plan review.

Particular aspects of Post Harvest Zone provisions which were identified for review and which were notified as part of Plan Change 82 were:

- the size and number of Post Harvest Zones
- maximum height provisions
- daylighting provision rule
- the NZTA written approval rule
- an edit of seasonal worker accommodation exclusion rules.

For a full background to Plan Change 82, and an explanation of the proposed provisions please refer to the Section 32 Report (Attachment 1).

Any recommended changes (by the author of this report) to the District Plan First Review are shown as follows; existing District Plan text in black, proposed changes as included in the Section 32 Report in red, and recommendations as a result of this Planning Report in blue.

#### **TOPIC 1 - THE SIZE AND NUMBER OF POST HARVEST ZONES**

# **BACKGROUND**

The New Zealand kiwifruit industry is investing hugely in growth and are braced for enormous expansion in the period to 2027 to meet global demand. The horticultural industry predicts that the intensity and demands of the industry will continue to increase into the future. The current and forecast expansion of horticultural industry production has put pressure on the boundaries of the existing Post Harvest Zones.

Post Harvest Zoning provides certainty to post-harvest operators. It allows for growth and development to take place without the requirement to obtain resource consents for each new project, meaning a more efficient operation.

Cool storage onsite at post harvest facilities is preferred as this reduces both double-handling of product and traffic movements to and from the site. Operators have indicated that they need to expand (outwards or upwards) to allow them to operate efficiently.

During engagement with the post harvest industry, operators and stakeholders were asked whether there were additional areas of land they wished to include within existing Post Harvest Zone boundaries.

Some post harvest operators indicated adjacent areas of land they wanted to include in order to provide for flexibility and future expansion of on-site activities associated with the growth of kiwifruit

production. In some cases these were small areas purchased since the original Post Harvest Zone became operative, and in other cases these were larger areas of adjacent land that they wanted included to provide for the purpose of future flexibility and expansion. Maps showing these additional areas were prepared and notified as part of this Plan change.

The industry was also asked whether there were other strategic post harvest facilities that should be considered as additional Post Harvest Zones. No additional sites were raised as a possibility for inclusion.

Proposed zone extensions create the potential for conflict with adjacent and nearby properties by creating possible reverse sensitivity, privacy, overshadowing, noise, traffic, and rural amenity effects. In addition extensions may have effects on Council-provided services. The Plan change process has allowed input from parties who have concerns in this regard.

# **SUBMISSION POINTS**

Three submissions were received on this topic, and an additional four further submissions were received to one of the submissions.

The main submission points made by submitters were as follows:

Both Horticulture New Zealand and New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers supported the notified Post Harvest Zone expansions.

DMS Progrowers Ltd submitted requesting that an additional title of land located at 320 Te Matai Road (Lot 3 DPS22783 being 7.8995 ha in area) purchased since Plan Change 82 was notified be included within the DMS Progrowers Ltd Post Harvest Zone.

A further submission (Juliann Josephine Hawkey) supported the Post Harvest Zone expansion proposed by DMS Progrowers Ltd but raised concerns relating to increases in traffic and questioned what mitigations were planned. This further submission was withdrawn by letter dated 21 January 2020.

Three further submissions (Kenneth John Reekie, Graeme and Vianne Miller Family Trust, and Bevan and Rochelle Ann Reid) opposed the Post Harvest Zone expansion proposed by DMS Progrowers Ltd on the basis of a number of shared concerns. The following issues were raised:

- property devaluation
- increased noise from vehicles, machinery operating and staff
- increased traffic throughput and issues with access
- pressure on Te Matai Road/Te Puke Highway intersection
- future development with no input from neighbours
- height of buildings
- effects of accommodation being provided in the zone.

Council staff received notice via letter dated 21 January 2020 but received on 20 March 2020 that the further submission from Bevan and Rochelle Ann Reid had been withdrawn.

# Option 1 – As Notified - Small Extensions and Specific Larger Zone Extensions where Future Projects are Planned (Preferred Option from Section 32)

Costs	Development within zone extensions may have adverse off-site effects on adjacent or nearby rural properties. These may be effects such as noise, visual effect of new industrial-type buildings, and traffic.
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	Unintended consequences, and adverse impacts on neighbours may eventuate.
	Re-zoning land for future development means that a specific set of development plans have not been prepared (as they would be for a resource consent). Adjacent and nearby landowners would not have certainty about development and when it will happen.
	Not including the DMS Progrowers Ltd submission to include a neighbouring title of land within the Post Harvest Zone would curtail an opportunity for that particular zone to expand and operate efficiently on that site.
Benefits	This option will provide for future development plans of some post harvest facilities.
	Specific identified larger proposed extensions of zones will provide for ongoing and future development where extensive investment in the zone has already been made.
	Expanding existing Post Harvest Zones and providing a rule framework to allow compact and efficient development, rather than allowing smaller sites to expand or new sites to establish, makes sense and will reduce the amount of productive land used for non-productive purposes.
	Industry growth and economies of scale are catered for.
	<ul> <li>Specifically identifying adjacent land to be re-zoned during this review removes the need for resource consent/s if the industries want to expand outside their current zone.</li> </ul>
	Community members who provided feedback through Council's Have Your Say engagement supported both the small and the specific larger zone extensions.
	Expansions of Post Harvest Zones will allow growth of facilities within the rule framework for buildings, structures and activities. Expanding existing zones rather than creating new Post Harvest Zones will assist in achieving a better environmental outcome and more compact development.
	Proposed zone extensions have been subject to a formal public process including consultation with affected parties.
Effectiveness	This option allows continued consolidation of strategic post harvest operations where significant development has already taken place and is an effective means of providing additional land for growth for a number of Post Harvest Zones through a public process providing the opportunity for adjacent and nearby landowners to be involved.
	This option would however not be effective for DMS Progrowers Ltd who have requested through submission that additional land be included within their Te Matai Road Post Harvest Zone.
Efficiency	This option is an efficient means of providing for a number of practical expansions to Post Harvest Zones via one Plan change process.

	This option is perhaps not as efficient as it could be if the proposed expansion to the DMS Progrowers Ltd Te Matai Road Post Harvest site was also included to allow expansion of that site.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

Option 2 – Small Extensions and Specific Larger Zone Extensions where Future Projects are Planned and as notified (Preferred Option from Section 32) with the inclusion of the proposed submitted-requested DMS Progrowers Ltd expansion to the Te Matai Road Post Harvest Zone

Costs	<ul> <li>As for Option 1 above, and in addition the following:</li> <li>Development within the requested DMS zone may have adverse noise, visual amenity, and traffic effects on adjacent properties.</li> <li>Adjacent and nearby landowners do not have certainty in</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Adjacent and nearby landowners do not have certainty in knowing when and what development will happen.</li> <li>There may be unintended consequences, and possible adverse impacts on neighbours may eventuate as a result of the DMS zone expansion proposed.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>As for Option 1 above, and in addition the following:</li> <li>The change will provide for ongoing and future development of DMS Progrowers Ltd, in a location where extensive investment has already been made.</li> <li>The proposed zone extension has been notified and all</li> </ul>
Effectiveness	<ul> <li>adjoining landowners have had a chance to have input.</li> <li>As for Option 1 above, and in addition the following:         <ul> <li>This option is an effective means of DMS providing for their future growth needs by "piggybacking" on an existing Plan change process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Efficiency	As for Option 1 above, and in addition the following:     This option is an efficient cost-effective way for DMS to provide for a practical expansion to their Post Harvest Zone via a Plan change process.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient	Sufficient information is available.

information about the subject matter

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Post Harvest Zone extensions proposed and notified through Plan Change 82 received no submissions in opposition.

The as-notified smaller adjustments proposed generally accommodate existing operations and it is considered that these zone boundary adjustments have little, if any, effects on the surrounding environment.

The as-notified larger adjustments to the boundaries of three Post Harvest Zones (Hume Pack at Prospect Drive, Katikati, Trevelyan's at No. 1 Road, and DMS Progrowers at Te Matai Road (the site to the northeast being 304 Te Matai Road) involve land surrounded by other horticultural or agricultural production land. A combination of direct engagement and consultation by the post harvest operators and Council, and the formal notified Plan Change process has provided the opportunity for any issues related to the proposed re-zoning to emerge and be considered formally. No submissions in opposition have been received to the as-notified Post Harvest Zone extensions. It is considered therefore that these areas can be confirmed through the Plan change 82 process.

A requested extra addition to the existing DMS Progrowers Post Harvest Zone at Te Matai Road has been proposed through a submission received from DMS Progrowers Ltd. The 7.8995ha title at 320 Te Matai Road located to the southwest of their existing Post Harvest Zone is currently planted with kiwifruit and contains an existing dwelling.

Four further submissions were received in relation to this additional zone extension proposed by DMS Progrowers Ltd, and the further submission from Juliann Hawkey was withdrawn on 14 January 2020.

A meeting to discuss the concerns of the further submitters was held on 20 February 2020. Representatives of DMS Progrowers, three of the further submitters and Council planning and transportation staff were present.

The further submitters had an opportunity to discuss their concerns about the proposal as outlined in their submissions. These points included highlighting concerns in relation to the Te Matai Road / Te Puke Highway intersection and traffic through Te Puke township. Matters raised at the meeting focused largely on traffic and transportation issues, especially the speed along Te Matai Road in front of the packhouse and traffic turning in and out of the post harvest facility. It was considered that the installation of advance-warning "packhouse zone" signs and signage advising the existence of heavy vehicle turning movements trucks may be beneficial. DMS Progrowers agreed that they would address these matters in an amendment to the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) that was prepared for the recent increase in throughput for the site, and the submitter parties indicated that these amendments may meet their concerns.

Other issues raised in submissions that relate to the effects of development permitted in the Post Harvest Zone were acknowledged as being part of an operating post-harvest facility environment and as such controlled by the rule framework in the District Plan. The further submitters are kiwifruit growers and understood the need for post-harvest operations within the Rural Zone environment. If the Post Harvest Zone was extended as requested by DMS, it would be the consequent traffic and transportation effects that would be of most concern. It is noted that DMS Progrowers have a current resource consent allowing a 12.5 million tray throughput from their Te Matai Road Post Harvest Zone, and that the additional land they seek to re-zone will give them the opportunity to revise layout and internal traffic-flows rather than providing for additional packhouses.

At the conclusion of the meeting, submitters advised that prior to confirming whether they would formally withdraw their further submissions, they would want to see and consider the updated TIA. It was made clear that the updated TIA would need to reflect future development on the area of land that DMS Progrowers had proposed for inclusion in the Post Harvest Zone, and would need to consider submissions and discussions related to signage and other road safety matters in the vicinity of the post harvest facility.

Subsequent to the meeting, DMS Progrowers commissioned and provided an amended TIA to the Council and the further submitters on 12 March 2020. This document was prepared by Harrison Transportation and is entitled DMS Progrowers Ltd, Te Matai Road, Te Puke - Transportation Assessment Report, March 2020 (Reference 258 TA v2).

Further to providing the revised TIA, DMS Progrowers have also continued to liaise with further submitters to determine whether concerns have been mitigated through the revised TIA, or can be mitigated via private side-agreement/s (which Council would not be a party to).

The further submission from Bevan and Rochelle Ann Reid was withdrawn via a letter received on 20 March 2020.

It is believed that the outstanding further submissions from Kenneth John Reekie, and the Graeme and Vianne Miller Family Trust may be withdrawn before a Council hearing on the Plan change. If they are not, then these parties will have the opportunity to present their submissions at that time.

Council staff have reviewed the amended TIA report and its recommendations. In general the recommendations in the TIA are considered to be sound. There are some details of the report that require fine-tuning and/or clarification. It will be necessary for these matters to be confirmed and agreed when a variation to the resource consent is applied for to provide for the changes to entrance/s and layout that will occur if the Plan change is approved. The summary in the TIA report concluded that with the recommendations given, the development can be readily accommodated within the local transportation environment.

Council's feedback on the revised TIA report has been provided to DMS Progrowers. If the zone extension is approved, a variation of the existing resource consent for throughput increase will be required and it is expected that this will include detail of the proposed changes to traffic entrances and exits, signage, and works within the road reserve. Council-approved recommendations in the TIA will therefore be given effect to through conditions of the resource consent.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That changes to the District Plan in relation to the size and number of Post Harvest Zones be made as notified and, in addition, the land at 320 Te Matai Road (Lot 3 DPS22783 being 7.8995 ha in area) be included within the adjacent Post Harvest Zone (DMS Progrowers).

The following submissions are therefore:

# Accepted

Submission	Point Number	Name
13	1	Horticulture New Zealand
21	1	New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers
22	2	DMS Progrowers Ltd

# Rejected in Part

Submission F	Point Number	Name
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29	1	Kenneth John Reekie,
30	1	Graeme and Vianne Miller Family Trust

#### Withdrawn

Submission	Point Number	Name
28	1	Juliann Hawkey
31	1	Bevan and Rochelle Reid

# **REASONS**

The Post Harvest Zone extensions proposed and notified through Plan Change 82 received no submissions in opposition.

The additional area that DMS Progrowers Ltd requested be added to the Post Harvest Zone is a logical extension to the zone. Although four further submissions were made to this proposal (three in opposition), two had been withdrawn at the time of the writing of this planning report. Indications from discussions at the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February were that subject to agreement over an amended TIA, all further submissions may be withdrawn prior to the hearing.

Relevant matters raised in further submissions related mainly to traffic and transportation issues in the vicinity of the Post Harvest Zone. These have been addressed by way of a revised TIA that makes recommendations to mitigate traffic effects and concludes that the proposed development can be readily accommodated within the local transportation environment.

# TOPIC 2: DISTRICT PLAN ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE STANDARD RULE 22.4.1(B) - DAYLIGHTING

#### **BACKGROUND**

The intent when Rule 22.4.1(b) was implemented during the previous District Plan review was that the daylighting measurement was to be taken from the Post Harvest Zone boundaries and not from lot boundaries internal to zone. This intent was made clear in the Section 32 Report, however this intent was not carried through clearly to the rule wording.

A re-wording of Rule 22.4.1(b) to make it clear that the daylighting rule applies only when a building/structure is constructed adjoining a different zone (Rural) will meet the needs of the horticultural industry and Council.

The proposed change to Rule 22.4.1(b) was notified as follows:

# (b) Daylighting

No part of any building/structure shall exceed a height equal to 2m above ground level at all boundaries and an angle of 45° into the site from that point. Except where the site boundary is with a road or with a site zoned Post Harvest, in which case this rule shall not apply in respect to that boundary.

# Provided that:

A building/structure may exceed the aforementioned height where the written approval of the owner of the immediately adjoining property to a specified greater height is obtained.

#### **SUBMISSION POINTS**

Three submission points were lodged in support of the proposed change to the rule to clarify the intent.

# **DISCUSSION**

Submissions stated that the proposed change clarifies the daylighting performance standard and makes it clear where it applies, giving greater certainly for landowners within the Post Harvest Zone.

The wording was agreed, however following staff discussions around the meaning of the word "site" and how it would apply in relation to the daylighting requirement, it was decided that an explanatory statement would be an easier way to clarify the rule and its intent.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the proposed change to District Plan Rule 22.4.1(b) be amended as follows.

