

HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 4: TARA-IKA GROWTH AREA
REZONING TO GREENBELT RESIDENTIAL ZONING AREA
MINUTE 4 OF INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL

Introduction

1. This is the fourth Minute of the Independent Hearing Panel (IHP) and is being sent to you because you are either a submitter or a Council reporting officer to the above Plan Change.
2. The purpose of this minute is to set down the hearing dates and set directions for the pre-circulation of evidence.

Hearing Date

3. The hearing has been set down for the **17th – 19th of November 2021** inclusive. The hearing will begin at 9.00am each day and is to be held in the Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street Levin. A formal notice of hearing will be sent to all parties by the Council Hearings Administrator Aroha Parker in due course.

Pre-provision of evidence

4. In the event that submitters choose to engage an expert to provide evidence, and we are aware that some intend to do this, we consider that this evidence should be pre-circulated. In this context we are of the view that the pre-provision of expert evidence will produce the following benefits:
 - Reduce the length and potential cost of the hearing itself by reducing the need to have all evidence read and help to focus attention on matters in contention and conflicting opinions;
 - Help us to better prepare for the hearing and assume a more inquisitorial role; and
 - Enable the reporting officers to consider the evidence of expert witnesses before the hearing and to seek further opinion from other staff if necessary.

Notes: 1. Expert evidence is considered to be evidence from independently qualified persons such as landscape architects, traffic engineers and planners.

2. There is no requirement for submitters to engage an expert. Submitters who do not intend to call expert witnesses do not have to comply with the timeframe below and will be able to present their own evidence at the hearing.

5. For the above reasons, pursuant to section 41B of the Resource Management Act 1991, it is **directed that evidence be pre-provided** for in accordance with the following timetable:
 - The Council will circulate the section 42A Officers' Reports to all the parties by no later than **Monday 18th October 2021**, being 20 full working days before the hearing; and

- Any person who has made a submission and is intending to call **expert evidence** must provide briefs of that evidence to the Council in an electronic form by no later than **Tuesday 2nd November 2021**, allowing 10 full working days before the hearing.
6. Briefs of expert evidence are to be addressed to Aroha Parker, email: arohapa@horowhenua.govt.nz
 7. The section 42A Officers' Reports and all expert evidence will be placed on the Council website and submitters will be notified when this has occurred.

Friend of the Submitters

8. As many submitters will now know Mr Wayne Gair is providing a 'Friend of the Submitters' service to help submitters. Just to re-enforce that Mr Gair's role is not to write evidence nor advise on the merits or advocate any view on the plan change itself, however he will be able to provide free guidance on the overall process leading up to the hearing.
9. Mr Gairs' contact details are:

Mobile: 022 466 2074
Email: wayne.g@leithconsulting.co.nz

Site visits

10. We have now had a number of requests from submitters to undertake site visits and we will now look to programme those in at or around the time of the hearing.

Hearing attendance

11. Closer to the hearing, the Hearings Administrator will also be in touch with submitters to determine presentation arrangements and to organise a schedule of appearances at the hearing.

DATED this 16th of day of August 2021



Dean Chrystal
Chair - Independent Hearings Panel

For and on behalf of:

Commissioner DM Chrystal

Commissioner J Mason (Horowhenua District Council Hearings Committee Chairperson)

Commissioner DJ McMahon