

Proposed Regional Plan for Northland

MINUTE AND DIRECTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Minute 7

Note: This minute applies to the hearing for the submissions seeking the addition of provisions for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and genetic engineering (GE) to the Proposed Regional Plan. There is a separate hearing for the other submissions.

HEARINGS

- [1] This minute sets out directions and requests relating to submitters intending to appear at the hearings. It intentionally repeats some of the directions made in Minute 1 so that it is a complete set of directions and requests for the hearing.
- [2] The hearings will be held on Tuesday 30 October 2018 and Wednesday 31 October 2018, with Thursday 1 November 2018 as a back-up date. It is anticipated all the submitters will be heard in the two days. The hearings will be held at the Northland Regional Council, 36 Water Street, Whangarei.
- [3] Council staff will confirm scheduled speaking times by 7 September 2018.
- [4] The Section 42A report¹ will be made available no later than Friday 14 September 2018. This will allow submitters to have regard to its contents when preparing their evidence. It would be extremely helpful for Council if submitters could indicate in their evidence whether they agree or disagree (with reasons) with the staff recommendations that relate to their submissions.
- [5] Pursuant to section 41B(3) of the RMA, submitters who intend to call expert evidence² in support of their submissions are directed to provide a written statement of that evidence to the Council no later than Friday 12 October 2018.
- [6] If submitters intend to provide written evidence themselves, or have non-expert people appear on their behalf, then they are requested and strongly urged to also provide a written statement of that evidence to the Council no later than Friday 12 October 2018.
- [7] All evidence received will be posted on the Council's website.
- [8] The author of the Section 42A report will provide an initial response to the evidence and written statements. This will be made available no later than 19 October 2018.
- [9] Some submitters may wish to have legal counsel present legal submissions to the hearing in support of their submissions. If that is the case, then Council requests that those legal submissions are provided no later than three working days before the submitter is scheduled to be heard. This will better enable Council to consider the matters being addressed by those counsel.
- [10] All pre-circulated evidence and legal submissions will be taken as read at the hearing. Accordingly, pursuant to section 41C(1) of the RMA, submitters are directed that they, their experts and their counsel will not be required to read any such material out loud at the hearing. Nor will they be required to read out loud their original submissions. Reading that material out loud at the hearing would be an inefficient use of time as councillors will have already read it.

¹ The Section 42A Report is prepared by Council staff. It includes a discussion of the submissions and the amendments sought by submitters to the Plan. It recommends (with reasons) whether the submissions should be accepted or rejected. The Hearing Panel is not bound by the staff recommendations and the Panel weighs the staff advice along with the views of the submitters when making decisions on what to ultimately recommend to the Council.

² Expert evidence is that written by qualified planners, engineers or scientists, for example, prepared in accordance with the Environment Court's Practice Note 2014 for expert witnesses.

- [11] However, submitters, experts and counsel will be allowed to briefly highlight key points for the benefit of councillors. Councillors will then ask any questions they may have.

WEBSITE

- [12] All information relevant to the hearings will be made available on the Council's website: www.nrc.govt.nz/newregionalplan

SERVICE ON THE COUNCIL

- [13] Any further written information, evidence or legal submissions addressed by this Minute, and any memorandum or application to Council, must be lodged:
- By post addressed to the Northland Regional Council, Private Bag 9021, Whangarei Mail Centre, Whangarei 0148. Attention: Ben Lee; or
 - By hand delivery to Northland Regional Council, 36 Water Street, Whangarei; or
 - By email to BenL@nrc.govt.nz
- [14] All written information, evidence or legal submissions must be in either Microsoft WORD or PDF format. It should be 'unlocked' so that it is able to be easily annotated councillors as they read it.

EVIDENCE RECORDING

- [15] An audio record of the hearing is to be made available on the Council's website as the hearing proceeds.



Bill Shepherd
Chairman – Northland Regional Council
8 August 2018