# (b) Daylighting

No part of any building/structure shall exceed a height equal to 2m above ground level at all boundaries and an angle of 45° into the site from that point. Except where the site boundary is with a road <u>or with a site zoned Post Harvest</u>, in which case this rule shall not apply in respect to that boundary.

#### Provided that:

A building/structure may exceed the aforementioned height where the written approval of the owner of the immediately adjoining property to a specified greater height is obtained.

# **Explanatory Note:**

For the purposes of Rule 22.4.1(b) "site" means each individual Post Harvest Zone as an entirety. The daylighting requirement is applicable in relation to each site's external boundaries with a different zone (e.g. Rural) and not applicable between lot boundaries internal to each site.

The following submissions are therefore:

# **Accepted in Part**

Submission	Point Number	Name
13	2	Horticulture New Zealand
20	4	NZ Transport Agency
21	3	New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc.

# **REASONS**

There is no advantage to be gained, and no environmental effect to be addressed by requiring a written approval from the owner of an adjoining lot where both that lot and the lot where development is occurring are zoned Post Harvest.

Therefore adding an explanatory note to Rule 22.4.1(b) to make it clear that the daylighting rule applies only when a building/structure on a Post Harvest Zoned site is constructed on a "site" that adjoins land which is in a different zone (Rural) will streamline Council processes for any future development within the Post Harvest Zone where more than one lot exists.

The intent of Rule 22.4.1(b) and the most efficient and effective outcome for the zone will be realised by the proposed change.

#### **TOPIC 3: HEIGHT**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Under current District Plan Rule 22.4.1(a), the maximum permitted building height within the Post Harvest Zone is 12m (except that for Lot 4 DP 376727 Te Puna the maximum is 9m). Any additional height over 12m currently requires a resource consent as a Restricted Discretionary Activity.

The horticultural industry has advised Council that 12m is no longer a realistic maximum height for post harvest buildings, and has asked Council to reassess the maximum height provisions in the Post Harvest Zone. A review was considered necessary to evaluate whether the maximum height provision needs to be increased to ensure that sufficient infrastructure is able to be installed to support industry growth over the next 10 years, and also to examine the effects of extending the height limit upward.

The post harvest industry is beginning to introduce automated racking technology into coolstores allowing pallets to be stacked and manipulated automatically. This results in various economies, and new coolstore buildings are now typically being built higher than previously.

Two new fully automated coolstore buildings approaching 20m in height have recently been constructed in the Te Puke area. Of these buildings, one is located within an Industrial Zone which permits buildings to 20m in height. The other is within a Post Harvest Zone bounded by Industrial and Rural Zones and this coolstore was constructed after resource consent was obtained to construct higher than the maximum permitted 12m.

Plan Change 82, as notified, makes provision for the height of buildings/structures within the Post Harvest Zone to a maximum of 14m as a Permitted Activity. Increasing the maximum Permitted Activity height limit from 12m to 14m will allow some additional flexibility by allowing for coolstore stacking to 4 pallets high. Additional height over 14m to a maximum of 20m would be a Restricted Discretionary Activity, and height over 20m would be considered as a Discretionary Activity.

Specific Restricted Discretionary Activity Matters of Discretion have been developed to give some certainty (to both applicants and to nearby landowners) on the information required to increase the chances of a successful application between 14m and 20m in height.

The matters of discretion were notified as follows:

- (e) With respect to Rule 22.3.3(e), Council's discretion shall be restricted to relevant objectives and policies, and to the following matters:
  - (i) The impact on the visual amenity of the existing environment.

This shall require an assessment of the actual and/or potential effects of the building/structure that is appropriate to the scale and effect of the proposal and which addresses the following:

- The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity when viewed from any existing or consented dwelling that is located on a title outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;
- The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity for any title that is located outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;

- The ability of any actual and/or potential adverse effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated via measures such as the colour ofthe building/structure, and/or vegetative or other screening.

(ii) Restrictions on advertising or similar publicity and/or promotional material on the walls of the building/structure to reduce the potential for adverse visual amenity effects.

#### **SUBMISSION POINTS**

Twelve submission points were received on the topic of additional height. No submissions opposed an increase in height within the Post Harvest Zone to 14m and some asked for a greater increase.

The main points made by submitters were as follows:

Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Inc.) submitted to remain involved only if tensions become apparent between the Rural Zone and Post Harvest Zone interface.

The NZ Transport Agency had no concerns relating to the maximum height of buildings and submitted that Council should adopt the proposed changes as notified.

The Te Puke Economic Development Group submitted that with automation and efficiencies, the existing 12m maximum height provision is no longer sufficient. They encouraged Council to work with the post harvest sector to revise height limits.

New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers submitted that there needs to be sufficient infrastructure in place to support industry growth and the 12m height rule is no longer realistic with the introduction of automated coolstore racking. The competition for land for urban development has increased the need for additional height to reduce the footprint of post harvest buildings and sustain industry growth. Height to 20m as a Permitted Activity with the ability to apply for a resource consent for additional height beyond this is supported for Post Harvest Zones (Option 3 from the s32 report), but also for post harvest facilities that are located outside of the Post Harvest Zone.

Horticulture New Zealand accepts that there is a need to protect rural amenity. They acknowledge that permitting 20m high buildings/ structures could have some impact on amenity values. They suggest that the proposal to classify buildings/ structures between the maximum permitted height and 20m as Restricted Discretionary Activities provides as much certainty as possible for Post Harvest Zones operators wishing to build to 20m.

Horticulture New Zealand conditionally supports the proposed change to increase the maximum permitted height of buildings in the post harvest zone to 14m, as they believe that the current maximum permitted building height of 12m is too low. They submit that justification for the proposed new 14m maximum height is not clear in the Section 32 analysis, and question whether the maximum permitted height could be increased to (at least) 15m to provide consistency with Plan Change 87 – Frost Protection Fans which permits frost fans to 15m height.

Horticulture New Zealand supports Restricted Discretionary Activity status and the matters of discretion for buildings between the maximum permitted height and 20m as notified. They suggest that the notified matters of discretion provide as much certainty as possible for landowners in Post Harvest Zones who want to build to 20m in height. These identify the matters that resource consent applications need to address, while still maintaining the ability for Council to decline an application if the height of a building is deemed to have an adverse effect on rural amenity that cannot be mitigated.

Daniel Kinnoch submitted that the as-notified change proposed to the maximum permitted height rule (14m) conflicts with the change proposed to the same standard under Plan Change 87 - Frost Protection Fans (15m). He suggests that a change to the standard should be made under one of

these plan changes only and that the maximum height in the Post-Harvest Zone could simply be increased to 15m.

A further submission from Horticulture New Zealand supports this view and agrees that an increase in the height in the Post Harvest Zone to at least 15m could be made.

Daniel Kinnoch suggests further that proposed Rule 22.5.1(e)(i) Matters of Discretion for Restricted Discretionary Activities for buildings/structures between the maximum permitted height and 20m could be simplified considerably. He contends that:

- The use of the words 'existing environment' conflicts with the reference to effects on consented dwellings. While it is acknowledged that dwellings are part of the 'receiving environment' to be considered as part of decision making, these dwellings may not yet 'exist' in a physical form, so this could be confusing to Plan users. There may also be dwellings that do not require resource consent, so will neither exist nor be consented.
- No individual person or entity would own the entirety of the Post Harvest Zoned area, and there is also the potential for individual sites within the zone to be under different ownership so there is concern over the words 'in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator'.
- The first bullet under (i) is superfluous as a result of the second bullet and the rule could be simplified to just consider all visual amenity effects when viewed from land outside of the zone.
- The need to refer to the zone owner or operator is superfluous. If land outside of the zone was owned by a post harvest operator, they would simply provide written approvals in relation to the land, and visual amenity effects as viewed from that site would be disregarded.
- There is no need to use the words 'actual and/or potential loss' in any of the bullet points.

In summary, Daniel Kinnoch recommends that proposed new Rule 22.5.1(e) be changed to read as follows:

- (e) With respect to Rule 22.3.3(e), Council's discretion shall be restricted to relevant objectives and policies, and to the following matters:
  - (i) The impact on the visual amenity of the existing environment.

    This shall require an assessment of the actual and/or potential effects of the building/structure that is appropriate to the scale and effect of the proposal and which addresses the following:
  - The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity when viewed from any
    existing or consented dwelling that is located on a title outside of the Post
    Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;
  - The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity for any title that is located outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;
  - The ability of any actual and/or potential adverse effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated via measures such as the colour ofthe building/structure, and/or vegetative or other screening.
  - (i) Effects on the visual amenity of land located outside of the Post Harvest Zone.
  - (ii) Whether adverse visual effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated via measures such as the colour of the building/structure, and/or vegetative or other screening.

(iii) Restrictions on advertising or similar publicity and/or promotional material on the walls of the building/structure to reduce the potential for adverse visual amenity effects.

Horticulture New Zealand oppose the submission by Daniel Kinnoch and suggest that the changes sought to the wording amend the intent of the matters of discretion. Given the size of the Post Harvest Zones, they often are in the ownership of one entity. It should also be noted that some signage may be required for health and safety purposes and should be provided for in the plan, therefore any restrictions on signage (if deemed necessary) should be carefully worded. They submit that Rule 22.5.1 e) be retained as notified.

Option 1: Preferred Option as Notified - Increase the maximum permitted height of Buildings/Structures in the Post Harvest Zone to 14m as a Permitted Activity, and between 14m and 20m as a Restricted Discretionary Activity with Matters of Discretion.

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Costs	Post harvest facilities are industrial in nature. An increase in the maximum permitted height to 14m remains inconsistent with Industrial Zone provisions which allow 20m high buildings/structures. This may create confusion for District Plan users.
	The horticultural industry has invested considerable resources in existing Post Harvest Zones. Restricting the ability to expand upwards, particularly with increasing kiwifruit production and recent advances in stacking technology, creates uncertainty.
	Industry representatives have firmly stated that they want a 20m maximum height as a Permitted Activity and may be unwilling to accept a 14m maximum permitted height.
	An additional 2m height as a Permitted Activity in the Post Harvest Zone may create adverse visual effects that can't easily be absorbed in some adjoining rural environments.
	Restricting height to 14m as a Permitted Activity may have the effect of forcing post harvest operations away from Post Harvest Zones into Industrial Zones. This would potentially present logistical/financial costs for post harvest operators.
	Providing for height up to 20m as a Restricted Discretionary Activity in the Post Harvest Zone may still, even with specified Matters of Discretion, enable the construction of buildings with adverse effects that are not considered appropriate in the adjoining Rural Zone.
	Assessments of visual amenity for applications between 14 and 20m height in the Post Harvest Zone may be subjective creating uncertainty for applicants and nearby residents.
	The as-notified Matters of Discretion are possibly confusing to readers and could be simplified.
Benefits	The increase height to 14m as a Permitted Activity would give post harvest operators in the zone flexibility beyond the current standard and would allow the installation of automated racking systems to 4 pellets high.
	Restricting the increase in the maximum Permitted Activity height to an additional 2m in the Post Harvest Zones would provide some useful flexibility for the industry, and the relatively minor increase in height may be able to be readily absorbed into the existing interface between the post

	harvest and rural environments, particularly since the daylighting rule standard would still be required to be met.
	<ul> <li>Resource consent Height for over 14m still could be applied as a Restricted Discretionary Activity with specific Matters of Discretion relating to visual amenity which would give some certainty to applicants, and peace of mind for both neighbouring landowners/occupiers and those further afield.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Existing operations within Post Harvest Zones are large industrial activities. An extra 2m of height within some Post Harvest Zones may therefore not create any additional adverse effect on adjacent Rural Zone amenity because the backdrop of existing buildings may obscure new buildings.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Restricting Permitted Activity height to 14m may have the effect of encouraging post harvest operations into Industrial Zones thereby benefiting Rural Zone amenity.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness	<ul> <li>This option is effective in achieving a balance between what the post harvest industry wants, and managing actual and/or potential effects on the environment.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>This option is somewhat effective in providing what the post harvest industry has requested in that it would provide some additional height as a Permitted Activity for coolstore buildings that may accommodate automation technology.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Specific Matters of Discretion in relation to height over 14m give some certainty to the industry and provide some flexibility for new coolstore builds over the current maximum permitted height. These provisions also provide guidance to the Council when considering applications for heights over 14m and are effective in ensuring that amenity matters are considered.</li> </ul>
Efficiency	This option is efficient in providing some additional flexibility for the post harvest industry to build up to 14m without having to go through a resource consent application, and having specific guidance between 14 and 20m, therefore reducing financial and time costs.
	The specific Matters of Discretion in relation to height over 14m have been developed to give some certainty to the industry, and guidance to the Council in relation to rural amenity considerations.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

Option 2 – Increase the Maximum Height of Structures in the Post Harvest Zone to 20m as a Permitted Activity.

The District Plan daylighting provisions for boundaries zone would have to be complied with meaning a signification.
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from Rural Zone boundaries would be required for a 20m high building (unless written approval was obtained from the neighbouring landowner). Fire-protection requirements under the Building Act would require substantial setbacks from boundaries for a 20m high building, unless specifically designed. Buildings between 12m and 20m height in the Post Harvest Zone have the potential to create significant adverse visual amenity impacts on the Rural Zone. Shelterbelts and trees in the rural environment could also be a significant height but create quite a different visual impact to buildings which are solid and present one dimensional walls. It would be difficult to determine who may be affected by additional building height when it would not necessarily be only adjoining landowners who may be affected visually; amenity and views from further afield could also be affected in a significant way by a substantial bulky and tall building. It would be difficult to develop Permitted Activity Performance Standards that could be applied successfully to buildings and structures 20m high to mitigate actual and/or potential visual impacts constructed on a range of different sites within (mainly) rural environments. Allowing buildings and structures to 20m height in the Post Harvest Zone could be seen to be significantly favouring one rural support industry over others which have to comply with the 9m Rural Zone permitted maximum height (with the exception of frost fans). Buildings and structures of this scale would not be consistent with what the District Plan objectives and policies envisage for the rural environment. **Benefits** Increasing the maximum height to 20m would provide ample height for automated stacking up to 5 pellets in height plus provide adequate headspace for refrigeration systems and maintenance activities. An increase in the maximum permitted height to 20m would create consistency with the Industrial Zone provisions, and remove potential rule confusion between post harvest industrial sites in both zones. Activity Performance Standards could be developed and applied to the 20m maximum permitted height to try to mitigate actual visual impacts (such as requiring a specific setback from boundaries and dwellings, and/or vegetative screening provisions, specific colour schemes). This option would provide certainty and less confusion for post harvest operators who work across both Post Harvest and Industrial Zones. **Effectiveness** Overall this option is partially effective. It may be effective for post harvest operators within Post Harvest Zones as it would give flexibility and certainty that they could use automated stacking technology up to 5 pallets high in new builds. It would not be effective at maintaining rural amenity as the potential for adverse effects on rural amenity values is significant. Adverse effects on amenity are likely to be site-specific and could not be easily identified in advance across all Post Harvest Zones. Efficiency Overall this option is partially efficient.

