

Attachment 1: Statement of Qualifications and Experience of Laura Swan

My full name is Laura Christine Swan.

I hold a Bachelor of Resource Studies and a Bachelor of Science (Conservation and Ecology) from Lincoln University, both obtained in 2000.

I have 21 years of experience working as a planning professional in local government and the private sector in New Zealand. I am full member of the New Zealand Planning Institute and an accredited planning commissioner under the Ministry for the Environment Making Good Decisions Programme.

From 2003-2011 I worked as a planner for the Whakatāne District Council, holding the position of Resource Consent Team Leader for the last three years.

I then worked for a specialist planning firm in Auckland for four years undertaking a range of planning tasks including due diligence reporting and preparation of resource consent applications for a wide range and scale of residential, retail, commercial and industrial activities. I have worked on projects across New Zealand.

I have been self-employed since 2014, primarily contracting to the Whakātane and Ōpōtiki District Councils. I have been engaged as a consultant Senior Planner at both councils. I also prepared reports on submissions to the Proposed Whakatāne District Plan in 2015.

My specific contract work with Ōpōtiki District Council commenced in 2017. I work in an equivalent Senior Planner role processing consents and peer reviewing the resource consent reports prepared by staff and other external consultants. I also provide pre-application advice and deal with public enquiries when required. I assist with the training and mentoring of other planning staff.

I am very familiar with the Ōpōtiki District Plan and the type and scale of development that has occurred, or is proposed, with the Eastern Bay of plenty sub-region.

I have previously prepared and given evidence at council hearings, before the Land Valuation Tribunal and I have prepared written evidence for the High Court.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Whilst this is a council hearing, I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses set out in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023. I have complied with the Code of Conduct in preparing my s42A report and will continue to comply with it while giving oral evidence at the Hearing.

My qualifications as an expert are set out above. Except where I state I rely on the evidence of another person, I confirm that the issues addressed in this statement of evidence are within my area of expertise, and I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from my expressed opinions.

