

Proposed Regional Plan for Northland

MINUTE AND DIRECTIONS OF THE HEARING PANEL

Minute 2

SUBMISSIONS ON MATTERS NOT ADDRESSED BY THE PLAN

- [1] In Minute 1 we addressed submissions requesting the inclusion of Plan provisions on a range of matters that were not included in the notified Plan nor in the Council's Section 32 analysis report, including provisions addressing genetic engineering and genetically modified organisms.
- [2] We requested, pursuant to section 41C(2) of the RMA, that those submitters provide further information, being both precise details of the new provisions requested and an analysis of the merits of any such new provisions. We requested that the further information be provided to the Council by **4pm on 1 March 2018**.

REQUEST FOR TIMEFRAME EXTENSION

- [3] Council has received a written request from two submitters (GE Free Tai Tokerau and Soil & Health Association NZ) for additional time to prepare the further information requested by the Panel (three and two weeks respectively). The submitters set out a number of reasons for their requests, including that the people represented only work on planning matters on a voluntary basis in their spare time; that it will take time to put together a robust legal argument and "analysis"; and that it will take time to liaise with other submitters (including Tai Tokerau mana whenua) on the genetic engineering and genetically modified organisms issue and to check the wording of any suggested Plan provisions with them.
- [4] We acknowledge the issues raised by the submitters and in the circumstances we consider it appropriate to grant the requests for additional time, particularly as we are interested in receiving further information that is as complete and helpful as possible.
- [5] In terms of procedural fairness, it is appropriate to extend the further information provision timeframe for all submitters on the GE issue.
- [6] Consequently, for all submitters on genetically modified organisms that were listed in Appendix 1 of Minute 1 (as amended by Errata 1 to that Minute), we now request that the further information described in paragraphs 10 to 12 of Minute 1 is provided to the Council by **4pm on Friday 23 March 2018**.



Rob van Voorthuysen for and on behalf of the Hearing Commissioners:
26 February 2018