	<ul> <li>This option would be efficient for post harvest operators who would gain certainty for new coolstore builds as it would reduce costs and time involved in obtaining resource consents for over-height buildings.</li> <li>However, the cost to the rural community and the effect on the integrity of the District Plan could be extreme as bulky 20m high buildings are likely to have a significant impact on amenity values over a wide area in the Rural Zone. Buildings and structures of this scale would not be consistent with the objectives and policies for the rural environment.</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

Option 3 – Increase the maximum permitted height of buildings/structures in the Post Harvest Zone to 15m as a Permitted Activity to be consistent with the permitted height of frost fans within the Rural Zone, between 15m and 20m as a Restricted Discretionary Activity, and height over 20m as a Discretionary Activity.

Costs	<ul> <li>As for Option 1 above but with maximum height to 15m (3m increase) instead of 14m (2m increase) plus the following.</li> <li>The Plan Change as notified raises the permitted height to 14m (approx. 15% increase in height) and there were no submissions in opposition to this. A 15m height equates to a 25% increase in height. An additional 3m height as a Permitted Activity in the Post Harvest Zone may create adverse visual effects that can't easily be absorbed in some adjoining rural environments.</li> <li>The request to increase the maximum Permitted Height for all buildings and structures to 15m because frost fans are permitted to be this height is somewhat arbitrary. The reason frost fans are provided for in the District Plan to a height of 15m is due to the actual height of these structures, and their technical and operational requirements. The adverse visual effect of a 15m frost fan is significantly different (and less) to that of a 15m high coolstore building.</li> </ul>
Benefits	As for Option 1 above but with maximum height to 15m (3m increase) instead of 14m (2m increase).
Effectiveness	<ul> <li>This option may be somewhat effective in achieving a balance between providing what the post harvest industry wants and effects on the environment. There is some concern that providing an additional 3m height beyond what is currently permitted would not be effective in managing adverse effects on the amenity of the rural environment.</li> <li>This option is somewhat effective in providing what the post harvest industry has requested in that it would provide additional height as a Permitted Activity for coolstore buildings that may be automated.</li> </ul>
Efficiency	As for Option 1 above but with maximum height to 15m (3m increase) instead of 14m (2m increase).

Option 4 – As for Option 1 but with some clarifying amendments to the matters of discretion.

Costs	As for Option 1 above.	
Benefits	<ul> <li>As for Option 1 above, and in addition the following.</li> <li>Simplifying the Matters of Discretion as suggested in submissions will reduce the potential for confusion.</li> </ul>	
Effectiveness	As for Option 1 above.	
Efficiency	As for Option 1 above.	
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.	

# **DISCUSSION**

The Post Harvest Zone was developed to give existing larger and more strategic post harvest facilities servicing surrounding rural horticultural activities some benefits in relation to not having to apply for resource consents for every new building or change in activity level. The introduction of the Post Harvest Zone into the District Plan acknowledged that there was already significant investment of plant on the sites and that it was not logical or reasonable to require these facilities to retreat to Industrial Zones, but it did not give the sites a de-facto Industrial Zoning or the same operating conditions as that zone.

The request through submissions to introduce a 20m maximum permitted height in the Post Harvest Zone and also to post harvest facilities outside Post Harvest Zones to be consistent with the maximum permitted height in the Industrial Zone is not considered to be in the best interests of maintaining the amenity of the rural environment. The option to introduce a 20m height was considered in the Section 32 assessment and discounted due to likely significant adverse visual amenity effects.

The industry has asked for some additional flexibility in relation to height of new coolstore buildings, and the additional 2m in height as notified in this Plan change was provided to allow some flexibility around the potential for automated stacking to four pallets high. There were no submissions opposing an increase in height to 14m.

Whilst it may have the effect of reducing some confusion around different heights for different structures, it is not considered reasonable to increase the height to 15m as suggested by some submitters (Daniel Kinnoch and further submitter Horticulture New Zealand) merely so as to be consistent with the permitted frost fan height. The reason frost fans are provided for in the District Plan to 15m height is due to their actual height, and their technical and operational requirements. The adverse visual effect of a 15m frost fan is likely to be significantly different (and less) than that

of a 15m high coolstore building and therefore increasing the height of Post Harvest buildings to 15m would be a somewhat arbitrary decision.

Increasing height to 14m as a Permitted Activity gives operators in the Post Harvest Zone flexibility beyond the current 12m maximum permitted height standard and allows the installation of automated racking systems to 4 pellets high. This change would be effective and efficient.

Changes to the as-notified Matters of Discretion to make the rule simpler, shorter and clearer will reduce potential reader confusion. The intent and direction in the Matters of Discretion remain consistent.

# **RECOMMENDATION**

That changes to the District Plan be made as follows:

# 22.3 Activity Lists

# 22.3.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities

(e) Buildings/structures over 14m in height to a maximum of 20m in height.

# 22.3.4 Discretionary Activities

(c) <u>Buildings/structures over 20m in height.</u>

# 22.4 Activity Performance Standards

#### 22.4.1 General

(a) Height of buildings/structures

Maximum: <del>12m</del> 14m.

Except that:

For Lot 4 DP 376727 Te Puna the maximum shall be 9m.

#### 22.5 Matters of Discretion

# 22.5.1 Restricted Discretionary Activities

- (e) With respect to Rule 22.3.3(e), Council's discretion shall be restricted to relevant objectives and policies, and to the following matters:
  - (i) The impact on the visual amenity of the existing environment.

This shall require an assessment of the actual and/or potential effects of the building/structure that is appropriate to the scale and effect of the proposal and which addresses the following:

- The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity when viewed from any existing or consented dwelling that is located on a title outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;
- The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity for any title that is located outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;

- The ability of any actual and/or potential adverse effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated via measures such as the colour ofthe building/structure, and/or vegetative or other screening.
- (i) Effects on the visual amenity of land located outside of the Post Harvest Zone.
- (ii) Whether adverse visual effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated via measures such as the colour of the building/structure, and/or vegetative or other screening.
- (iii) Restrictions on advertising or similar publicity and/or promotional material on the walls of the building/structure to reduce the potential for adverse visual amenity effects.

The following submissions are therefore:

# **Accepted**

Submission	Point Number	Name
19	1	Federated Farmers Of New Zealand (Inc.)
20	3	NZ Transport Agency
13	4	Horticulture New Zealand
1	2	Daniel Kinnoch

# **Accepted in Part**

Submission	Point Number	Name
11	2	Te Puke Economic Development Group
13	5	Horticulture New Zealand

# Rejected

Submission	Point Number	Name
21	5	New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers
1	24	Daniel Kinnoch
FS33	2	Horticulture New Zealand
13	3	Horticulture New Zealand
21	4	New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers
FS33	3	Horticulture New Zealand

# **REASONS**

The Post Harvest Zone surrounding environments are generally rural in nature, even if the post harvest operations are essentially industrial. Because of their environment, the expectation is that post harvest buildings are of a lower scale than would be expected within an Industrial Zone.

There may however be site-specific situations where an increase in height to beyond the permitted threshold could be absorbed by the surrounding environment. These may include that measures can be applied to mitigate the visual impact of additional height on the specific site, and/or that adjacent and nearby landowners are accepting of the additional height.

Option 4 above therefore allows more flexibility over the current 12m height, and the ability to apply through a resource consent application for additional height through a process that ensures that the amenity of the surrounding environment has the greatest chance of being safeguarded. The specific Matters of Discretion will ensure that adverse effects on rural amenity can be reduced or mitigated via, for example, control of advertising on large blank walls, colour of buildings and/or screening.

Increasing height to 14m as a Permitted Activity gives post harvest operators in the Post Harvest Zone flexibility beyond the current 12m maximum permitted height standard and allows the installation of automated racking systems to 4 pellets high.

There were no submissions opposing an increase in height to 14m, although Daniel Kinnoch suggested that to achieve consistency with Plan Change 87 – Frost Protection Fans, the maximum permitted height in Post Harvest Zones could be increased to 15m (and this was supported by Horticulture New Zealand). The discussion above addressed this point, and the effectiveness/efficiency reasons included in the assessment above indicate that Option 4 is likely to achieve the best outcome for the zone, and for the surrounding rural environment.

Changes to the as-notified Matters of Discretion to make the rule simpler, shorter and clearer will reduce potential reader confusion. The intent and direction in the Matters of Discretion remain consistent.

# TOPIC 4: MATTERS OF DISCRETION - RESTRICTED DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES - NZTA APPROVAL RULE 22.5.1(C)

#### **BACKGROUND**

District Plan Rule 22.5.1(c) requires that when there is any increase in the throughput of the consented horticultural crop(s) beyond the consented level, or when the use of existing post harvest facilities for the grading and storage of horticultural crops other than kiwifruit and avocados occurs, that the written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is required or limited notification of the application shall be required.

Five Post Harvest Zoned sites in and around Te Puke gain their most direct access to and from Te Puke Highway via side roads. Te Puke Highway was previously a State Highway under the control of NZTA but is now managed by WBOPDC.

Rule 22.5.1(c) therefore needs to be reworded to exclude those sites in and around Te Puke which no longer have direct and close access to State Highway 2 from needing to engage with NZTA when required by Rule 22.5.1(c).

The proposed change to Rule 22.5.1(c) was notified with an exception added at the end of the rule as follows:

- (c) For the purposes of an application under either Rule 22.3.3(a) or 22.3.3(b), the following shall apply in respect of notification:
  - (i) Where the prior written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency has been obtained, neither public nor limited notification of the application shall be required.
  - (ii) Where the prior written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency has not been obtained, only limited notification of the application shall be required, such notification to be limited to the New Zealand Transport Agency.

# Except that:

This shall not apply to those Post Harvest Zoned sites that access Te Puke Highway via a side road.

#### **SUBMISSION POINTS**

Six submission points were made in relation to this topic.

Three submission points were in support of the proposal as notified including a submission from the New Zealand Transport Agency.

Other submission points supported the proposal with amendments suggested. Those submissions were as follows:

- That specifying a requirement to limited notify a person in a plan rule is ultra vires as the steps that the consent authority must follow to determine whether an application requires limited notification are set out in section 95B of the Resource Management Act (RMA).
- That the wording of Rule 22.5.1(c) should be amended for clarity as the proposed wording "suggests that post-harvest zones themselves access Te Puke Highway which is impossible as they are buildings". The suggested re-wording is as follows:

# Except that:

This shall not apply to post harvest zoned sites that are accessed via side roads off Te Puke Highway.

Option 1 – As Proposed - Preferred option from Section 32 - proposed exception clause added to Rule 22.5.1(c) as follows:

#### Except that:

This shall not apply to those Post Harvest Zoned sites that access Te Puke Highway via a side road.

Costs	There may be a lack of clarity as to what is excepted from the rule as evidenced by the submission from NZKGI.
Benefits	<ul> <li>Amending the current rule will eliminate unnecessary consultation with NZTA (who no longer control Te Puke Highway as a State Highway).</li> <li>The resource consenting process will be streamlined for the Post Harvest Zoned sites that access Te Puke Highway via a side road.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness	Partially effective in reducing unnecessary complexity, however the intent of the rule may not be completely transparent.
Efficiency	This option is partly efficient in reducing unnecessary complexity and therefore cost however the intent of the rule may not be completely transparent.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

# Option 2 – Re-wording of the exception statement to Rule 22.5.1(c) as requested by submitter as follows:

#### Except that:

This shall not apply to post harvest zoned sites that are accessed via side roads off Te Puke Highway.

Costs	There may be a lack of clarity as to what is excepted from the rule.	
Benefits	As for Option 1 above.	
Effectiveness	As for Option 1 above.	
Efficiency	As for Option 1 above.	
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter		

# Option 3 – Re-wording of the exception statement to Rule 22.5.1(c) to achieve clarity by simply listing the Post Harvest Zoned sites that the rule does not apply to as follows:

# Except that:

This rule does not apply to post harvest facilities on the following five sites:

- Collins Lane Lots 1 and 2 DPS 40302 and Lots 1 and 2 DP 516960.
- No 1 Road Lots 1 and 2 DPS 45890, Lot 2 DPS 71406, Part Section 11 Block VI Maketu SD, Lot 1 DPS 71406, Lot 1 DPS 8197, Part Lot 1 DPS 2815 and Part Lot 2 DPS 86822.
- <u>Te Matai Road Lot 1 DPS 41366, Lot 3 DPS 29565, Lots 1 and 2 DP 354272.</u>
- Te Matai Road Lot 3 DP 392756, Lot 1 DP 392756 and Part Lot 3 DPS 22783.
- Rangiuru Road Lots 1 and 2 DPS 81042, Lot 2 DPS 65874, and Lots 1 and 2 DPS 70231.

Costs	No disadvantages to this option.	
Benefits	<ul> <li>Amending the rule will eliminate unnecessary consultation/engagement with NZTA (who no longer control Te Puke Highway as a State Highway) for some post harvest facilities within Post Harvest Zones.</li> <li>Simplifying the statement will provide clarity as it is obvious which Post Harvest Zoned sites are excluded from the rule.</li> </ul>	
Effectiveness	Effective in reducing unnecessary complexity, confusion, and consultation/engagement.	
Efficiency	This option is efficient in reducing unnecessary complexity and therefore cost. The rule will be clear that for applications under Rule 22.3.3(a) or 22.3.3(b), when specifically identified Post Harvest Zoned sites have access and egress to Te Puke Highway via a side road, that the written approval from NZTA need not be sought.	

	There will be no confusion as to which Post Harvest Zoned sites are affected.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The submission point that related to the provisions in the rule referencing limited notification being *ultra vires* is outside of the scope of Plan Change 82. The first part of Rule 22.5.1(c) was not amended as part of this Plan change and there is a risk that parties who may consider themselves to be affected by an amendment of the provision would have been denied an opportunity to respond if the rule is altered during the reporting process.

It is accepted that the steps to be followed to determine whether an application requires limited notification are set out in section 95B of the Resource Management Act (RMA). Any issues relating to the rule wording in relation to its *vires* will be addressed in the upcoming District Plan review.

The concern raised in the NZKGI submission that it is impossible for Post Harvest Zones to access Te Puke Highway because they are buildings seems to be a misunderstanding. A Post Harvest Zone refers to the zoning of the land itself, not the building/s within the zone. It is accepted however that the wording may be ambiguous.

In relation to the clarity of Rule 22.5.1(c) the wording of the exception clause has therefore been considered and the explanatory statement in Option 3 above is considered a clearer way of stating what is intended. The statement is unambiguous as to which specific Post Harvest Zones and *post harvest facilities* are affected.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That a change to District Plan Rule 22.5.1(c) be made as follows.

- (c) For the purposes of an application under either Rule 22.3.3(a) or 22.3.3(b), the following shall apply in respect of notification:
- (i) Where the prior written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency has been obtained, neither public nor limited notification of the application shall be required.
- (ii) Where the prior written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency has not been obtained, only limited notification of the application shall be required, such notification to be limited to the New Zealand Transport Agency.

# Except that:

This shall not apply to those Post Harvest Zoned sites that access Te Puke Highway via a side road.

# Except that:

This rule does not apply to post harvest facilities on the following five sites:

- Collins Lane Lots 1 and 2 DPS 40302 and Lots 1 and 2 DP 516960.
- No 1 Road Lots 1 and 2 DPS 45890, Lot 2 DPS 71406, Part Section 11 Block VI Maketu SD, Lot 1 DPS 71406, Lot 1 DPS 8197, Part Lot 1 DPS 2815 and Part Lot 2 DPS 86822.

