

## WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

### PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1 TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN FOR THE WELLINGTON REGION

#### MINUTE 9

#### **NOTICE OF NEW HEARING DATES FOR HEARING STREAM 4, INDICATION OF PROCESS AND TIMETABLE FOR HEARING STREAM 5, AND TIMETABLING REQUESTS FOR HEARING STREAM 3**

##### **Hearing Stream 4 (HS4) – New dates**

1. Hearings for HS4 (stormwater, wastewater, general discharges and water quantity – Te Awarua o Porirua) were scheduled to take place between 23 June and 4 July 2025.
2. Council officers have recently advised the panels that key experts for the Council are not available at critical times during evidence exchange. The Council has therefore decided to hold HS4 hearings later in the year.
3. HS4 hearings will now take place between **12 – 26 August 2025** (inclusive).
4. A formal notice of hearing and timetable will be issued in due course, but submitters are requested to please take note of these new dates and inform their witnesses and representatives accordingly.
5. It is anticipated at this stage that:
  - a. the s 42A Reports and council evidence will be due on or around 10 July 2025
  - b. submitter evidence will be due on or around 24 July 2025
  - c. council's rebuttal will be due on or around 31 July 2025
  - d. caucusing (if directed) will take place between 4 – 6 August 2025 with joint witness statements available within 2 working days after the conclusion of caucusing
  - e. hearings will commence on 12 August 2025 with presentations from the reporting officers and council experts, before submitters are heard.
6. HS4 will also include the freshwater action plan subtopic, which was originally intended to be part of HS5.

##### **Hearing Stream 5 (HS5) – Integration Right of Reply hearing**

7. We considered it helpful to provide submitters with advance notice of the planned approach for HS5.
8. It is intended that the reporting officer will file an 'Integration Reply' report on or around 3 October 2025. This will include a final set of consolidated and revised PC1 provisions including any amendments to the HS2 Objectives resulting from the topic-specific provisions in HS3 and HS4.

9. Submitters will have an opportunity to provide written comments on the provisions for the panels' consideration. New evidence cannot be submitted but the panels will be particularly interested in hearing about issues of workability, integration and cascade from the HS2 objectives and policies.
10. In around mid-October 2025, a short (1- 2 day) public hearing will be held so that the panels can ask the reporting officer and council experts any questions on the revised PC1 provisions and submitters' comments. While submitters may attend the hearing, participation is intended to be limited to council experts and the HS5 reporting officer.
11. Following the HS5 limited hearing, the panels will issue their reports and recommendations by mid-December 2025. At this stage, Council has advised that it expects to make decisions on PC1 by March 2026.

### **Hearing Stream 3 (HS3) – Timetabling requests**

12. On 16 April 2025, the panels received a request from Counsel for Forest & Bird for legal submissions to be filed on 9 May 2025. This is a one-day extension from the revised timetable set out in Minute 8. The reasons given for the request are due to counsel being on leave and other Forest & Bird representatives having prior work commitments including Environment Court mediation. The extension sought is short and can be accommodated. The submitter's request is granted and their legal submissions are to be provided to the Hearings Advisor by 4pm on 9 May 2025.

### **Service on Council**

13. Any submissions, evidence or other information required by this Minute, and any memorandum or application to the Freshwater Hearings Panel and/or P1S1 Panel should be lodged by email to [regionalplan@gw.govt.nz](mailto:regionalplan@gw.govt.nz).



Dhilum Nightingale  
Chair  
Freshwater Hearing Panel  
Part 1, Schedule 1 Hearing Panel