

**BEFORE AN INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMISSIONER
AT NEW PLYMOUTH**

IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act
1991 (the “RMA”)

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by Popuanui
Chickens Limited for subdivision
and land use consent relating to
the land at 24 Te Arei Road West,
Sentry Hill, New Plymouth
(SUB21/47978 / LUC26/48992)
(the “**Application**”)

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF WAYNE ROBERT CURRY ON BEHALF
OF POPUANUI CHICKENS LIMITED (THE APPLICANT)**

Dated: 3 July 2026

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF WAYNE ROBERT CURRY

1. Introduction

- 1.1. My name is Wayne Robert Curry.
- 1.2. I am a director of Popuanui Chickens Limited (**PCL**), together with my wife Susan Curry (**Sue**).
- 1.3. PCL is the registered proprietor of the land at 24 Te Arei Road West, Sentry Hill, New Plymouth, which is the subject of this application (**Property**). I also live at the Property in the existing dwelling.
- 1.4. I have been farming in Taranaki for the past 50 years.
- 1.5. We purchased the Property in 2008. Prior to that, Sue and I owned and operated a sheep and beef farm at Strathmore. We continue to have interests in a sheep and beef farm at Tututawa.
- 1.6. I also work part-time as a civil contractor for my son's business.
- 1.7. My evidence is based on my personal knowledge and experience of owning and operating the poultry farm since 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1. When we first purchased the Property, we were attracted to it because it was a good location close to Lepperton and local schools and amenities.
- 2.2. At the time we purchased it, the poultry farm was one of the poorest performing farms in the district.
- 2.3. So we undertook a significant redevelopment of the operation. The existing sheds were demolished and replaced with modern poultry sheds built to a very high standard.

- 2.4. A considerable investment was made in the farm and its infrastructure.
- 2.5. As a result of those improvements and our management of the operation, the performance of the farm improved significantly, and we received two Tegal awards in two consecutive years for the most improved grower (2010 and 2011). It became one of the best performing poultry units in the region.

3. Former broiler operation

- 3.1. From 2008 to November 2023, the farm operated as a broiler farm (with an average of 70,000 - 75,000 birds placed every run, and 6 – 7 runs per year).
- 3.2. During that period, a typical placement was approximately 70,000 to 75,000 birds per run. There were generally six to seven runs (production cycles) each year.
- 3.3. Broiler farming involves periods of increased activity associated with bird placement, bird collection, feed deliveries and clean-outs between flocks.
 - 3.3.1. Broiler birds are fed at intervals over a 24 hr period.
 - 3.3.2. Approximately 280 – 300 tonnes of food is used per run, which results in about 11 – 12 truck deliveries every six weeks.
 - 3.3.3. When catching and moving the birds at the end of each run, approximately 24 trucks would typically be required.
 - 3.3.4. The sheds are cleaned out at the end of each run, so 6 – 7 times per year.

4. Current breeder rearing operation

- 4.1. On 1 November 2023, Tegal took over the lease of the sheds and invested a substantial amount of money converting the operation from a broiler farm to a breeder rearing farm.
- 4.2. The farm now operates very differently from how it operated when it was a broiler farm.
- 4.3. A key difference is that farm now carries a maximum of approximately 34,000 birds per run and there are only two runs per year.

- 4.4. The breeder birds are placed at the farm at 1 day old, and they are then grown for 18 – 20 weeks, at which point they are moved to laying farms. There are 10,000 hens in Sheds 1, 2 and 3
- 4.5. Shed 4 (which is closest to the proposed new lots) contains only male birds, with approximately 4,000 roosters initially and usually around 3,000 remaining at the end of each run. The southern half of Shed 4 is not used.
- 4.6. The conversion involved removing the previous feeding systems and installing new infrastructure including hopper feeding systems, feed spinners and automated weighing equipment.
- 4.7. Feed levels and daylight hours are carefully controlled so that the birds achieve target weights at around 20 weeks of age. Lights are out in the Sheds from approximately 3:00 pm each day until approximately 7:00 am the next morning, and the birds sleep during this time. The reduced feed levels mean there are only about 10 – 12 food truck deliveries each year now (so less than one a month).
- 4.8. At the end of each run, the birds are collected and moved. There is one truck per shed and one shed is cleared per day. So twice a year, there is a four day period when one truck will come and go from the Property.
- 4.9. The sheds are cleaned out twice a year at the end of each run, and clean shavings are placed back in the sheds. This is always carried out from the northern end of each shed.
- 4.10. The operation is much quieter and less intensive than the former broiler operation.
- 4.11. As I understand it, the farm is now one of Tegal's best-performing breeder rearing farms in Taranaki.
- 4.12. There is no intention to increase the scale of the poultry operation from its current breeder rearing operation.

- 4.13. It would also make little commercial sense for Tegal to convert the operation back to broiler production given the investment they have made in the breeder rearing infrastructure.

5. Noise, odour and amenity

- 5.1. As noted above, there has been a significant reduction in activity since the farm changed to breeder rearing.
- 5.2. I live on the property and am therefore in a very good position to observe its effects.
- 5.3. In particular, there is generally no night-time activity associated with the farm and because of this I do not hear noise from the operation at night.
- 5.4. I also rarely hear noise during the day either, and have never experienced any objectionable noise either from the Sheds or from truck movements.
- 5.5. I have not experienced any objectionable odour associated with the current operation. The prevailing wind for the Property is westerly to south westerly, so the sheds are down wind of my house and the proposed new lots.
- 5.6. During the nearly 18 years I have owned the property, neither I nor Tegal have received any complaints about noise, odour, traffic movements or lighting from the poultry farm.
- 5.7. There are several houses in close proximity to the farm, in particular the residences across the river, and they have never raised any issues with me.
- 5.8. I believe this demonstrates that our farm does not generate any effects that concern nearby residents, rather it co-exists comfortably with residential living.
- 5.9. Additionally, the breeder rearing operation has fewer birds, less activity and fewer effects than the previous broiler operation, so is even less likely to cause any issues.
- 5.10. For those reasons, I believe the potential for conflict with future residents has been significantly overstated by the Council's planner.

- 5.11. I have also committed to a range of mitigation measures which are all designed to reduce any potential impacts even further.

6. Reasons for the Subdivision

- 6.1. My wife Sue suffered a serious stroke approximately 15 years ago. She now resides in a high dependency care facility. This has had a significant impact on our personal circumstances.
- 6.2. As part of planning for the future, I have explored selling the poultry farm.
- 6.3. However, there is very little demand for owner-operated poultry farms. I am not aware of any owner-operated Tegal contract farm being sold in Taranaki in the last five or six years.
- 6.4. The subdivision application is intended to provide an opportunity for us to realise some value from the Property and reduce debt while allowing the poultry farm operation to continue.

7. Summary

- 7.1. The poultry farm has operated successfully at the site since 2008.
- 7.2. The current breeder rearing operation is substantially different from the previous broiler operation and has significantly reduced activity and effects.
- 7.3. In my experience, the operation does not generate objectionable noise, odour or traffic effects.
- 7.4. The proposed subdivision will assist me in managing my personal and financial circumstances while still allowing the poultry farm to continue operating.
- 7.5. I respectfully ask that the resource consents be granted.

Wayne Curry

3 July 2026