- Te Matai Road Lot 1 DPS 41366, Lot 3 DPS 29565, Lots 1 and 2 DP 354272.
- Te Matai Road Lot 3 DP 392756, Lot 1 DP 392756 and Part Lot 3 DPS 22783.
- Rangiuru Road Lots 1 and 2 DPS 81042, Lot 2 DPS 65874, and Lots 1 and 2 DPS 70231.

The following submissions are therefore:

# **Accepted**

Submission	Point Number	Name
13	6	Horticulture New Zealand
20	1	NZ Transport Agency
20	2	NZ Transport Agency

# Accepted in Part

Submission	Point Number	Name
11	3	Te Puke Economic Development Group
21	6	New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc.

# Rejected

Submission	Point Number	Name
1	1	Daniel Kinnoch

#### **REASONS**

Five Post Harvest Zoned sites in and around Te Puke gain access to Te Puke Highway via side roads. Te Puke Highway was previously a State Highway under the control of NZTA but is now managed by WBOPDC. To enable efficient administration of this section of the District Plan, it is necessary to reword Rule 22.5.1(c) to exempt those sites which no longer have close access to State Highway 2 from having to seek the written approval from NZTA for an increase in throughput of the consented horticultural crop, or the use of the post harvest facility for the grading and storage of horticultural crops other than kiwifruit and avocados.

The submission point that related to the existing provisions in the rule referencing limited notification being *ultra vires* is outside of the scope of Plan Change 82.

In relation to the clarity of Rule 22.5.1(c), the wording of the exception clause has been considered and a variation to the notified wording is considered to result in a clearer and unambiguous statement.

TOPIC 5: EDIT OF RULE 22.3.1(D) SEASONAL WORKER EXCLUSION AND DELETION OF RULES 22.3.3(E) AND 22.5.1(E)

#### **BACKGROUND**

Within Section 22 – Post Harvest, there are some specific site exclusions in relation to seasonal worker accommodation within Post Harvest Zones.

These exclusions were included during the last District Plan review through submissions lodged from adjacent and nearby landowners who did not support accommodation being provided on some specific Post Harvest sites.

One of the properties excluded contains a post harvest facility which is now no longer within a Post Harvest Zone as it has been absorbed by the Rangiuru Business Park.

Rule 22.3.1(d) may therefore be edited to remove reference to this facility which is referred to in Rule 22.3.1(d) as Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru.

As a consequential change, Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e) may also be deleted as they also relate specifically to this facility on Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru.

The proposed changes were notified as follows:

# Rule 22.3.1 Activity Lists - Permitted Activities

(d) Seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons associated with the post harvest and/or kiwifruit or avocado orchard operations. This rule does not apply to Lot 3 DP 392756, Te Matai Road, <u>Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211</u>, <u>Rangiuru</u>, <u>and</u> Lot 1 DPS 89976, Lot 2 and 4 DP 376727, Te Puna and Lots 4 and 5 DPS 18004, Kauri Point Road.

# Rule 22.3.3 Activity Lists - Restricted Discretionary Activities

(e) For Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru, seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons associated with the post harvest and/or kiwifruit or avocado orchard operations.

# Rule 22.5.1 Matters of Discretion - Restricted Discretionary Activities

- (e) With respect to 22.3.3(e) Council will limit its discretion to:
- (i) Matters listed in 22.4.1(e);
- (ii) The impact of the activity on the safe and efficient operation of the Maketu Road/Te Puke Highway intersection (and its immediate environs).

# **SUBMISSION POINTS**

Two submission points were received in support of the proposed edits.

# **DISCUSSION**

Horticulture New Zealand supported the proposed edit to Rule 22.3.1(d) and consequential deletion of Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e) as this clarifies the existing rules.

# **RECOMMENDATION**

That the proposed change to District Plan Rule 22.3.1(d) and deletion of Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e) be adopted as notified.

The following submissions are therefore:

# **Accepted**

Submission	Point Number	Name
13	7	Horticulture New Zealand
13	9	Horticulture New Zealand

#### **REASON**

There are no disadvantages to making the changes to the Plan as proposed. Amending the rule will eliminate unnecessary confusion and the change will be effective in reducing unnecessary complexity.

#### **TOPIC 6: MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **BACKGROUND**

This section captures topics raised by submitters that do not fit into the above topic areas, and/or are outside of the scope of the Plan change.

#### **SUBMISSION POINTS**

Eight submission points fit into this miscellaneous category. The submission points made were as follows:

DMS Progrowers Ltd supported Plan Change 82 in its entirety.

A Yeabsley provided general support for the Plan change with the exception of concern over traffic management issues noting that there is nothing in Council's short, medium or long term planning addressing traffic congestion in Te Puke.

Te Puke Economic Development Group and New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers submitted in relation to the need for additional accommodation for seasonal workers. They made suggestions that additional accommodation could be enabled by Council through mechanisms such as:

- Refurbishment of redundant packhouses and auxiliary buildings
- Re-zoning other operational packhouses to Post Harvest enabling Permitted Activity accommodation on site
- Making provision for accommodation on packhouse sites that are not currently in Post Harvest Zones, and
- That Council should be proactive in working with industry to determine capacity limits by site.

NZ Transport Agency submitted that they support aspirations to assist the district's horticultural industry through zoning provisions that enable the sector to respond quickly and efficiently to change, however they opposed the Te Puke Economic Development Group and New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers submissions and requested that Plan Change 82 be approved in its current form.

The NZ Transport Agency opposition was on the basis that the trip generation associated with seasonal worker accommodation facilities has the potential to adversely affect the state highway network in terms of traffic safety and operation. To ensure that these effects are appropriately managed, NZ Transport Agency considers that facilities accommodating more than five persons outside the Post Harvest Zone should not be permitted as of right.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council generally supported the Plan change and noted that all large horticultural post harvest facilities require discharge consents for effluent treatment and disposal under the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan (OSET Plan) and that any increase or expansion of these facilities will require new or amended discharge consents. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council prefers expansion of facilities in the Post Harvest zones to be limited in scale to ensure onsite wastewater treatment and disposal is able to be achieved in a safe and sanitary manner.

In addition, the submitter noted that some Post Harvest zones include floodable areas and the disposal of stormwater from large areas of impermeable surfaces may also trigger the requirement for regional consent under the Regional Natural Resources Plan.

It was suggested that a new advice note be added after Rule 22.4.1(d) Activity Performance Standards - Site Coverage to read as follows.

#### Advice Note:

Any expansion or intensification of Horticultural Post Harvest facilities will require regional consent for onsite wastewater treatment and disposal and may also require stormwater discharge consent for an increase in impermeable surface coverage.

The advice note would ensure managers of horticultural post harvest facilities are made aware that regional consents may be required for wastewater treatment and disposal, and may also be required for stormwater in relation to increases in large impermeable surface areas.

# Option 1 – Add an advice note after Rule 22.4.1(d) Activity Performance Standards - Site Coverage to read as follows

#### Advice Note:

Any expansion or intensification of horticultural post harvest facilities may require Regional Council resource consent for onsite wastewater treatment and disposal and may also require stormwater discharge consent for an increase in impermeable surface coverage.

Costs	No disadvantages or costs to this option.
Benefits	<ul> <li>An advice note would be a non-statutory method of providing helpful information to post harvest operators considering expansion of activities on-site.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness	<ul> <li>An advice note as suggested would be an effective way to remind operators, when considering expansion in the Post Harvest Zone, that there are also regional consents to consider.</li> </ul>
Efficiency	<ul> <li>An advice note would be an efficient and no-cost method of providing useful information to horticultural post harvest operators.</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Support for the Plan change from submitters is noted and acknowledged.

Traffic management issues in Te Puke generally are outside of the scope of this Plan change. Traffic management issues within Te Puke generally are a function of a rural support town that is growing in line with the massive growth in horticultural activity. Traffic management related to land uses within the Post Harvest Zones were/are considered at the time the Post Harvest Zone is created, or via resource consent applications where land uses are not Permitted Activities.

The Te Puke Economic Development Group and New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers submissions relating to the need for Council to enable additional seasonal worker accommodation are outside of

the scope of Plan Change 82. It is noted that Council will be considering this topic in 2020 via a separate process.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council submission relating to the addition of a helpful advice note in relation to proposals for expansion of Post Harvest Zone activities is considered to have merit, and its inclusion would not disadvantage any person or party. That the wording of the proposed footnote is amended slightly with the replacement of the word "will" with "may" to cover all situations.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That an advice note be added after Rule 22.4.1(d) Activity Performance Standards - Site Coverage to read as follows.

# Advice Note:

<u>Any expansion or intensification of Horticultural Post Harvest facilities may require Regional Council resource consent for onsite wastewater treatment and disposal and may also require stormwater discharge consent for an increase in impermeable surface coverage.</u>

The following submissions are therefore:

# **Accepted**

Submission	Point Number	Name
22	1	DMS Progrowers Ltd
17	1	Bay of Plenty Regional Council
17	2	Bay of Plenty Regional Council

# **Accepted in Part**

Submission	Point Number	Name
3	1	Yeabsley, Adam
FS36	1	NZ Transport Agency
FS36	2	NZ Transport Agency

# Rejected

Submission	Point Number	Name
11	1	Te Puke Economic Development Group
21	2	New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers

#### **REASON**

The addition of an advice note as suggested by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council will ensure managers of horticultural post harvest facilities are made aware that Regional Council resource consents may be required for wastewater treatment and disposal, and may also be required for stormwater in relation to increases in large impermeable surface areas.

#### PLAN CHANGE 82 - RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT PLAN FIRST REVIEW

The purpose of this part of the report is to show the Proposed Plan Change in full including any recommended changes in response to the submissions and further submissions.

Recommended changes to the District Plan First Review are shown as follows; existing District Plan text in black, proposed changes as included in the Section 32 Report in red, and recommendations as a result of this Planning Report in blue.

# **Topic 1 – Size and Number of Post Harvest Zones**

Amend the Planning Maps to reflect additions to the Post Harvest Zones as notified (as per Appendix C of Attachment 1 – Section 32 Report).

In addition, re-zone to Post Harvest Zone 320 Te Matai Road (Lot 3 DPS22783 being 7.8995 ha in area).

# Topic 2 - Daylighting Rule

Amend Activity Performance Standard Rule 22.4.1(b) Daylighting as follows:

# (b) Daylighting

No part of any *building/structure* shall exceed a *height* equal to 2m above *ground level* at all boundaries and an angle of 45° into the site from that point. Except where the site boundary is with a road <u>or with a site zoned Post Harvest</u>, in which case this rule shall not apply in respect to that boundary.

# Provided that:

A *building/structure* may exceed the aforementioned *height* where the written approval of the owner of the immediately adjoining property to a specified greater *height* is obtained.

# **Explanatory Note:**

For the purposes of Rule 22.4.1(b) "site" means each individual Post Harvest Zone as an entirety. The daylighting requirement is applicable in relation to each site's external boundaries with a different zone (e.g. Rural) and not applicable between lot boundaries internal to each site.

# Topic 3 - Height

Amend District Plan rules as follows:

# 22.3.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities

(e) Buildings/structures over 14m in height to a maximum of 20m in height.

# 22.3.4 Discretionary Activities

(c) Buildings/structures over 20m in height.

# 22.4.1 Activity Performance Standards - General

# (a) Height of buildings/structures

Maximum: <del>12m</del> 14m.

# Except that:

For Lot 4 DP 376727 Te Puna the maximum shall be 9m.

# 22.5 Matters of Discretion

# 22.5.1 Restricted Discretionary Activities

- (e) With respect to Rule 22.3.3(e), Council's discretion shall be restricted to relevant objectives and policies, and to the following matters:
- (i) The impact on the visual amenity of the existing environment.

This shall require an assessment of the actual and/or potential effects of the building/structure that is appropriate to the scale and effect of the proposal and which addresses the following:

- The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity when viewed from any existing or consented dwelling that is located on a title outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;
- The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity for any title that is located outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator:
- The ability of any actual and/or potential adverse effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated via measures such as the colour ofthe building/structure, and/or vegetative or other screening.
- (i) Effects on the visual amenity of land located outside of the Post Harvest Zone.
- (ii) Whether adverse visual effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated via measures such as the colour of the building/structure, and/or vegetative or other screening.
- (iii) Restrictions on advertising or similar publicity and/or promotional material on the walls of the building/structure to reduce the potential for adverse visual amenity effects.

# Topic 4 - NZTA Approval Rule

Amend District Plan Rule 22.5.1(c) as follows.

- (c) For the purposes of an application under either Rule 22.3.3(a) or 22.3.3(b), the following shall apply in respect of notification:
- (i) Where the prior written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency has been obtained, neither public nor limited notification of the application shall be required.
- (ii) Where the prior written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency has not been obtained, only limited notification of the application shall be required, such notification to be limited to the New Zealand Transport Agency.

# **Except that:**

This rule shall not apply to those Post Harvest Zoned sites that access Te Puke Highway via a side road.

# Except that:

This rule does not apply to post harvest facilities on the following five sites:

Collins Lane - Lots 1 and 2 DPS 40302 and Lots 1 and 2 DP 516960.

- No 1 Road Lots 1 and 2 DPS 45890, Lot 2 DPS 71406, Part Section 11 Block VI Maketu SD, Lot 1 DPS 71406, Lot 1 DPS 8197, Part Lot 1 DPS 2815 and Part Lot 2 DPS 86822.
- Te Matai Road Lot 1 DPS 41366, Lot 3 DPS 29565, Lots 1 and 2 DP 354272.
- Te Matai Road Lot 3 DP 392756, Lot 1 DP 392756 and Part Lot 3 DPS 22783.
- Rangiuru Road Lots 1 and 2 DPS 81042, Lot 2 DPS 65874, and Lots 1 and 2 DPS 70231.

# Topic 5 - Edits and Deletions of Rules

Amend Rule 22.3.1(d) Seasonal Worker Exclusion and Delete Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e) as follows:

# Rule 22.3.1 Activity Lists - Permitted Activities

(d) Seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons associated with the post harvest and/or kiwifruit or avocado orchard operations. This rule does not apply to Lot 3 DP 392756, Te Matai Road, <u>Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211</u>, <u>Rangiuru</u>, <u>and</u> Lot 1 DPS 89976, Lot 2 and 4 DP 376727, Te Puna and Lots 4 and 5 DPS 18004, Kauri Point Road.

# Rule 22.3.3 Activity Lists - Restricted Discretionary Activities

(e) For Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru, seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons associated with the post harvest and/or kiwifruit or avocado orchard operations.

# Rule 22.5.1 Matters of Discretion - Restricted Discretionary Activities

- (e) With respect to 22.3.3(e) Council will limit its discretion to:
  - (i) Matters listed in 22.4.1(e);
  - (ii) The impact of the activity on the safe and efficient operation of the Maketu Road/Te Puke Highway intersection (and its immediate environs).

# Topic 6 - Miscellaneous

Amend Activity Performance Standards - Site Coverage Rule 22.4.1(d) as follows:

# (d) Site coverage

Sufficient space shall be provided within the Zone for the on-site disposal of stormwater and wastewater (unless reticulated to *Council infrastructure*), parking and manoeuvring, and landscaping associated with the entire onsite activity.

# **Advice Note:**

Any expansion or intensification of Horticultural Post Harvest facilities will require Regional Council resource consent for onsite wastewater treatment and disposal and may also require stormwater discharge consent for an increase in impermeable surface coverage.

