

Liz Simpson for QLDC: Summary of Evidence, Stream 18: Firefighting Variation

1. In my Section 42A report, I provided recommendations on the submissions and further submissions received on the firefighting variation to Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24 & 38 notified as part of Stage 3.
2. No evidence was filed by submitters in relation to this variation.
3. The purpose of this variation is to standardise the approach to managing risk from fire to habitable buildings in rural areas with no or insufficient water supply.
4. In my view this will be the most efficient means for achieving the Strategic Direction of the Plan, and will provide clarity and consistency across all the rural chapters which the 17 submission points predominantly seek.
5. In terms of changes to the notified variation:
 - 5.1 I accept in part the submission from Waterfall Park Limited (3063) seeking to vary the requirement to exclude potable water in the maintained water supply for firefighting purposes, but consider that the Code of Practice, which is a National Standard for New Zealand Fire Service, should be complied with.
 - 5.2 I accept in part the submission from Fire and Emergency New Zealand (3288) supporting both the inclusion of a new policy in Chapter 23 and requesting amendments to rules across a number of chapters. But I reject the inclusion of a new provision regarding rules for non – residential habitable buildings across Chapters 21 – 24.
 - 5.3 Wayfare Group Limited's (3343) submission sought to allow for more discretion for non – conformance. In my report I recommend that this relief be rejected because the notified provisions already provide the discretion sought and the revised wording is neither more efficient nor more effective. The evidence filed by Mr Farrell for Wayfare Group, does not address this submission point.