BEFORE A COMMISSIONER APPOINTED BY ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

UNDER	the Resource Management Act 1991 ("RMA")
IN THE MATTER OF	An application for a resource consent under section 88 of the RMA by **AK Tech Services Limited** to establish and operate a building to be primarily used as an agricultural workshop for rural machinery and equipment on Acton Road, Rakaia (Application No. LUC21/0103)

EVIDENCE OF AZAMAT KURBANOV
ON BEHALF OF AK TECH SERVICES LIMITED

Date: 28 APRIL 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 My Name is Azamat Kurbanov I am a father to 4 beloved children and husband to my lovely wife. Born and raised in Uzbekistan in a large family of 7 living in a two-bedroom 80m2 apartment.

1.2 Being raised I always strive to learn as much as I can and get out there to explore the world and to achieve better opportunities in life. Now I am doing what I can to provide better opportunities for our own children so they can succeed in their life

1.3 I am Qualified mechanic with a Distinction grading of Diploma with Honours with the Professional Title of Technician - Mechanic awarded in 2002 Shakhrisabz Agricultural College, Shakhrisabz, Republic of Uzbekistan, specialising in agricultural mechanisation. This qualification is equivalent to NZ Certificate in Agricultural Engineering from a recognised New Zealand tertiary institution, Level 4, as registered on the New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications.

1.4 I have been employed by CNH (Case New Holland) / Uzbek JV (Joint Venture) UzCaseService. For the 5 years as Agricultural Diesel Mechanic at the last year of my allocated career my role was the Training Instructor for the Southern part of the country for CNH Construction Machinery. Then I had employment in New Zealand as a Skilled Migrant worker, leaving Uzbekistan in September 2005. Since then, I have worked at Claas Harvest Centre, Farm Chief and Stonewall farm.

1.5 Being a holder of Skilled Migrant Permanent Residency I have applied and been granted NZ Citizenship in January 2014.

1.6 Throughout my employment I have been trained at various parts of the world and obtained extensive knowledge to repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery including Combines, self-propelled forage harvesters, balers, green harvest equipment and tractors for franchises such as Claas, JCB, Valtra, John Deere, Amazone, Grimme spud Harvesters and soil cultivation implements. The tasks involved carry out computer diagnostic and software programming, solving electrical, mechanical and hydraulic problems of both Agricultural and Construction Machinery.

1.7 From April 2015 I have set up our own AKTECH SERVICES LTD Company NZ based and Family owned. Our company's task is to provide quality

dealership level or above service to our farmers to repair and maintain their machinery & Equipment.

1.8 Given my wealth of knowledge and experience we provide wide range of repair and maintenance work to wide range of agricultural machinery and equipment. We primarily specialise in servicing and repair of Grimme harvesting equipment, working in Mid Canterbury and supporting the farmers.

1.9 My role in the Business is as an owner operator. I am the co-owner and an employee. My wife is also an employee operating admin also co-owner.

1.10 I have great support from my all customers in operation of our business.

2. THE PROJECT

2.1 We have great support from the very beginning by our customers including accommodating some of our workshop tooling at their site/buildings.

2.2 We were looking for some time a block of land where we could be based from as workshop and also have house to live in. We have a New Zealanders dream at our heart to live and work from home.

2.3 I have been looking at property listings at Acton Road for several years. There were no sales for quite some time. We had our eye on Acton Road but as it was a flood zone, we're slightly hesitant to purchase. However other than the flood concerned issue its perfect location for us.

2.4 After long communications from the vendor's real-estate agent and other land owners in area we felt welcomed to build a workshop to provide mechanical service agricultural sector.

2.5 We informed our neighbours 31 Acton Road – (Lot 4 DP 456684) - Lindsay Warren Brinsdon & Nicola Elizabeth Brinsdon, Vendor Burrows at the time (Lot 7 Deposited Plan 456684) - Rosemary Alice Gibbs and 63 Acton Road (Lot 6 Deposited Plan 456684) - Tracey Agnes Mewes & Warren Victor Mewes of our intentions.