# **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Section 32 Report- Plan Change 82 - Post Harvest Zone - Review of Provisions



Change to the District Plan - First Review

# Plan Change 82 Post Harvest Zone - Review of Provisions

Section 32 Report



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# 1.0 Introduction

#### 1.1. General Introduction

The Western Bay of Plenty District Plan was made operative on 16 June 2012. This included Section 22 – Post Harvest which contains provisions relating to 15 post harvest sites which were described at the time as the strategic "post harvest facilities" (pack houses and cool stores) that generally had an output of more than 1 million trays per annum.

The 15 Post Harvest Zoned sites, located within (generally) rural environments, are spread from Kauri Point Road in the north of the District, to Old Coach Road, Paengaroa in the southern part of the District. The zones are clustered generally around the Katikati area in the north and the Te Puke area in the south (see plan in *Appendix A*).

It was noted at the time that there were several other smaller-scale pack houses scattered throughout the District which did not meet the strategic facilities threshold.

The Post Harvest Zone was created because the horticultural (mainly kiwifruit) industry's post-harvest requirements had evolved to the extent that the post harvest operations and their modern facilities were major activities in their own right and involved a significant investment in land, buildings and plant. The industry was growing and every time a facility wanted to alter or expand operations they had to go through a resource consent process, which took significant time and resources.

In creating the Post Harvest Zone, the Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Council) recognised the importance of the horticultural sector (particularly the kiwifruit industry) to the Western Bay of Plenty District, its investment in existing facilities, and the need for these facilities to be able to respond quickly and efficiently to changes. The modern large scale post-harvest facilities are now very much separate entities that are not rural in nature but do support the rural sector.

Within the current Post Harvest Zone provisions of the District Plan, there is an enabling approach to a range of horticultural post harvest activities. In summary the main points are:

- Alterations and expansions of existing post harvest facilities infrastructure is a Permitted Activity where the throughput is not increased beyond levels for the (resource) consented horticultural crop.
- Offices associated with the post harvest operations are provided for as Permitted Activities.
- Seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons is provided for as a Permitted Activity for most sites, and Rule 22.4.1(r) exempts this activity from financial contributions.
- Catering and storage facilities associated with the consented operation of the post harvest facility are Permitted Activities.

In addition, a range of land uses that are Permitted Activities in the Rural Zone are provided for as Permitted Activities in the Post Harvest Zone. This is in recognition that the post harvest facilities are within the rural

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environment and parts of some existing Post Harvest Zones still remain in typical rural (horticultural and agricultural) use.

Outside of the 15 specific Post Harvest Zoned sites, there are also a number of large post harvest facilities that are located within Industrial Zones.

The District Plan Industrial Zone provisions provide for *industry* (which *means and includes manufacturing, processing, packaging or dismantling activities and engineering workshops*) as a Permitted Activity. Due to the size of post harvest facilities, adverse effects of activities (on amenity, stormwater control, access and traffic management etc.) can be better avoided or mitigated in an industrial setting.

The establishment of new post-harvest facilities are now encouraged towards the Industrial Zone by way of Permitted Activity status to reduce actual and/or potential effects of large buildings and operations in the rural environment.

A number of smaller post harvest facilities that were established in the Rural Zone prior to the District Plan review (pre-2010) continue to operate under resource consents or under existing use rights. Any proposed expansion of these existing activities, or the development of new post harvest facilities in the Rural Zone, are subject to Discretionary or Non-Complying Activity resource consent processes and need to satisfy Resource Management Act tests, e.g. subject to actual and/or potential adverse effects being avoided, remedied or mitigated.

The ongoing operation and further development of activities in the Post Harvest Zone has raised a number of issues that warrant investigation as to whether changes to the zone provisions should be made in advance of a full District Plan review.

# 1.2. Background to the Plan Change

#### **National Context**

In New Zealand there are around 13,500 hectares of kiwifruit in production, approximately 2,600 kiwifruit growers and 2,900 registered orchards.

Kiwifruit is marketed by Zespri International Limited (the world's largest marketer), who sells into more than 53 countries and manages 30 percent of the global volume.

NZ's total horticultural export revenue for the 2017 year was \$5.1 billion (including wine), with kiwifruit accounting for approximately \$1.65 billion of that which represents nearly 30 percent of the total horticultural export revenue. Excluding wine, in 2017 kiwifruit accounted for almost 50% of NZ's horticultural export revenue.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Scrimgeour, F., Hughes, W., and Kumar, V., The Economic Contribution of Kiwifruit Expansion to the Bay of Plenty, Northland and New Zealand Economies, A report prepared for Zespri International Limited ("Zespri") February 2017

The export revenue return made by New Zealand kiwifruit is significant in comparison to other fruits and vegetables.

Due to huge global demand for the fruit, the industry is investing heavily in growth. In 2017 NZ's total kiwifruit production was 123 million trays and this is expected to increase by 2027 to 190 million trays.

# **Bay of Plenty Context**

The Bay of Plenty accounts for at least 81 percent of the country's kiwifruit harvest (now approx. 85% pers. comm. 15/04/2019 Nikki Johnson, NZKGI), and this means the kiwifruit industry contribution to GDP for the Bay of Plenty is expected to increase 135 percent by 2030, from \$867 million to \$2.04 billion.

Permanent employment directly in the BoP kiwifruit industry is expected to increase from approximately 8,000 in 2019 (was approx. 5,000 in 2015/2016) to approximately 12,000 FTE by 2029/2030. There are various backward and forward linkages that increase the impact on employment in the Region.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to permanent year-round employment in the kiwifruit industry, there are also a very large number of short-term seasonal workers required during the harvest period each year. During the kiwifruit harvest season between March and June, the additional number of FTE temporary seasonal workers required currently peaks between mid-April and mid-May.

For the 2019 harvest, the NZKGI labour prediction model (based on what NZKGI are told will be harvested each week) estimated the peak at the end of April would be over 19,000 FTE (based on 40 hours a week for orchard workers and 50 hours a week for postharvest workers). There were approx. 7 weeks during the harvest period when it was estimated that there would be more that 10,000 harvest workers on the job (between packhouses and the orchards).

Roughly twice as many people are employed in a packhouse than onorchard each week (because the packhouses run more than one shift over a 24 hour period).

This expected growth, the additional jobs and consequent demand for accommodation for both temporary and permanent staff has significant flow-on effects for the industry and consequently for Council.

The industry has told us that in 2018 they were 1,200 workers short at the start of the kiwifruit harvest despite the 2,000 Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers allocated to the BOP (who accounted for just 17 percent of the seasonal workers in 2017). The 2019 harvest began with a labour shortfall of over 1,400 vacancies and this was expected to increase to 3800 at harvest's peak around mid-April.

The industry expect that labour shortages will be an ongoing challenge for them to resolve, and they are taking a multi-faceted approach to this.

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In summary, horticultural industry representatives tell us that kiwifruit production is increasing, post harvest facilities are getting larger, there is an increasing need for large numbers of seasonal workers particularly during the peak harvesting period, and that there are significant economies of scale and new technologies meaning that larger pack houses are delivering better performances than smaller ones.

#### **District Plan Review**

WBOPDC can assist the local horticultural industry to thrive by making sure that there are no unnecessary barriers to the industry continuing to do their business-as-usual. One way this can manifest is by reviewing the Post Harvest Zone provisions of the District Plan to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the District's horticultural industries and the purpose of the RMA.

In relation to the issues around increasing numbers of temporary seasonal workers, the review of the Post Harvest Zone provisions alone will not deal with the issue of seasonal worker accommodation.

Feedback from the horticultural industry and in-house planning, building and compliance staff indicate that the provisions for accommodation for workers in other zones as well as the Post Harvest Zone should also be reviewed. This issue is specifically in relation to whether greater provision could be made in the District Plan to enable the provision of seasonal worker accommodation for the peak kiwifruit work periods.

The issue of accommodation for temporary horticultural industry employees is complex and involves significant assessment and consideration of effects on the services that Council provides.

Council will therefore consider whether revised or alternative provisions can be made to assist with resolving the shortage of seasonal worker accommodation within the Post Harvest Zone and other zones as a piece of work subsequent to this review of the Post Harvest Zone provisions.

Particular aspects of Post Harvest Zone provisions which have, so far, been identified for review by Council and during discussions with horticultural industry representatives include:

- The size and number of Post Harvest Zones;
- Maximum height provisions;
- Daylighting provision rule;
- NZTA Approval Rule; and
- An edit of seasonal worker accommodation exclusion rules.

# 2.0 Resource Management Act 1991

#### 2.1. Section 32

Before a proposed plan change can be publicly notified the Council is required under section 32 ("s.32") of the Resource Management Act 1991 ('the Act' or 'RMA') to carry out an evaluation of alternatives, costs and

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benefits of the proposal. With regard to the Council's assessment of the proposed plan change s.32 requires the following:

- (1) An evaluation report required under this Act must—
  - (a) examine the extent to which the objectives of the proposal being evaluated are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of this Act; and
  - (b) examine whether the provisions in the proposal are the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives by—
    - (i) identifying other reasonably practicable options for achieving the objectives; and
    - (ii) assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions in achieving the objectives; and
    - (iii) summarising the reasons for deciding on the provisions; and
  - (c) contain a level of detail that corresponds to the scale and significance of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the proposal.
- (2) An assessment under subsection (1)(b)(ii) must—
  - (a) identify and assess the benefits and costs of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the provisions, including the opportunities for—
    - (i) economic growth that are anticipated to be provided or reduced; and
    - (ii) employment that are anticipated to be provided or reduced; and
  - (b) if practicable, quantify the benefits and costs referred to in paragraph (a); and
  - (c) assess the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions.
- (3) If the proposal (an amending proposal) will amend a standard, statement, regulation, plan, or change that is already proposed or that already exists (an existing proposal), the examination under subsection (1)(b) must relate to—
  - (a) the provisions and objectives of the amending proposal; and
  - (b) the objectives of the existing proposal to the extent that those objectives—
    - (i) are relevant to the objectives of the amending proposal; and
    - (ii) would remain if the amending proposal were to take effect.
- (4) If the proposal will impose a greater prohibition or restriction on an activity to which a national environmental standard applies than the existing prohibitions or restrictions in that standard, the evaluation report must examine whether the prohibition or restriction is justified in the circumstances of each region or district in which the prohibition or restriction would have effect.
- (4A) If the proposal is a proposed policy statement, plan, or change prepared in accordance with any of the processes provided for in <u>Schedule 1</u>, the evaluation report must—
  - (a) summarise all advice concerning the proposal received from iwi authorities under the relevant provisions of <u>Schedule 1</u>; and
  - (b) summarise the response to the advice, including any provisions of the proposal that are intended to give effect to the advice.

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### 2.2. Section 74 – Iwi Management Plans

In accordance with Section 74(2A) of the Act, Council must take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority that has been lodged with Council.

None of the iwi/hapu management plans lodged with Council raise any issues of particular relevance to this Plan Change.

#### 2.3. Clause 3 of Schedule 1 - Consultation

Clause 3(1) of Schedule 1 of the RMA requires the Council to consult the following during the preparation of a proposed plan:

- a. The Minister for the Environment;
- b. Other Ministers of the Crown who may be affected;
- c. Local authorities who may be affected;
- Tangata Whenua of the area who may be affected (through iwi authorities); and
- e. Any customary marine title group in the area.

Information on this proposed plan change was provided to the Minister for the Environment and feedback was requested. No feedback has been received.

No other Ministers of the Crown or local authorities are considered affected by this proposed plan change.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has been consulted and they have identified and flagged concerns around the requirements and provisions for ensuring that on-site effluent treatment to support Post Harvest Zone operations can be adequately be provided. None of the proposed amendments will create the need for significant changes in the need for onsite effluent treatment.

No customary marine title groups are considered affected.

Under Clause 3B of Schedule 1, with respect to Tangata Whenua, the Council is treated as having consulted iwi authorities if it:

- (a) considers ways in which it may foster the development of their capacity to respond to an invitation to consult; and
- (b) establishes and maintains processes to provide opportunities for those iwi authorities to consult it; and
- (c) consults with those iwi authorities; and
- (d) enables those iwi authorities to identify resource management issues of concern to them; and
- (e) indicates how those issues have been or are to be addressed.

Tangata Whenua have been consulted through the Tauranga Moana and Te Arawa ki Tai Partnership Forum on 14 March 2019 and 25 June 2019. There was significant interest in the proposed plan change, particularly in and around matters relating to horticultural industry employment and affordable accommodation for workers which is not part of this plan change.

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Other specific areas of interest were growth of Post Harvest Zones, and increased height provisions and how these matters affect rural amenity.

In addition, the Council engaged with the public to request input prior to the writing of this report. This was done through notices in local newspapers and the Council's 'Have Your Say' website. A summary of responses is provided in the table below.

Question  Some of the packhouse/coolstore facilities in Post Harvest Zones are seeking to expand their operations onto adjacent sites.  Are you affected by these?	People's Responses to Questions  1 respondent said "yes".  4 respondents said "no".
Do you support the expansions?	All 5 respondents said "yes".
Why do you say that?	<ul> <li>Support expansion with appropriate regulations around conditions for expansion.</li> <li>Kiwifruit is expected to increase in volume and processing facilities need to grow to accommodate this.</li> <li>Makes more sense to expand existing sites (as compact as possible) and make them more efficient rather than creating additional sites.</li> <li>Provided they do not impact on residential areas and environmental issues are addressed.</li> <li>Too much arable/productive land is being used up for houses and industrial/commercial uses.</li> </ul>
Automatic stacking of pallets in coolstores is becoming the norm and therefore the industry wants to build coolstores to 20m high to allow for this efficiency. The current allowable limit is 12m.  What height limit do you think should be applied to buildings within the Post Harvest Zones?	3 respondents said 20m  1 respondent said 12m  1 respondent said it depends on the surrounding areas. Amenity and earthquake risks need to be addressed.
If buildings are constructed higher than 12m, which is the current maximum height in Post Harvest Zones, who do you think	<ul> <li>Anyone whose safety may be affected by hazards associated with the buildings.</li> <li>Depends where they are situated, amenity (views) and landscape "pollution" may be a</li> </ul>

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might be affected by this?	<ul> <li>problem.</li> <li>Neighbouring properties.</li> <li>Rare to have coolstore/packhouse sites with close immediate neighbours. Possible restrictions needed in areas where there are existing adjacent dwellings.</li> <li>Tall buildings should be restricted to industrial zones. People will not appreciate tall buildings within the present low-profile topography.</li> <li>A lot to consider - views, shading, lights, etc.</li> </ul>
What things could Council ask applicants to do to mitigate the effects of taller buildings?	<ul> <li>Ensure future zoning and planning are appropriate (if the horticultural industry fails or changes, buildings can be utilized for other purposes.)</li> <li>Distance from boundaries, landscaping to help conceal walls and have buffer zones of green space.</li> <li>Suitable colour schemes that soften the impact and don't create undue adverse visual affects.</li> <li>Nothing - green paint isn't going to hide the buildings.</li> </ul>
Other comments on Post-Harvest Zone - Review of Provisions?	<ul> <li>Return Te Puke to two lanes.</li> <li>Roading changes is not what is wanted or needed.</li> <li>The visual effect of tall buildings will spoil the landscape and conflict with the growth in tourism.</li> </ul>

Council's responses to the feedback from the *Have Your Say* website are incorporated into the issues and options costs and benefits tables below. Some comments are beyond the scope of this review of the Post Harvest Zone provisions. For example, in relation to earthquake risks and hazards associated with buildings, it can be stated that new and extended buildings will be required to comply with the New Zealand Building Act requirements in that regard, and that Te Puke roading changes are also beyond the scope of this review.

