

Before the Environment Canterbury Hearings Panel

in the matter of Christchurch City Council Catchment Management
Plan

and

in the matter of a submission on a resource consent application

between New Zealand Steel Ltd

and Christchurch City Council

October 2018

Statement of primary evidence of **Matthew Black** on behalf of **New
Zealand Steel Limited**

Dated: October 2018

INDEX

INTRODUCTION 3

BACKGROUND 3

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL'S APPLICATION..... 5

STATEMENT OF PRIMARY EVIDENCE OF MATTHEW BLACK ON BEHALF OF NEW ZEALAND STEEL LIMITED

October 2018

INTRODUCTION

- 1 My full name is Matthew Black. I am the Head of Product and Innovation at New Zealand Steel Limited (“NZ Steel”), based at the company’s Glenbrook site in South Auckland. I have held this role for six months. Prior to this I was the National Team Leader, Product Technical Representatives at BlueScope Steel Limited (“BlueScope”), based at the company’s Braeside & Western Port sites in Victoria, Australia. I held that role for four years.
- 2 My qualifications are a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with Melbourne Business School, graduating in 2017, a Bachelor of Engineering (Materials, First Class Hons) and Bachelor of Science (Materials Science & Physiology) with Monash University, graduating in 2007. I am an executive member of Heavy Engineering Research Association (HERA).
- 3 I am authorised to give this evidence on behalf of NZ Steel.

BACKGROUND

- 4 Both NZ Steel as a company, and the products it makes, provide significant contributions toward the social and economic wellbeing, and the health and safety of New Zealand’s communities through the provision of infrastructure and by contributing to numerous industrial and commercial activities.
- 5 NZ Steel’s building products currently include well established New Zealand brands ZINCALUME® (an aluminium-zinc alloy coated product, 50-60% Al 1-2% Si remainder Zn, typically 150g/m² coating mass), COLORSTEEL® (a pre-painted product on a ZINCALUME® substrate, introduced to the market in 1994) and GALVSTEEL® (galvanised steel, a zinc coated product, 99% Zn, typically 450g/m²

coating mass). In addition, a wide range of products are produced at the Glenbrook site in South Auckland, such as hot rolled coil, cold rolled coil, pipe, heavy and light plate/sheet, for downstream manufacturing into a range of industrial and agricultural products.

- 6 NZ Steel also produces reinforcing bar, rod and wire products at its Pacific Steel (NZ) Ltd operation rolling mill and wire plants in Otahuhu as well as structural beams at its Takanini operation. These products are used extensively in the construction industry.
- 7 The Company also operates a mine site at Waikato North Head (by the Waikato River mouth). The Waikato North Head mine is the sole supply source to the Glenbrook mill for the mineral extracted from the iron sand (titanomagnetite).
- 8 NZ Steel has a product stewardship process, managed by myself as Head of Product and Innovation, that is rolled out across all sections of our business involved in new product development or having a relevant interface with existing products. This process feeds into the Company's new product development process, with our Stage-Gate® evaluation process requiring stewardship evaluation and sign-off. This means that new products cannot be introduced to the market without reviewing and considering potential environmental or health impacts, and all product developments must be approved by NZ Steel's Senior Executives. NZ Steel also utilises a centralised product stewardship team located within BlueScope Australia, which has been monitoring global zinc regulations for some time. Further, "Sustainability" is one of NZ Steel's core strategic pillars. The step-change in zinc runoff between galvanised steel and ZINCALUME® steel substrates is an example of an environmentally responsible product performance improvement.
- 9 In April 2004, the former Auckland Regional Council ("ARC") developed a draft document entitled "Policy Implications from Roof Run-off Study" arising from concerns of zinc contamination of

harbour sediment. The study claimed that unpainted galvanised and zinc/aluminium materials were considered high risk (for zinc runoff) and would require water quality source control or treatment and recommended a position to limit use of these materials.

- 10 This study was widely referred to by Territorial Authorities and market misconceptions arose, causing concern about the stewardship of NZ Steel products. It implied that our products; unpainted ZINCALUME® steel and COLORSTEEL® (pre-painted ZINCALUME® steel) would be high risk, however this is contrary to scientific evidence.
- 11 In response, NZ Steel initiated a number of meetings with ARC that resulted in an agreed position that unpainted galvanised would not be approved for roofing but unpainted ZINCALUME® steel and COLORSTEEL® (pre-painted ZINCALUME® steel) would be approved. NZ Steel also had a close involvement in the Auckland Unitary Plan process with particular focus on the water quality provisions. NZ Steel was influential in the current wording of the water quality provisions and Ms Rickard was involved in that process.
- 12 My understanding is that NZ Steel has been working closely with a number of the Councils around New Zealand on this topic for up to 15 years now. This is not a new issue, and hence NZ Steel is concerned to ensure it is properly resolved using robust scientific data and with strong effects-based outcomes focus. This is why NZ Steel continues to take an interest in applications and plan change processes throughout New Zealand.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL'S APPLICATION

- 13 My understanding is that the approach the Christchurch City Council has taken with its application could lead to uncertainty for users of the Management Plans that are part of the consents, and that there is potentially a degree of complexity of application of the

conditions and provisions that will be the legacy of any decision on the application. Ms Rickard discusses the potential implications from a statutory planning perspective in her evidence. I rely on her expert opinion and experience in terms of the potential implications.

- 14 I agree with her opinion on potential methods to address the concerns raised by NZ Steel.

Matthew Black
October 2018

-

