

NELSON CITY COUNCIL

## **Nelson Air Quality Plan**

Proposed Plan Change A3

### **s42A Report – Appendix 6**

Memorandum relating to Council heating and insulation initiatives

# Memo

**To:** Jason Jones (RMG Ltd)  
**From:** Clare Barton, Group Manager Strategy and Environment (NCC)  
**Date:** 19 April 2016  
**Re:** Proposed Plan Change A3 – Supporting information re: Submission 103

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1. You have asked for some information in response to a submission received on Proposed Change A3 to the Air Quality Plan ('PC3'). In particular, you are seeking information relating to Council's Eco Building Design Advisor and other Council initiatives, advocacy and financial support to assist in making Nelson's housing stock warmer and healthier.
2. My response is set out below, and I understand this will inform (and be attached to) your s42A report to be circulated to the Hearing Panel and submitters.

## **Submission 103: Context**

3. Section 5 of the submission from Nelson Environment Centre (Submission 103) considers non-regulatory measures to be adopted by Council in addition to the Behaviour Change Programme promoted by PC3. In summary, the submission seeks:
  - a. continuation of the Eco Building Advisor position for a further 10 years;
  - b. financial assistance from Council to help cover the cost of ULEB and associated insulation and double-glazing – direct reference is made to the Council's Clean Heat Warm Home Programme; and
  - c. continuation or increase of Council's financial contribution to the Warmer Healthier Homes Nelson Tasman project.

## **Response to decisions requested**

4. The Council established the Eco Building Design Adviser role in December 2008 as part of a suite of tools to achieve the targets set out in the Nelson Community Plan 2009/19 addressing climate change and sustainability issues. Initially a part-time (30 hours per week) temporary position, the Council has been well aware of its benefits and has demonstrated its commitment to it by making the role permanent since July 2012 and full-time since July 2014.
5. The Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee considered options for insulation and clean heating assistance at its meeting on 27 November 2014. Provision of a financial

assistance package **to install more efficient or cleaner heating devices** was not supported due to:

- a. the likely high cost of implementing and running such a scheme;
- b. the non-availability of any additional funding to bolster Council's contribution;
- c. uncertainty of the likely uptake of such a scheme (whether it would achieve adequate uptake to make it economic to run) and
- d. giving priority to addressing insulation assistance first before upgrading heating.

6. **Insulation assistance** was approved by Council on 18 December 2014. Consequently, in its Long Term Plan 2015-2025 the Council has allocated \$100,000 per year of partnership funding for home insulation as part of the Warm Up New Zealand Healthy Homes scheme for three years (2015/16; 2016/17 and 2017/18). Future funding will be based on a review of the outcomes and effectiveness of the scheme.
7. Please let me know if I can provide any further assistance to you or the Panel in relation to this matter.