Council also engaged with the following groups and stakeholders on a range of proposed plan changes:

- Representatives of the kiwifruit industry through NZKGI;
- b. New Zealand Transport Agency ('the Agency');
- c. Toi Te Ora Public Health.

In relation to engagement with representatives of the horticultural industry, feedback on how the Post Harvest Zone provisions were working was sought early in 2018 from the existing operators. This was on the basis that the zone and associated provisions had been in place for a number of years, and that growth and likely changes in the industry may have raised matters

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requiring re-assessment. A meeting with post harvest zone operators and other stakeholder parties was held in March 2018 and an e-mail follow-up sent in June.

Engagement has been carried out since with Post Harvest Zone operators, NZKGI, MBIE, rural contractors, seasonal worker accommodation providers, and others.

Responses were sought on the extent of the Post Harvest Zones, as staff were aware that some operators were wanting to modify boundaries. Comment was also specifically requested on the various relevant District Plan rules, how they have been working for the industry, and how the expected growth in the industry would affect these provisions.

Various one-on-one discussions and meetings with industry representatives have been ongoing since early 2018.

An Issues and Options paper on this topic was prepared and circulated prior to a horticultural industry workshop held on 27th March 2019. Feedback from industry engagement and that workshop forms the basis of the issues raised for discussion and review below.

Staff consulted with representatives of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) via a series of e-mails and a face-to-face meeting on 11th June 2019. NZTA's interest in this review of District Plan provisions is around post harvest facility access to the State Highway and how increases in activity on the Post Harvest Zones sites will affect access and egress to the State Highway. Current District Plan provisions provide for, and will continue to provide for, the assessment of effects on the transportation network from increases in throughput from the facilities via a resource consent application.

Toi Te Ora Public Health has been consulted and they have identified no particular public health issues with the proposed changes, but have indicated that there could potentially be public health implications around any large increase in numbers to be accommodated, and have flagged their interest in this area.

# 3.0 Issue 1 - The Size and Number of Post Harvest Zones

#### 3.1. Introduction

The current and forecast expansion of horticultural industry production has put pressure on the boundaries of the existing Post Harvest Zones.

During engagement with the post harvest industry operators and stakeholders were asked whether there were additional areas of land they wished to consider including within existing Post Harvest Zone boundaries. The question was also posed as to whether there were now other (additional) strategic post harvest facilities that should be considered as

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additional Post Harvest Zones. No additional sites were raised as a possibility for inclusion.

For some post harvest operations, there are adjacent areas of land they want to include in their existing Post Harvest Zones in order to provide for flexibility and future expansion of on-site activities associated with the growth of kiwifruit production. In some cases these are small areas purchased since the original Post Harvest zones became operative, and in other cases these are larger areas of adjacent land that they want included to provide for the purpose of future flexibility and expansion (see maps in *Appendix B*).

The proposed zone extensions create the potential for conflict with adjacent and nearby properties by creating possible reverse sensitivity, privacy, overshadowing, noise, traffic, services and rural amenity effects.

### 3.2. Analysis

Post Harvest Zoning provides certainty to post-harvest operators. It allows for growth and development to take place without the requirement to obtain resource consents for each new project, meaning a more efficient operation.

The industry predicts that the intensity and demands of the industry will continue to increase in the future. Cool storage onsite is preferred as this reduces double-handling of product, and reduces traffic movements to and from the site. This means that the zones need to expand (outwards or upwards) to allow them to operate efficiently.

Where small adjustments have been requested, these generally accommodate existing operations and these zone boundary adjustments will have little, if any, effects on the surrounding environment.

Where larger adjustments have been proposed (Trevelyan's, Hume Pack, and DMS - Te Matai Rd), the land is surrounded by horticultural production land. A combination of direct engagement and consultation by the post harvest facilities and Council, and the formal notified Plan Change process will allow any issues that the adjacent landowners have with the proposed re-zoning to emerge and be considered formally.

#### 3.3. Option 1 – Status Quo (no zone extensions)

Costs	<ul> <li>Any operational extensions beyond the boundaries of each Post Harvest Zone would require resource consent.</li> <li>Extensions of operations outside the zone will not be able to be accommodated efficiently and cost-effectively, even if the land is suitable for an operational extension.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>Post Harvest Zone operators would continue to be able to develop and redevelop within the land already zoned for that purpose.</li> <li>Adjacent and nearby landowners would have certainty in knowing that post harvest facility development would not extend beyond the current zone boundaries.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>Not effective as operators within existing Post Harvest Zones have already made substantial investment in their</li> </ul>

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	sites.  Retaining the status quo would have the effect of constraining future flexibility and development, perhaps unnecessarily.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

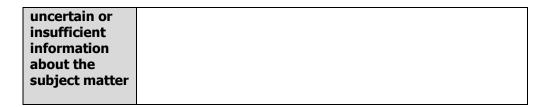
# 3.4. Option 2 - Small Post Harvest Zone Extensions where Property Purchases or Boundary Adjustments have Occurred

Costs	<ul> <li>This option to permit only small, relatively insignificant, changes to zone boundaries would not provide the opportunity for Post Harvest Zones to expand operations significantly beyond the current zone boundaries.</li> <li>Any operational extensions beyond the boundaries of each Post Harvest Zone would require resource consent.</li> <li>Extensions of operations outside the zone would not be able to be accommodated efficiently and cost-effectively, even if the land is suitable for an operational extension.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>There have been minor boundary adjustments and land purchases by some post harvest operators around the existing Post Harvest Zones. Extending the zone to accommodate these areas of land would assist the post harvest facilities to continue to operate in the streamlined way they currently do.</li> <li>The minor zone adjustments in some cases regularise instances where post harvest operations have spilled-over onto Rural Zoned land.</li> <li>Community members who provided feedback through Council's Have Your Say engagement supported the proposed expansions.</li> <li>The minor boundary adjustments and land purchases are unlikely to change any of the current effects on the surrounding environment.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>Partly effective.</li> <li>This option would tidy-up zone boundaries where title</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	adjustments have occurred.  Sufficient information is available.

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# 3.5. Option 3: Small Extensions (as per Option 2) and Specific Larger Zone Extensions where Future Projects are Planned

Costs	<ul> <li>Development within zone extension areas may have actual and/or potential adverse off-site effects on adjacent or nearby rural properties. These may be effects such as noise, visual effect of new industrial-type buildings, and traffic.</li> <li>Re-zoning land for future development means that a specific set of development plans have not been prepared (as they would have been for a resource consent). Adjacent and nearby landowners would not have certainty in knowing what and when development will happen.</li> <li>Unintended consequences, and possible adverse impacts on neighbours may eventuate.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>This option would provide for future development plans of post harvest facilities.</li> <li>Specific identified larger proposed extensions of zones will provide for ongoing and future development where extensive investment in the zone has already been made.</li> <li>Expanding existing sites and providing a rule framework to allow compact and efficient development, rather than creating additional Post Harvest Zones, makes sense and may reduce the amount of productive land used for non-productive purposes.</li> <li>Industry growth and economies of scale would be catered for.</li> <li>Specifically identifying adjacent land to be re-zoned during this review would remove the need to obtain resource consent/s if the industries wanted to expand outside their current zone.</li> <li>Community members who provided feedback through Council's Have Your Say engagement supported the proposed expansions, both the small extensions (as per Option 2) and the specific larger extensions where future projects are planned.</li> <li>Expansions of Post Harvest Zones will allow growth of post harvest facilities within the framework of the zone criteria for buildings, structures and activities. Expanding existing sites in the rural environment rather than creating new post harvest sites will assist in achieving a better environmental outcome.</li> <li>The proposed zone extensions would be subject to a formal public process where consultation with affected parties can be carried out.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>This would be an effective means of providing additional land for future growth of a number of the Post Harvest Zones through a public process which provides the opportunity for adjacent and nearby landowners to be involved.</li> <li>This option would allow continued consolidation of strategic existing post harvest operations where significant development has already taken place.</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is	Sufficient information is available.



# **3.6.** Preferred Option

The preferred option is Option 3.

To give effect to this change District Plan maps would need to be amended to show the new Post Harvest Zone boundaries. These changes are shown on the maps in *Appendix B*, and also on amended District Plan Planning Maps D03, F04, I10, I11, I13 and U45 which are included in *Appendix C*.

#### 3.7. Reasons

The benefits and effectiveness/efficiency reasons included above indicate that Option 3 is likely to achieve the best outcome for the post harvest industry.

It is considered that the zone extensions proposed are likely to be acceptable within the existing environments considering the already significant development and investment on the sites. This will be tested through the formal public plan change process.

# 4.0 Issue 2a: Bulk and Location Provisions in Post Harvest Zones – Daylighting

#### 4.1. Introduction

The intent when District Plan Rule 22.4.1(b) was implemented was that the daylighting measurement was to be taken from the Post Harvest Zone boundaries and not from title boundaries internal to the Post Harvest Zone. This intent was made clear in the Section 32 Report for the zone, but this intent was not carried through clearly to the current wording of the rule.

# 4.2. Analysis

Re-wording Rule 22.4.1(b) to make it clear that the daylighting rule applies only when the building / structure is constructed adjoining a different zone (Residential, Rural-Residential, Future Urban or Rural) will meet the needs of the horticultural industry and Council.

# 4.3. Option 1: Status Quo (daylighting applies to all title boundaries including those internal to the Post Harvest Zone)

Costs	• The current provision does not fulfil the intent of the rule
	to simplify the situation where a building/structure is to be
	constructed on a site in the Post Harvest Zone and the
	adjacent site is also zoned Post Harvest.
	The status quo delivers an unnecessary additional level of
	complexity for input on daylighting infringements for

	development within the Post Harvest Zone where there is more than one land title.
Benefits	Where there are land titles in different ownership within a Post Harvest Zone, the status quo provides for input from adjacent landowners on daylighting infringements of buildings/structures protecting their interests in the event that development would have an adverse effect.
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>Where more than one land title exists in a zone, the adjacent titles are usually owned by the same person/entity. Even if they are not, they have the same zone characteristics because they are in the same zone.</li> <li>The robust plan change process which resulted in the zone means that all landowners within the zone are treated the same and can expect the same environment.</li> <li>The status quo is not effective in creating a streamlined approach to development within Post Harvest Zones.</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

# 4.4. Option 2: Re-word Rule 22.4.1(b) so that the Daylighting Rule Applies only when Development Adjoins a Different Zone

Costs	• Where separate land titles within the same Post Harvest Zone are owned by different entities, the amendment of the rule as proposed would deprive the landowner adjacent to the proposed building/structure of the ability to
Benefits	<ul> <li>be involved in any variation of the daylighting standard.</li> <li>Rewording the rule to make it clear that the daylighting rule applies only when the building/structure is constructed adjoining a different zone will streamline Council processes for any future development in the Post Harvest Zone where more than one title exists.</li> <li>There is no advantage to be gained, and no environmental effect to be addressed by requiring the written approval for a daylighting encroachment between sites that are both zoned Post Harvest and (usually) owned by the same entity.</li> <li>The intent of the rule will be realised by the proposed</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>change to Rule 22.4.1(b).</li> <li>Option 2 is effective in realising the stated intent of the rule.</li> <li>The Post Harvest Zone Section 32 report prepared in 2008 stated that the daylighting rule will not change from the existing District Plan requirements, except that the proposed rule only applies to zone boundaries and not internal property boundaries.</li> <li>Where both sites are zoned Post Harvest and have the same development potential, there is no logical reason to require, on the development of one site, the written approval of the owners of the adjoining site.</li> </ul>

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Risks of	<ul> <li>Sufficient information is available.</li> </ul>
Acting/	
Not Acting if	
there is	
uncertain or	
insufficient	
information	
about the	
subject matter	

# 4.5. Preferred Option

The preferred option is Option 2.

To give effect to this change, District Plan Rule 22.4.1(b) would need to be amended generally as follows (change shown in underlined red font).

### 22.4 Activity Performance Standards

#### 22.4.1 General

### (b) Daylighting

No part of any building/structure shall exceed a height equal to 2m above ground level at all boundaries and an angle of 45° into the site from that point. Except where the site boundary is with a road or with a site zoned Post Harvest, in which case this rule shall not apply in respect to that boundary.

#### Provided that:

A building/structure *may exceed the aforementioned height where* the written approval of the owner of the immediately adjoining property to a specified greater height is obtained.

#### 4.6. Reasons

The benefits and effectiveness/efficiency reasons included above indicate that Option 2 is likely to achieve the best outcome for the zone and the intent of the rule would be realised. It would be clear that the daylighting rule applies only when the building / structure is constructed adjoining a different zone (Residential, Rural-Residential, Future Urban or Rural).

# 5.0 Issue 2b: Bulk and Location Provisions in Post Harvest Zones – Height

#### 5.1. Introduction

Under current District Plan Rule 22.4.1(a), the maximum permitted building height within the Post Harvest Zone is 12m for all sites (except that for Lot 4 DP 376727 Te Puna the maximum is 9m). Any additional height over 12m currently requires a resource consent (Restricted Discretionary Activity status).

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The horticultural industry has advised that 12m is no longer a realistic maximum height for the zone, and a review of the maximum height provision is necessary to ensure that sufficient infrastructure is able to be installed to support industry growth over the next 10 years.

The post harvest industry is beginning to introduce automated racking technology into coolstores which allows pallets to be stacked and manipulated automatically, resulting in various economies for the post harvest industry, and new coolstore buildings are now typically being constructed to more than 12m in height.

The industry has asked that Council consider reviewing the maximum height provision in the Post Harvest Zone.

# 5.2. Analysis

The automated racking technology is expensive, but allows pallets to be stacked much higher than they can be otherwise, meaning less land is taken up by coolstore buildings. Because the system is fully automatic it also allows very efficient manipulation and tracking of pallets within the coolstores, and reduces reliance on labour.

An increase in the maximum permitted height in the Post Harvest Zone would allow added efficiency in the addition or replacement of existing coolstores. It would also assist the horticultural industry if, or when, the cost of land or the desire to protect productive land from built development encourages coolstore construction upward.

A March 2019 horticultural industry workshop indicated wholehearted support for an increase provision to 20m as a maximum height for buildings and structures within the Post Harvest Zone. New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated (NZKGI) have also surveyed the kiwifruit industry and advise that they support an increase of the maximum permitted height within the zone to 20m, with the ability to make application for additional height over this.

The rationale for this is that post harvest facilities are to be encouraged to extend upward rather than outwards, and that automation in the industry meant greater efficiencies with taller buildings.

A number of the existing Post Harvest Zones have available space to construct new structures/buildings. However, having available space does not necessarily equate to the ability to easily construct coolstores as geotechnical or other site-specific issues may prevent this.

It is thought likely that adjoining and nearby landowners may reject the proposal for a blanket increase in height to 20m within the zone. A limited increase in height to 14m as a Permitted Activity with height up to 20m as a Restricted Discretionary Activity with specific criteria for assessment is a possibility to manage this.

