

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

AND

IN THE MATTER of the **PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL COASTAL PLAN.**

DIRECTION (5) FROM THE HEARING PANEL

DRAFT HEARING SCHEDULE

1. The Hearing Panel has developed a draft hearing schedule for the hearing of submissions to the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan. It is attached to this Direction.
2. The Hearing Panel proposes to hear submissions by topics (as set out in the draft schedule).
3. Submitters appearing with expert witnesses¹, or those submitters representing organisations² will generally be required to appear when a particular topic is being heard. That is, this will likely require more than one appearance if the submissions cover a range of topics.
4. Lay submitters or submitters presenting non-expert evidence may wish to appear when a particular topic is being heard (i.e. more than once). However, we accept some lay submitters may prefer to present once only if they wish. In this case, those submitters can either appear on the 18 or 19 February 2025 when the topics of “General matters, Part 1, Definitions-general, Integrated management” will be heard, or nominate another topic which ‘best’ or ‘most’ addresses the matters raised in the submission(s).
5. The Hearing Panel is also aware that there are a significant number of ‘pro forma’ submissions generated from a survey by LegaSea³. Those submissions, which have sought a range of outcomes, are largely addressed in the Council Officer’s section 42A report – “General and whole of plan”. For efficiency reasons the Hearing Panel proposes that submitters wishing to speak to these submissions do so on the 18 or 19 February 2025 when the topics of “General matters, Part 1, Definitions-general, Integrated management” will be heard.
6. Mr Rice, the Council’s Hearings Administrator, will be in email communication with submitters asking them to inform him of the following:
 - Whether you still wish to be heard;

¹ Evidence given by a professional with specialist qualifications and experience.

² Such as - environmental groups, businesses, government agencies, and represented by corporate witnesses and/or legal submissions.

³ These submissions have been grouped into one submission – Proforma Group A.

- Under which hearing topic(s) do you wish to be heard, and any preferred date and time when that topic is being heard – **noting** that some dates are tagged as “*Overflow day for above topics (ONLY if required)*”. Those dates are not for selection at this time;
 - How much time you request to present your submission or evidence;
 - Whether you intend to be represented by legal counsel and/or to call expert witnesses (e.g. landscape, heritage, transport and/or planning experts)⁴.
7. The hearing schedule is draft at this stage as we do not know how many submitters wish to be heard and how much time will be requested. Given this, the Hearing Panel has authorised Mr Rice to accommodate submitters preferences as best as possible, but to also re-allocate dates and times to submitters where this is necessary to ensure an efficient hearing process. Mr Rice will exercise this delegation in consultation with the Chair of the Hearing Panel.
8. Once Mr Rice has heard back from submitters, the Hearing Panel will finalise the hearings schedule. We note here that the hearings schedule may change if fewer or more submitters wish to be heard than anticipated by the draft hearings schedule.
9. All hearings will be held at the Distinction Hotel in Te Rapa Hamilton. Further details on this will be provided by Mr Rice, the Council’s Hearings Administrator.
10. In Hearing Direction 1⁵ we set out that the majority of the hearings would be held in Hamilton, but that “*alternative locations will be considered should there be significant demand from submitters in a particular location(s)*”. In previous responses to Mr Rice from submitters there was no significant demand for alternative locations for hearings.
11. Any enquiries regarding this Direction, or related matters, should be directed to the Council’s Hearings Administrator, Mr Rice, at steve@riceres.co.nz or 021 1912346.



Greg Hill Chairperson
3 December 2024

⁴ You are not required to have legal counsel or expert witnesses, and can speak to your submission at the hearing if you have indicated an intention to appear at the hearing.

⁵ 27 June 2024