

Proposed Regional Plan for Northland

MINUTE AND DIRECTIONS OF THE HEARING PANEL

Minute 6

Note – this minute does not apply to the hearing for the submissions seeking the addition of provisions for genetically modified organisms (GMO), which will be separate to, and held after, the hearing for the rest of the Proposed Regional Plan.

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 commence on Tuesday 28 August 2018. Hearings will be held in Kaitaia, Kerikeri, Whangarei and Otiria marae, Moerewa. Details of hearing dates for each venue will be confirmed once the scheduling of submitters appearing has been confirmed.
- [3] As stated in Minute 1, the hearings will not be broken up into Plan topics. Accordingly, pursuant to section 41C(1) of the RMA, submitters who have lodged submissions on a range of topics or Plan provisions are directed to present all their evidence on the full range of matters they have submitted on during their single scheduled appearance at the hearing.
- [4] The Section 42A report¹ will be made available no later than Friday 6 July 2018. This will allow submitters to have regard to its contents when preparing their evidence. It would be extremely helpful for the Hearing Panel if submitters could indicate in their evidence whether or not 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 10 August 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 10 August 2018.
- [7] All evidence received will be posted on the Council's website.
- [8] 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 the Hearing Panel 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 the Hearing Panel to consider the matters being addressed by those counsel.
- [9] 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 the Hearing Panel members 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.

- [10] However, submitters, experts and counsel will be allowed to briefly highlight key points for the benefit of the Hearing Panel. The Panel members will then ask any questions they may have.
- [11] Council staff will confirm scheduled speaking times by 29 June 2018.
- [12] Council staff have twice contacted submitters who requested to be heard asking for their preferred location and speaking time. Nearly 70 submitters have not replied. These submitters will be allocated a location based on their address and a speaking time of 5 minutes for an individual, or 15 minutes for an organisation or group. If any of these submitters would like a different location and/or speaking time, then they should contact Ben Lee at the Council (see below for his contact details) who will consider such requests on our behalf on a case-by-case basis at his discretion.

WEBSITE

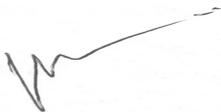
- [13] All information relevant to the hearings will be made available on the Council's website: www.nrc.govt.nz/newregionalplan

SERVICE ON THE COUNCIL

- [14] Any further written information, evidence or legal submissions addressed by this Minute, and any memorandum or application to the Hearing Panel, 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
- [15] 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 by members of the Hearing Panel as they read it.

EVIDENCE RECORDING

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



Rob van Voorthuysen for and on behalf of the Hearing Commissioners:
19 June 2018