2.6 We engaged a lawyer Ben Frampton from Saunders and Co by getting all bases covered to sign up to purchase the land subject to be able build the agricultural machinal workshop. After receiving responses from our lawyer, those communicating with ADC and Vendor we have not seen any blockages to our journey and proceeded with purchase.

2.7 Since then, we have been working to source additional funds and a construction company. Once we knew whom our other neighbours were from Lot 7 and Lot 6, I have approached them to inform them of our intensions to use of land. Lot 7 Deposited Plan 456684 - Rosemary Alice Gibbs was not objecting. Lot 6 Warren Mews was objecting irrespective of the type of business I am to run as they were worrying about their property re-sell value.

2.8 Since then, we were proceeding and obtained approval from x3 neighbours and x1 opposing, sourced funds and sign up with building company subject to them obtaining building consent from ADC. At the same time, we had David Harford applying for Resource consent on or behalf.

2.9 ADC have issued building consent subject to obtaining Resource consent. Building company have honoured the contract and we have paid for the build.

2.10 All our communications from professionals were pointing in the right track with our project.

2.11 Several month later when the construction company has placed signage at our gate Mr Mews formally approached to ADC with objections, once they have found out all other neighbours have supported the application. I suspect they went and pressurised neighbours to withdraw their support.

2.12 With a genuine attempt to obtain resource consent and being a good neighbour, we have attempted to solve the concerns in person and through pre-hearing meeting at ADC. Also, I we have agreed to some extra imposed conditions.

2.13 However, we are here now providing all our experts reports and evidence to you make a fair decision affecting the future of my family and our business which is the primary income for our family.

2.14 For existing site plantings there are no plans for us to remove any existing boundary fencing between Acton Road and our section but maintaining it. We have already started planting hedging trees between Lot 4. We have not yet planted any trees between lot 6 as there already tall hedge trees growing across the section. We did not want to create extra shade to neighbouring section. Down the north (river side) of the property our family have been planting various fruit trees as it's for our family to enjoy. I attach some photos that show the plantings.

2.15 We have separated our block in to various paddocks as we have planned out the future for use of the block of land. All maters raised from our Neighbours are as important to us as it is for them. But we are as well as thinking of our fellow farmers and the environment.

3. OPERATIONS

3.1 Proposed Agricultural workshop is not high traffic flow retail store but it is more like a base for our activity. The majority of our repair works do happen out at the field our customer's yards or properties.

3.2 Inside of the workshop we plan to do repair and maintenance works to agricultural machinery and equipment as well as use the workshop for our personal activities. Carrying out mechanical / engineering and electrical repair works is the main activity

3.3 For most of the service & repair works, farmers do prefer the work undertaken at the place of origin or where they are operating to save the cost, delays and time for transportation. But some pre-season repair works I would prefer to carry out at the enclosed building as this is normally winter or autumn time of the year, where the weather outside would make the job difficult.

3.4 During the Harvest which is the busiest time of the year for farmers, they do work until late and they might have breakdowns to their machinery. So, it's very important for them to get the machinery going to continue their harvest works. We get called out to assist them. Most of the time I get their problem solved out in the paddock but some time I will remove the faulty part and bring it in to Workshop repair and take back to install. As much as it's not pleasant to work after hours we are honoured to be there for farmers when it really matters.

3.5 As with every other business, despite us being small at this stage we are looking opportunities to grow at Acton Road workshop. We could grow up to 2 full time equivalent staff who reside elsewhere other than on the site excluding the applicant.

3.6 Since I have started our business I and my family did not have any proper family holiday as we don't have someone who can replace us during our absence on holiday. As at this stage our business it's as a home occupation but we had to be registered as every other large business in order to obey a law.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Fundamentally site location is Rural A zone of Ashburton District and overall, I consider that our business will affect the environment to a bare minimise.

4.2 By establishing our Business at the location will contribute to the Ashburton district social and economic well-being including a positive impact on the environment by reusing instead of replacing, saving travelling cost to farmers and being a service provider. I do think that the positive effects of our business from an economic, social, cultural well-being will outweigh any minimal adverse impact if any on the Rural A Zone.

DANGER
KEEP OUT