

Decision Report

Plan Change 59 – Definition of Soils Engineer

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report shows the decisions made on the topics in the Planning Report and then shows the whole of the Plan Change i.e. how the full notified Plan Change and subsequent decisions on topics are proposed to change the District Plan First Review.
- 1.2 For topics, any changes to rules are shown as follows; existing District Plan text in black, proposed changes as included in the Section 32 Report in [red](#), and any changes resulting from decisions in [blue](#).
- 1.3 For the whole of the Plan Change, any changes to rules are shown as follows; existing District Plan text in black, and changes (being the culmination of the notified Plan Change and subsequent decisions) in [red](#).

2.0 Topic: Definition of Soils Engineer

2.1 Decision

That the definition of “soils engineer” is amended as follows;

[“Soils Engineer” means a geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist who has particular training, qualification and relevant local experience with the soil conditions of the District and who has been subjected to an interview by an independent expert geotechnical panel to ensure they have the necessary training and qualifications, competency, professionalism and experience to undertake geotechnical assessments.](#)

[Note: Council holds a current list of persons who meet this definition.](#)

The following submission is therefore:

Accepted in part

Submission	Point Number	Name
23	4	Aurecon (Tauranga)

2.2 Reasons

- 2.2.1 An advice note is proposed to be added to the definition of “soils engineer” to let plan users know that Council holds an updated list of persons who meet that definition. This will further assist people in engaging the right person to undertake geotechnical assessments for the purpose of the District Plan.

- 2.2.2 The list of approved soil engineers in the “TCC/WBOPDC Specialist Report document” which Council currently uses is not recommended to be specifically referred to as there is a risk that this document could be renamed, deleted or superseded. This could lead to the reference becoming invalid and will require further changes to the District Plan.

3.0 Whole of Plan Change 59 - Changes to the District Plan First Review

3.1 That a definition of “soils engineer” is added as follows;

“Soils Engineer” means a geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist who has particular training, qualification and relevant local experience with the soil conditions of the District and who has been subjected to an interview by an independent expert geotechnical panel to ensure they have the necessary training and qualifications, competency, professionalism and experience to undertake geotechnical assessments.

Note: Council holds a current list of persons who meet this definition.