Alternatively 20m as a maximum height could be a Permitted Activity with Performance Standards applied to reduce the potential for adverse visual

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effects on nearby residents. These could require for example, that the building not be obtrusively visible from any dwelling within a specified distance and this could be achieved with careful building placement, specific wall colour, or vegetative screening.

Careful consideration of the effects on neighbouring and nearby sites in relation to overshadowing, visual effect, and bulk needs to be contemplated. Adverse visual effects (including interruptions of views) could also extend to sites further from the zone, and consideration of visual effects is most effective on a site-by-site basis.

Additional height might not be such an issue for immediately adjoining neighbours as shelterbelts can obscure the immediate adverse visual effect or view of coolstores. In addition, high buildings are often placed more centrally on a site because of fire-rating, daylighting, and yard requirements in relation to boundaries.

NZKGI have also advised that they support additional height provisions to be extended to coolstore and packhouse facilities outside of Post Harvest Zones (i.e. within Rural Zones). This request is outside of the ambit of this review of the Post Harvest Zones and we consider that that issue should be "parked" until the full review of the District Plan.

Increasing the maximum Permitted Activity height limit from 12m to 14m, would allow some additional flexibility for coolstore stacking to 4 pallets high. Allowing height to 20m as a Restricted Discretionary Activity would enable consideration of the effects of the additional height and any mitigation measures that could be applied.

Consideration of District Plan Matters of Discretion for applications for height between 14m and 20m has centred on how to mitigate the visual impact of higher buildings. Controls over the use of large walls of the buildings for advertising purposes has been discussed, as was the possibility of landscape screening and control of the colour of exterior walls.

Staff have discussed the matter of exterior panel colours with industry experts in the coolstore panel industry. The industry advise that they tend to buy the standard "Titania" (white) colour in bulk as this means good discounts for them and their clients. Other colours are not common and a premium is paid to obtain them. They are however beginning to use different colours on outside panels and can manufacture panels to match the colour steel range.

Common colours used (from the Kiwi steel or Colour steel samples) are Desert sand/Gull grey/Mist green. The industry tends to avoid darker colours as this can generate a difference in heat range from internal to external skins but they advise that as long as cool colours (like those mentioned above) are used to reflect the heat, they would not be an issue for heat gain.

The price for a 100mm coloured panel ends up approximately \$7 per square metre more than a standard 100mm "Titania" panel which is approximately

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\$95 per square metre. This means that a 20m by 50m coolstore wall would cost \$7,000 more if a coloured panel was required.

In relation to screening, District Plan Section 4C – Amenity, already contains provisions relating to screening in the Post Harvest Zone. These provisions require all existing screening to be retained on site, a landscape strip to be provided on all road frontages, and shelterbelt trees attaining a minimum height of 8m at maturity to be provided on the remaining boundaries. Where specific sites do not have this screening in place, a resource consent application for additional height over 14m would enable Council to include condition/s requiring screening be provided within a specific time-period.

# 5.3. Option 1: Status Quo (maximum height of buildings/structures remains at 12m)

Costs	<ul> <li>Post Harvest Zone operators may be prevented from employing new coolstore technology in a timely and efficient manner.</li> <li>Post Harvest Zone operators would need to go through a resource consent application and consider actual and/or potential adverse effects on the environment to build higher than 12m.</li> <li>Assessments of visual amenity are subjective and this may create uncertainty for the industry.</li> <li>The need to consider effects on adjoining and nearby landowners would create uncertainty for the industry.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>Actual and/or potential effects on environmental amenity would remain unchanged.</li> <li>The status quo provides certainty for post harvest operators building to 12m in height as a Permitted Activity.</li> <li>The status quo provides certainty for neighbouring and nearby owners and occupiers.</li> <li>The maximum height of structures and buildings would remain at 12m but any building or structure to be constructed higher than this could still apply to gain consent through a robust assessment of effects via a resource consent application (as a Restricted Discretionary Activity).</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>Effective in maintaining the rural amenity as it currently is around the Post Harvest Zones.</li> <li>Not effective in allowing the post harvest industry to quickly adapt to changes in technology that may provide on-site efficiencies.</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

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# 5.4. Option 2: Increase the Maximum Permitted Height of Buildings/Structures in the Post Harvest Zone to 14m as a Permitted Activity, and Between 14m and 20m as a Restricted Discretionary Activity

Costs	Post harvest facilities are industrial in nature. An increase
Costs	
	in the maximum permitted height to 14m would create
	inconsistency with the Industrial Zone provisions which
	allow 20m maximum permitted height. This may create
	confusion.
	The horticultural industry has invested considerable  resources in ovieting Post Howard Zones and restricting the
	resources in existing Post Harvest Zones and restricting the
	ability to expand upwards creates uncertainty for further
	development to respond to increasing kiwifruit production.
	Industry representatives have strongly stated that they  want a 20m maximum height as a Domitted Activity and
	want a 20m maximum height as a Permitted Activity and
	are likely to be unwilling to accept a 14m maximum
	permitted height.
	An additional 2m height as a Permitted Activity in the Rural  Analysis and areas visual effects that can't assist the
	Zone may create adverse visual effects that can't easily be
	absorbed in this environment.
	Restricting height to 14m as a Permitted Activity may have the effect of pushing post harvest experitions away from
	the effect of pushing post harvest operations away from Post Harvest Zones into Industrial Zones.
	·
	Discretionary Activity may, even with specified Matters or
	Discretion, still enable the construction of buildings with
	adverse effects that are not considered appropriate in a Rural Zone.
	<ul> <li>Assessments of visual amenity for applications between 14</li> </ul>
	and 20m height may be subjective creating uncertainty for
	both applicants and nearby residents.
Benefits	This option would give post harvest operators in the zone
Jenenes	flexibility beyond the current standard and may allow the
	installation of automated racking systems to 4 pellets high.
	<ul> <li>Increasing the Permitted Activity height to 14m may</li> </ul>
	provide certainty for post harvest operators that they could
	install and use automated racking to 4 pallets height, and
	the possibility of going higher via a resource consent
	application.
	Restricting the maximum Permitted Activity height to ar
	additional 2m in the Post Harvest Zones would provide
	some useful flexibility for the industry, and the relatively
	minor increase in height may be able to be readily
	absorbed into the existing interface between the pos
	harvest and rural environments.
	<ul> <li>Height over 14m still could be applied for via a resource</li> </ul>
	consent as a Restricted Discretionary Activity with specific
	Matters of Discretion relating to visual amenity to give
	certainty for applicants and for neighbouring landowners
	and occupiers.
	<ul> <li>The existing post harvest operations within Post Harvest</li> </ul>
	Zones are large industrial activities and an additional 2m of
	height may be able to be easily absorbed on some sites
	where these zenes currently exist
	where these zones currently exist.  • Restricting Permitted Activity height to 14m may have the

effect of pushing post harvest operations into Industrial

	Zones.
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>This option would provide some flexibility for new coolstore builds (over the current maximum height) and would therefore be somewhat effective in providing what the post harvest industry needs.</li> <li>Specific Matters of Discretion in relation to height over 14m can be developed to give some certainty to the industry and the Council in considering site-by-site applications, therefore efficient in managing actual and/or potential effects on the environment if a number of satisfactory and suitable Matters of Discretion were developed.</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

# **5.5.** Option 3: Increasing Maximum Permitted Height of Structures in the Post Harvest Zone to 20m

Costs	<ul> <li>If the District Plan daylighting provisions for boundaries with a different zone had to be complied with, a significant 18m setback from Rural Zone boundaries would be required for a 20m high building (unless written approval was obtained from the neighbouring landowner).</li> <li>Fire-protection requirements under the Building Act would require a substantial setback from any boundary for a 20m high building, unless a specific design allowed construction closer to boundaries.</li> <li>Buildings above 12m and up to 20m in height have the potential to create significant adverse visual amenity impacts in the Rural Zone. Shelterbelts and trees in the rural environment could also be a significant height but create quite a different visual impact to buildings which are solid and present one dimensional walls.</li> <li>It would be very difficult to determine who might be affected by additional height when it would not necessarily only be adjoining landowners who were affected visually; views from further afield could also be affected in a significant way by a substantial bulky high building.</li> <li>It would be difficult to produce Permitted Activity Performance Standards that could be applied successfully to 20m height buildings and structures to mitigate actual and/or potential visual impacts constructed on a range of different sites (within mainly rural environments).</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>Increasing the maximum height to 20m would provide for automated stacking up to 5 pellets in height plus provide adequate headspace for the refrigeration system and maintenance crew.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>An increase in the maximum permitted height to 20m would create consistency with the Industrial Zone provisions, and remove rule confusion between sites that</li> </ul>

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	<ul> <li>are both industrial in nature.</li> <li>Activity Performance Standards could be applied to the 20m height to mitigate actual and/or potential visual impacts (such as requiring a specific setback from dwellings, and/or vegetative screening).</li> <li>This option would provide some certainty for post harvest operators who often work across the Post Harvest and Industrial Zones.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>Providing for buildings up to 20m in height in the Post Harvest Zone would give the post harvest industry flexibility and certainty that they could use automated stacking technology up to 5 pallets high in new builds.</li> <li>The potential for adverse effects on rural amenity values is significant, and actual and/or potential effects are likely to be site-specific and could not be easily identified in advance across all Post Harvest Zoned sites</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

# 5.6. Option 4: Providing for Unlimited Height as a Permitted Activity

Costs	<ul> <li>Unlimited height would create enormous uncertainty for adjoining and nearby landowners and occupiers.</li> <li>There would be the potential for significant adverse visual effects on Rural Zone amenity.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>It would be easier for development in the Post Harvest Zone to adjust to, and implement new technology such as automated stacking systems which require additional height.</li> <li>Operations in Post Harvest Zones could easily respond to changes in technology and pressures for additional cool storage onsite by building up instead of out.</li> <li>Effective in reducing unnecessary complexity in relation to additional District Plan activities, rules and criteria.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	<ul> <li>Not an effective or efficient means of providing for development in the Post Harvest Zones while also protecting the Rural Zone amenity.</li> <li>Effective in enabling post harvest industry development.</li> </ul>
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	<ul> <li>Sufficient information is available to determine that providing unlimited height as a Permitted Activity is not a feasible option in the rural environment.</li> </ul>

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# 5.7. Preferred Option/s

The preferred option is Option 2.

This option provides additional height to 14m as a Permitted Activity to provide some flexibility, and retains the ability for the industry to apply for additional height over 14m to a maximum of 20m via a resource consent as a Restricted Discretionary Activity.

Additional height over 20m would be considered as a Discretionary Activity.

Specific Restricted Discretionary Activity Matters of Discretion have been developed to give some certainty around what information would need to be provided to Council to increase the chances of a successful application between 14m and 20m in height.

Changes required are as follows (in underlined red font).

# 22.3 Activity Lists

### 22.3.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities

(e) Buildings/structures over 14m in height to a maximum of 20m in height.

### 22.3.4 Discretionary Activities

(c) Buildings/structures over 20m in height.

#### 22.4 Activity Performance Standards

#### 22.4.1 General

(a) Height of buildings/structures

Maximum: <del>12m</del> 14m.

Except that:

For Lot 4 DP 376727 Te Puna the maximum shall be 9m.

#### 22.5 Matters of Discretion

#### 22.5.1 Restricted Discretionary Activities

- (e) With respect to Rule 22.3.3(e), Council's discretion shall be restricted to relevant objectives and policies, and to the following matters:
  - (i) The impact on the visual amenity of the existing environment.

This shall require an assessment of the actual and/or potential effects of the building/structure

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that is appropriate to the scale and effect of the proposal and which addresses the following:

- The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity when viewed from any existing or consented dwelling that is located on a title outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;
- The actual and/or potential loss of visual amenity for any title that is located outside of the Post Harvest Zone and in different ownership to the post harvest zone operator;
- The ability of any actual and/or potential adverse effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated via measures such as the colour of the building/structure, and/or vegetative or other screening.
- (ii) Restrictions on advertising or similar publicity and/or promotional material on the walls of the building/structure to reduce the potential for adverse visual effects.

#### 5.8. Reasons

The Post Harvest Zone environments are generally rural in nature, and by virtue of that the expectation is that buildings are of a lower scale that would be expected of an industrial activity within an Industrial Zone.

There may however be site-specific situations where an increase in height to 20m (or more) can be absorbed by the surrounding environment. These may include that measures can be applied to mitigate the visual impact of additional height on the specific site, and/or that adjacent and nearby landowners are accepting of the additional height.

Option 2 therefore allows more flexibility over the current 12m height, and the ability to apply through a resource consent application for additional height through a process that ensures that the amenity of the surrounding environment is safeguarded.

Specific Matters of Discretion will ensure that adverse effects on rural amenity are able to be reduced or mitigated via, for example, control of advertising on large blank walls, colour of buildings and/or screening.

The benefits and effectiveness/efficiency reasons included above indicate that Option 2 is likely to achieve the best outcome for the zone, and for the surrounding rural environment.

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# 6.0 Issue 3: NZTA Approval Rule 22.5.1(c) RDA Criteria

#### 6.1. Introduction

District Plan Rule 22.5.1(c) requires that when there is any increase in the throughput of the consented horticultural crop(s) beyond the consented level, or the use of existing post harvest facilities for the grading and storage of horticultural crops other than kiwifruit and avocados, that the written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is required or limited notification of the application shall be required.

A number of the Post Harvest Zoned sites in and around Te Puke gain access via side roads to the Te Puke Highway which was previously a State Highway under the control of NZTA but is now managed by WBOPDC.

Rule 22.5.1(c) needs to be reworded to exclude those sites in and around Te Puke which no longer have close access to State Highway 2.

### 6.2. Analysis

The approach to re-wording Rule 22.5.1(c) to make it clear that the rule does not apply to sites which have side road access to the Te Puke Highway resolves the issue.

Engagement with NZTA has occurred and NZTA appeared not to have specific concerns about the re-wording because Council retains control relating to its roads, including the Te Puke Highway.

It is noted that Rule 22.5.1(a) in relation to impacts on the safe and efficient operation of the access to the site, the relevant Council roads, and any relevant intersection of the Council road to the State Highway still applies, as does District Plan Section 4B in relation to effects of access to activities on Strategic Roads. These District Plan provisions will continue to ensure that traffic effects of any proposal are considered in any application.

# 6.3. Option 1: Status Quo (NZTA written approval required for activities on sites with access to Te Puke Highway)

Costs	<ul> <li>Not changing the rule would result in unnecessary consultation with NZTA, or require additional explanation/assessment in resource consent applications.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>No advantages to retaining the status quo.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	Not effective.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

#### 6.4. Option 2: Amend Rule 22.5.1(c)

Costs	No disadvantages to this option.
Benefits	<ul> <li>Amending the rule will eliminate unnecessary consultation with NZTA (who no longer control Te Puke Highway as a State Highway).</li> <li>The resource consenting process will be streamlined for the sites that access Te Puke Highway via a side road.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	Effective in reducing unnecessary complexity.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

### 6.5. Preferred Option

The preferred option is Option 2.

To give effect to this change, District Plan Rule 22.5.1(c) would need to be amended generally as follows (change shown in underlined red font).

