

Minute from the Independent Hearings Panel Re:

Waikato Regional Council Proposed Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipā River Catchments

Hearing Schedule

1. Attached to this Minute is the Hearing Schedule for the hearing of submissions to Proposed Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipā River Catchments. It is divided into Blocks 1, 2 and 3. The topics to be heard in each of the Blocks is set in the attached spreadsheet.

Note -The hearings dates for Block 1, which deal with the overall plan change, are largely final. However, as we are unsure how many submitters want to be heard on this topic, and how long they may take, more or less time may be required. Mr Rice, the Council's Independent Hearings Coordinator, will be in contact with submitters early in 2019 to address this matter.

Due to this, and proposed alternative dispute resolution processes for some topics (see below), the hearing dates for Blocks 2 and 3 are **indicative only** at this stage. However, they give an indication of when these topics are likely to be heard.

2. With respect to the Block 1 hearings, the following is proposed:

- The hearings will commence on **11 March 2019**¹.
- This hearing will cover submissions to:

Part A – Introduction and context of the plan change

Part B – Outcomes

B1 Overall direction and whole plan submissions B2

Values and uses

B3 Science and Economics B4

Objectives

B5 FMUs, sub-catchments, targets and limits, priorities

- The Council's section 42A report on these hearing topics will be available on the Council's website not later than **14 January 2019**. It will only cover the hearing topics set out above.
- Evidence on these topics is due with the Council's Independent Hearing Coordinator by **15 February 2018**.

¹The Waikato Regional Council has indicated it will require the first 2 days to present to the Hearing Panel.

- Any rebuttal evidence is due with the Council's Independent Hearing Coordinator by **26 February 2019.**
3. **Note 1-** the evidence exchange dates set out in this Minute are more 'generous' than that those set out in the "Hearing Procedures and Directions" document (dated 5 November 2018). This is due to the nature of the hearing topic. For the avoidance of doubt, the dates for lodgement of evidence specified in paragraph 2 above supersede the timings directed in the Hearings Procedures and Directions document in relation to this block of hearings. Notwithstanding this, you should refer to that document as it sets out a range of matters, including the required evidence format.
 4. **Note 2 -** All evidence is to be filed with the Council's Independent Hearing Coordinator at the addresses set out in the "Hearing Procedures and Directions" document. However, submitters who are lodging large file documents as evidence, and/or File share links, are advised to also CC the Council's Independent Hearing Coordinator at steve@riceres.co.nz (as this has a 20mb mail box).
 5. With respect to the hearing of Blocks 2 and 3, a more detailed hearings schedule will be provided closer to the time; setting out the Forum (mediation and/or expert conferencing) dates², the date the section 42A will be available and the evidence exchange dates. The timeframes set out in the Hearing Procedures and Directions document will apply unless otherwise advised in a future minute.
 6. Within hearing Blocks 2 and 3, it is proposed to group the hearings by sub topic so (as far as is possible) all submitters addressing the same topic will be heard together - e.g. submissions relating to point source discharges.
 7. The topics for which mediation and/or expert conferencing will occur are:
 - Commercial Vegetable Production,
 - Farm Environment Plans, and
 - Sub-catchment Planning (alternative approaches).



Greg Hill

Chair of the Hearing Panel 13

December 2018

² Noting indicative dates have been included in the attached hearings schedule)