

**Before the Fast-track Panel Convener**

**FTAA-2505-1055**

**Under** the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**)

**And**

**In the Matter** of an application for resource consents and a wildlife authority by Rangitooopuni Developments Limited Partnership – Rangitooopuni proposed countryside living subdivision and retirement village

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**Confirmation of Compliance with Code of Conduct and details of Qualifications and Experience**

**Christopher James Wedding on behalf of Rangitooopuni Developments Limited Partnership**

**Dated 25 August 2025**

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## Introduction

1. My full name is Christopher James Wedding. I hold a Master of Science (Zoology and Environmental Science) degree from Massey University.
2. I am a full member of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (**EIANZ**), the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, the Society for Research on Reptiles and Amphibians in New Zealand, the Auckland Botanical Society and the New Zealand Herpetological Society, the latter of which I am a current committee member and former President (2012-2015).
3. I hold multiple Wildlife Authorities, issued by the Department of Conservation (**DOC**), to survey indigenous reptiles and amphibians throughout New Zealand, manage indigenous lizards within the Auckland Region as a mitigation tool, and hold indigenous lizards in captivity, including for species “insurance” and “Breed for release” purposes. In my capacity as a specialist herpetologist, I have been an invited participant in Department of Conservation-led workshops for lizard mitigation research needs, and co-authored Auckland Council’s technical publications on the Conservation status of reptiles (Melzer et al. 2022a)<sup>1</sup> and amphibians (Melzer et al. 2022b)<sup>2</sup> in the Auckland Region
4. I have 18 years’ professional experience as an Ecologist and I hold the position of Ecology Manager at Biosearches, a specialist Ecology brand of Babbage Consultants Limited (**Babbage**), a position I have held since 2018.
5. I specialise in terrestrial ecology, including indigenous flora and fauna, and I have designed and implemented region-wide species survey or monitoring

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<sup>1</sup> Sabine Melzer and others *Conservation status of reptile species in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland* (Auckland Council, Technical Report 2022/3, March 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Sabine Melzer and others *Conservation Status of Amphibian Species in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland* (Auckland Council, Technical Report 2022/4, March 2022).

programmes for DOC and Council, for native reptiles<sup>3,4</sup> and long-tailed bats (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*).<sup>5,6,7,8,9</sup>

6. I have led, reviewed or advised on the ecological effects or management components of large infrastructure and residential projects, Plan Changes, and Notices of Requirement, including:
- a. Warkworth South Plan Change (Private Plan Change 93) for KA Waimanawa Limited Partnership and Stepping Towards Far Limited (2024).
  - b. Brookby Quarry, Stage 2 (2015) and Stage 3 (2024, Covid-19 Recovery Fast Track Consenting Act), including development of biodiversity offset and compensation modelling for Stage 3.
  - c. Papakura to Bombay, Notice of Requirement for Stage 2 route protection, on behalf of NZ Transport Agency (2024).
  - d. Orewa 4 Private Plan Change, Ara Hills (2023)
  - e. Northern Corridor Improvements project, on behalf of NZ Transport Agency (2016).
  - f. Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway on behalf of NZ Transport Agency (2013), including ongoing technical review of

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<sup>3</sup> Chris Wedding and Dylan van Winkel *Standardised gecko monitoring programme for Tawharanui, Shakespear and Whakanewha Regional Parks* (Auckland Regional Council, March 2011) at 38.

<sup>4</sup> Chris Wedding *Baseline reptile survey for Rangitoto and Motutapu Islands* (Department of Conservation, March 2008) at 21.

<sup>5</sup> Biosearches *Assessment of potential long-tailed bat habitat in the Auckland Region Prepared for Auckland Council* (2012) at 25.

<sup>6</sup> Biosearches *Long-tailed bat populations in the Auckland Region 2013 Region Prepared for Auckland Council* (2013) at 38.

<sup>7</sup> Biosearches *Long-tailed bat surveys in the Auckland Region 2014 Region Prepared for Auckland Council* (2014) at 33.

<sup>8</sup> Biosearches *Long-tailed bat surveys in the Hunua Ranges 2016 Prepared for Auckland Council* (2016) at 22.

<sup>9</sup> Biosearches *long-tailed bat surveys in the Auckland Region: South-West Franklin and Awhitu 2016 Prepared for Auckland Council* (2016) at 18.

ecological mitigation planting revisions supplied by Northern Express Group (NX2), on behalf of the NZ Transport Agency (2016 – 2022).

7. I have also led field assessments, data analysis and reporting for several long-tailed bat surveys across the Auckland Region for Auckland Council, covering Auckland's north, west, south-east and south. Many of these studies had a focus on the identification of bat habitat use around peri urban environments and included a focus on Riverhead Forest.
8. In support of this fast-track application by Rangitooopuni Developments Limited Partnership, I provided technical review of the following material lodged in support of the application:
  - a. Ecological Impact Assessment, dated 1 May 2025 included as Appendix F to the Rangitooopuni Assessment of Environmental Effects.
  - b. Ecological Management Plan, dated 22 April 2025, included as Appendix S to the Rangitooopuni Assessment of Environmental Effects.
  - c. Bat Survey Report, dated 16 June, 2025, provided as supplementary information.

## **Code of Conduct**

9. Although this is not a hearing before the Environment Court, I confirm that:
  - a. I have read and am familiar with the Environment Court's Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses as specified in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023 (**Code**); and
  - b. The reports referred to above reviewed by me:
    - i. are within my area of expertise (except where I state that I rely upon the technical reports of other expert witnesses provided in support of the application);

- ii. Have been prepared in accordance with the Code; and
- iii. I have not omitted to consider any material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

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Chris Wedding  
25 August 2025