#### 22.5 Matters of Discretion

#### 22.5.1 Restricted Discretionary Activities

- (c) For the purposes of an application under either Rule 22.3.3(a) or 22.3.3(b), the following shall apply in respect of notification:
  - (i) Where the prior written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency has been obtained, neither public nor limited notification of the application shall be required.
  - (ii) Where the prior written approval of the New Zealand Transport Agency has not been obtained, only limited notification of the application shall be required, such notification to be limited to the New Zealand Transport Agency.

#### Except that:

This shall not apply to those Post Harvest Zoned sites that access Te Puke Highway via a side road.

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#### 6.6. Reasons

The benefits and effectiveness/efficiency reasons included above indicate that Option 2 is likely to achieve the best outcome for the zone.

# 7.0 Issue 4 – Edit of Rule 22.3.1(d) - Seasonal Worker Accommodation Exclusion and Deletion of Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e)

#### 7.1. Introduction

There are some specific site exclusions in relation to *seasonal worker accommodation* within Post Harvest Zones.

These exclusions were included during the last District Plan review through submissions lodged from adjacent and nearby landowners who did not support accommodation being provided on specific Post Harvest sites.

### 7.2. Analysis

Existing Permitted Activity List Rule 22.3.1(d) reads as follows:

(d) Seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons associated with the post harvest and/or kiwifruit or avocado orchard operations. This rule does not apply to Lot 3 DP 392756, Te Matai Road, Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru, and Lot 1 DPS 89976, Lot 2 and 4 DP 376727, Te Puna and Lots 4 and 5 DPS 18004, Kauri Point Road.

The *seasonal worker accommodation* exclusions relate to Post Harvest Zoned sites as follows:

Legal Description	Site
Lot 3 DP 392756, Te Matai Road	DMS Post Harvest Zone on Te Matai Road
Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211,	Previously Seeka post harvest site, now
Rangiuru	located in Rangiuru Business Park Industrial
	Zone, Rangiuru
Lot 1 DPS 89976, Lot 2 and 4 DP	DMS Post Harvest Zone on Armstrong Road,
376727, Te Puna	Te Puna
Lots 4 and 5 DPS 18004, Kauri	Kauri Pak Post Harvest Zone on Kauri Point
Point Road	Road.

Rule 22.3.1(d) may be edited to remove reference to Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru, as this property contains a Seeka post harvest facility which is now located within the Rangiuru Business Park (and not within a Post Harvest Zone).

As a consequential change, Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e) may be deleted as they also relate specifically to Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru which are no longer within a Post Harvest Zone.

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Rule 22.3.3(e) Restricted Discretionary Activities reads as follows:

(e) For Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru, seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons associated with the post harvest and/or kiwifruit or avocado orchard operations.

Rule 22.5.1(e) Matters of Discretion - Restricted Discretionary Activities reads as follows:

- (e) With respect to 22.3.3(e) Council will limit its discretion to:
  - (i) Matters listed in 22.4.1(e);
  - (ii) The impact of the activity on the safe and efficient operation of the Maketu Road/Te Puke Highway intersection (and its immediate environs).

# 7.3. Option 1: Status Quo (make no changes to Rule 22.3.1(d) and retain Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e))

Costs	<ul> <li>Not editing Rule 22.3.1(d) and deleting Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e) may result in unnecessary confusion for people reading the District Plan provisions.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul> <li>No advantages to retaining the status quo.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	Not effective.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

# 7.4. Option 2: Amend Rule 22.3.1(d) and delete Rules 22.3.3(e) and 22.5.1(e).

Costs	No disadvantages to this option.
Benefits	<ul> <li>Amending the rule will eliminate unnecessary confusion.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness/ Efficiency	Effective in reducing unnecessary complexity.
Risks of Acting/ Not Acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter	Sufficient information is available.

# 7.5. Preferred Option

The preferred option is Option 2.

To give effect to this change, District Plan Rule 22.5.1(c) would need to be amended as follows (change shown in underlined red font).

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# 22.3 Activity Lists

#### 22.3.1 Permitted Activities

(d) Seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons associated with the post harvest and/or kiwifruit or avocado orchard operations. This rule does not apply to Lot 3 DP 392756, Te Matai Road, Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru, and Lot 1 DPS 89976, Lot 2 and 4 DP 376727, Te Puna and Lots 4 and 5 DPS 18004, Kauri Point Road.

### 22.3.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities

(e) For Lots 1 and 2 DPS 35211, Rangiuru, seasonal worker accommodation for a maximum of 75 persons associated with the post harvest and/or kiwifruit or avocado orchard operations.

#### 22.5 Matters of Discretion

### 22.5.1 Restricted Discretionary Activities

- (e) With respect to 22.3.3(e) Council will limit its discretion to:
  - (i) Matters listed in 22.4.1(e);
  - (ii) The impact of the activity on the safe and efficient operation of the Maketu Road/Te Puke Highway intersection (and its immediate environs).

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#### 7.6. Reasons

The benefits and effectiveness/efficiency reasons included above indicate that Option 2 is likely to achieve the best outcome for the zone.



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Date: 10/9/2018

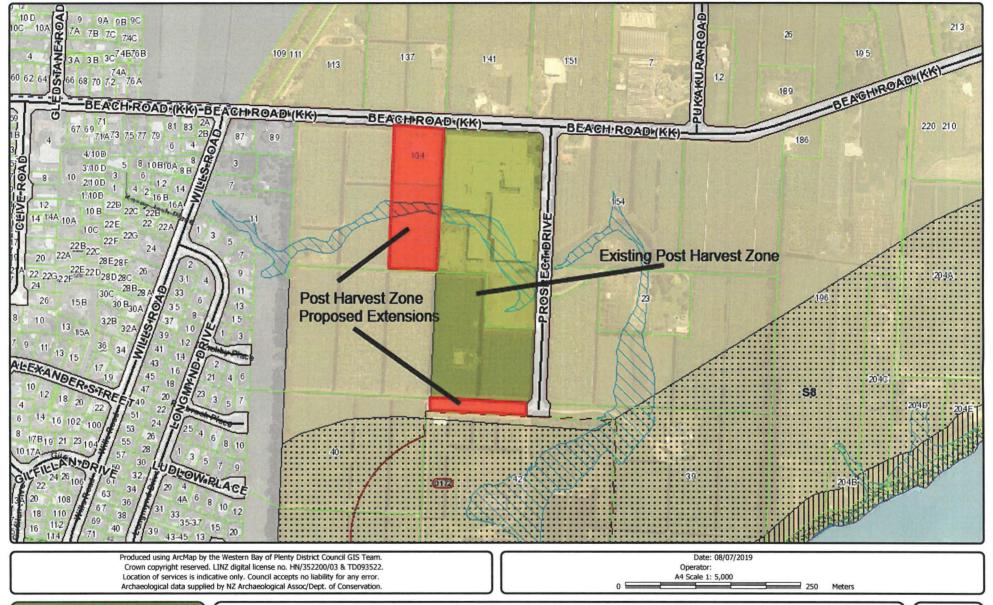
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Map: E:\Shape\MLB\2018\Projects\Horticultural Post Harvest Zones Location Map.aprx



HORTICULTURAL POST HARVEST ZONES LOCATION MAP

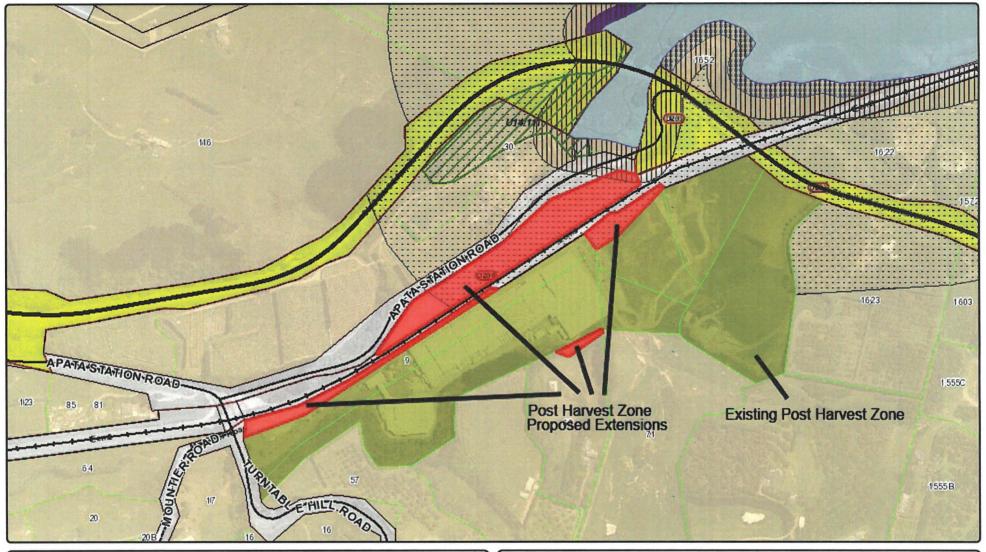




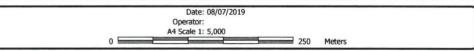


Hume Pack-N-Cool Ltd Prospect Drive, Katikati Proposed Post Harvest Zone Extensions





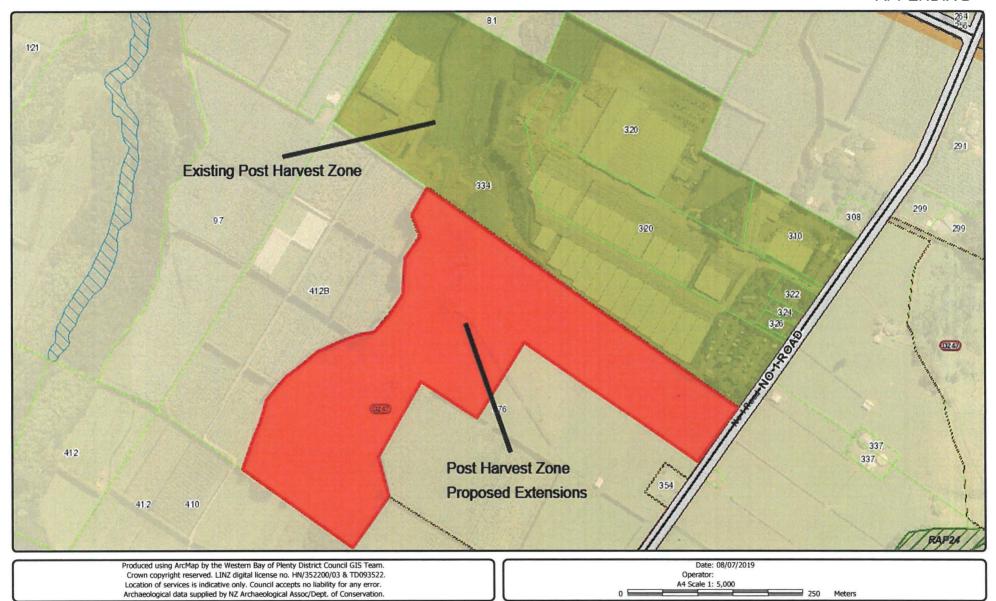
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Apata Group Ltd
Turntable Road, Katikati
Proposed Post Harvest Zone Extensions

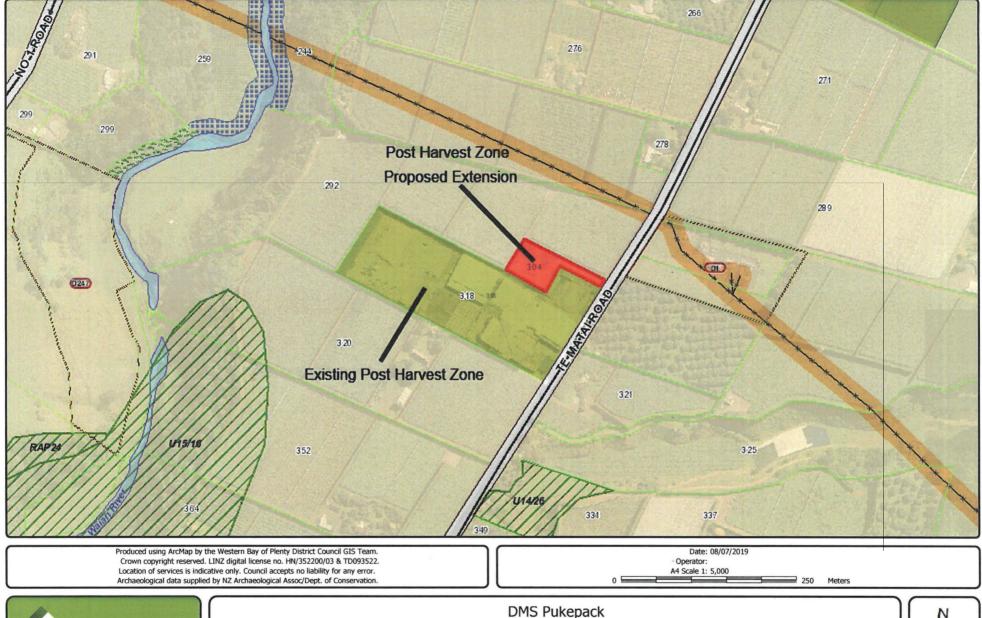




Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Trevelyan's No. 1 Road, Te Puke Proposed Post Harvest Zone Extensions

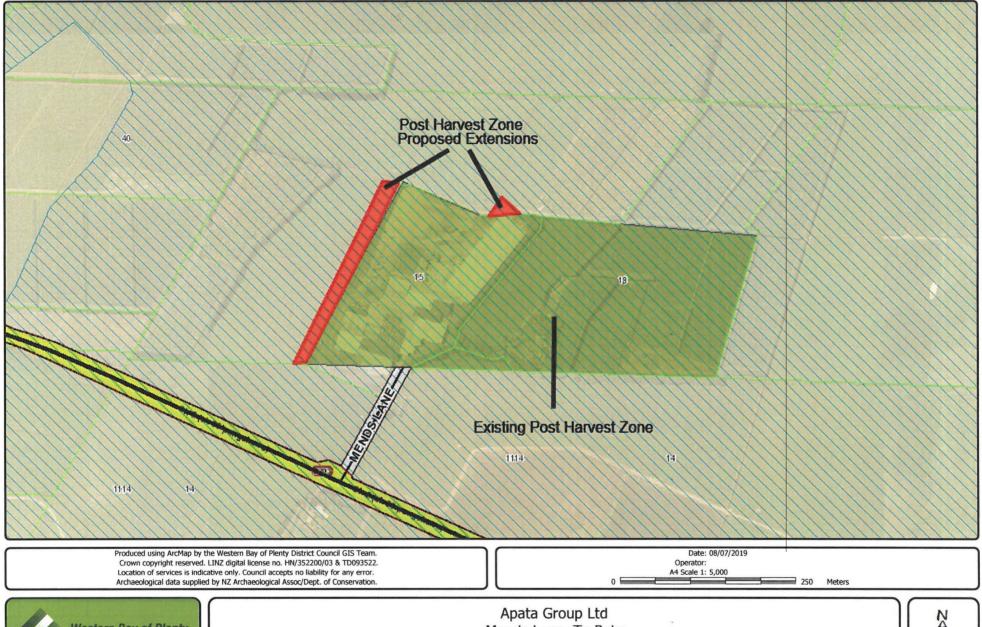






DMS Pukepack Te Matia Road, Te Puke Proposed Post Harvest Zone Extensions







Apata Group Ltd Mends Lane, Te Puke Proposed Post Harvest Zone Extensions



