

# Omya Written Statement

## Proposed Waitomo District Plan Hearing Tuesday 16 July 2024

### Introduction

My name is Jim Burnett, presenting on behalf of Omya New Zealand Limited (Omya).

Omya are a key stakeholder in the Waitomo District and have been engaged in the entire Proposed District Plan (PDP) process, including engagement with Council staff on draft provisions of the PDP, providing comments on the draft PDP and making a submission and further submission on the notified version of the plan.

Omya owns and operates the Symonds Quarry and the Hangatiki East Road Processing Plant, located in Te Kuiti. Omya also owns a farm block at 178 Were Road, at the end of Tawarau Road, in Ngapenga, and wishes to quarry this site in the future (Ngapenga Quarry). Omya has a current Mining Mineral Permit (number 60379) for the purpose of extracting limestone from the Ngapenga Quarry in the future, however this is a long term plan which may not eventuate in the lifetime of the current Proposed District Plan.

As a broad overview, Omya is supportive of and accept the recommendations made by Council's s42A reporting officers, as they relate to Omya's submission points. The following section of this statement sets out more detail and context around the areas of support.

While this is not expert evidence and Omya accept the s42A report recommendations in relation to their submissions, Omya seeks to appear at the hearing to present their position.

### Omya Background

Omya New Zealand Ltd is a subsidiary of Omya AG. Omya is the leading supplier of high quality specialist calcium carbonate products used in industrial, paper, agricultural, and animal feed products. Our products are important ingredients for many of the items we interact with everyday. From the paint, carpet, paper and walls in our offices and homes, to the vegetables, milk, eggs, and meat we serve on our tables, Omya's plant and quarry in Te Kuiti form an important and unique part of the supply chain in New Zealand. Our customer base is spread throughout New Zealand and rely on Omya as the only supplier in New Zealand of the raw materials they require.

The company has been operating in Te Kuiti since 1987, employing between 25 and 30 full time employees within the Waitomo District during that time. The company has continued to invest heavily in the operations at both its processing plant and quarry. Major expansions to the processing plant were achieved in 1994, 2007, 2021, and an additional upgrade is being installed now to increase our capability to meet the unique needs of the New Zealand market.

We value our position within the Waitomo District community and intend to continue to work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure our operations are sustainable for many years to come.

### Comments on s42A Report

Omya accepts the recommendations made by the reporting officers of the relevant s42A reports in which Omya's submissions relate. The following provides further context around Omya's position as it relates to each of the recommendations.

### *Symonds Quarry*

The zoning of the Symonds Quarry in the PDP (Rural Production) supports the existing consented and operating activities undertaken on those sites, including quarrying and processing of the materials. Omya agrees with this outcome.

### *Ngapenga Quarry*

Ngapenga Quarry is zoned Rural in the notified version of the PDP and Omya included a submission seeking to change the zoning to Rural Production, as well as include Ngapenga Quarry as a scheduled site as an insertion to Schedule 1 of the Rural Production Zone, to provide for the future quarrying aspirations at this site. However, there was a lack of supporting information to justify this rezoning as part of the submission and therefore the rezoning was rejected by the s42A officer.

This outcome is accepted by Omya. Ngapenga is still of significant interest to Omya as there are future aspirations to quarry this property and to extract the high quality limestone that exists in that location. However, the comments made by the s42A reporting officer provide helpful context to the further information required to support such a proposal. For this reason, Omya accepts the recommendation to reject this submission point. While Omya appreciates the suggestion, Omya does not wish to request any deferral of decision making by the commissioner (as suggested in clause 49 of the s42A report for the Rural Production Zone).

Omya wishes to separate any potential consenting and/or private plan change from the PDP process as a result of the uncertain timing of quarrying commencing and the lack of information currently available.

### *Rorisons Quarry*

Omya no longer has an interest in Rorisons Quarry and therefore has no further comments on the recommendations made in the s42A reporting on submission points as it relates to this site.

### *Outdoor Storage Provisions*

Omya supports the amendments made to Rule RPROZ-R25. Overburden material storage is required as part of standard quarrying activities. The requirement to fully screen overburden, or alternatively find a location on site where it will not be visible from outside of the site, is overly cumbersome and sometimes impossible. This addition allows for the ease of operation as is intended by the Rural Production Zone and scheduling of specific sites.

The proposed wording will suitably address this concern.

### *Other submission points*

All other submission points made by Omya in both the original submission and further submission were either accepted by the s42A reporter (i.e. where Omya supported specific objectives, policies or rules) or rejected on the basis of minor changes resulting from other submissions. Omya has reviewed the changes made and has no further concerns in relation to the submission points and therefore support and accept the recommendations of the relevant s42A reports.

### Outstanding submission points

It is noted that there are various other submission points made by Omya which have not formed part of Tranche 1 for recommendations and hearings. Omya will continue to be engaged in the PDP process through the next Tranche of s42A reports and hearings as per the further submission made by Omya, particularly in relation to the following:

- Waikato Regional Council submission point 10.39 relating to transportation and addition of a road hierarchy in the District Plan;
- Te Ruunanga o Ngaati ki te Hauaauru submission points 35.14 and 35.20 relating to when a Cultural Impact Assessment is required for resource consent applications and development standards for development on Māori owned land;
- Department of Conservation (DOC) submission points 53.06, 53.11 and 53.12 relating to the definitions chapter, particularly as it relates to bat protection areas, significant natural areas and quarries;
- DOC submission points 53.34 and 53.44 requesting policy and rule updates relating to bat protection areas and clearance of trees in the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter; and
- Kura Stratford submission point 55.02 relating to development standards for development on Māori owned land.

### Conclusion

Omya appreciates the opportunity to be involved in the PDP process to date. As set out above, this statement is for the purpose of accepting and supporting the recommendations made in the s42A reporting that are relevant to Omya's submission points.