**MINUTE 1 of the Hearing Commissioners**

**Introduction**

1. The Canterbury Regional Council ("the Council") acting under section 34A of the Resource Management Act 1991 ("the Act") has delegated powers and functions to independent hearing commissioners Ms Sharon McGarry (Chair) and Ms Yvette Couch-Lewis to conduct public hearings to hear submissions on Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan and to report and make recommendations to the Council.

2. The purpose of this Minute is to give notice of the commencement of the public hearings and set out the hearing procedures and directions for the pre-circulation of evidence prior to the hearings.

**Public Hearings**

3. The public hearings will commence at **10.30am on Monday 21 October 2019** at Waipara Hills Winery, 780 Glasnevin Rd, Hurunui, Waipara 7483.

4. The location of the hearing days scheduled for 22-25 October 2019 will be set following the confirmation of attendance from submitters and requests made in accordance with this Minute and will be confirmed by a further minute of the Hearing Commissioners.

**Section 41C Directions**

5. In considering the subject of the public hearings and the scale and significance of the matters to be heard, we determine it is appropriate to direct the order of the proceedings and the pre-circulation of evidence under section 41C of the Act.

6. The order of hearing proceedings will be as follows:

   a) Procedural matters (if any);
   b) Council Officers presentation and summary of Proposed Plan Change 1 and recommendations, including any presentation of expert evidence;
   c) Submitters presentation of submissions, including expert evidence (if any); and
   d) Council Officers’ Right of Reply to submissions and rebuttal evidence.

7. We direct the Council to provide a report pursuant to section 42A of the Act by **4pm, Friday 20 September 2019**. This section 42A report shall be made available on the Council’s website.

8. We direct that the Council’s pre-circulated section 42A report be taken as read at the hearing. Council Officers may outline the proposed plan change at the hearing, and summarise key points and
recommendations.

9. All written submissions lodged will be pre-read by the Hearing Commissioners prior to the hearing and will be taken as read at the hearing. It is therefore not necessary for submitters attending the hearing to read their written submissions. Submitters may provide further information in support of their submission or in response to the section 42A report, and may summarise the key points of their submission and the resolution sought. We direct that any submitter who intends to call expert evidence\(^1\) provide a written brief of evidence for each witness to the Council by 4pm, Friday 4 October 2019. Any briefs of expert evidence shall be made available on the Council’s website.

10. We direct the Council to provide any written rebuttal evidence by 4pm, Wednesday 16 October 2019. Any rebuttal evidence shall be made available on the Council’s website.

**Service on the Council**

11. Any information or evidence required under this Minute must be provided either:
   a) in writing, addressed to Environment Canterbury, P O Box 345, Christchurch 8140, marked for the attention of the Hearings Officer, Ms Tavisha Fernando; or
   b) by delivery to the offices of Environment Canterbury, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch; or
   c) by email to planhearings@ecan.govt.nz.

**Confirmation of Attendance at Public Hearings**

12. Submitters who indicated they wish to be heard at the public hearing must confirm their attendance and availability with the Hearings Officer, Ms Fernando, no later than 12pm on 27 September 2019. Submitters shall advise:
   a) where they would prefer to appear - Christchurch, Waipara or Cheviot;
   b) the time allocation required to speak to their submission and/or call evidence;
   c) any special needs, such as use of electronic equipment or translation of te reo Maori; and
   d) the intention to call expert evidence (including any planning witness).

13. Hearing dates and locations for 22-25 October 2019 will be set based on submitter requests and will depend on at least three submitters requesting a particular hearing location and date.

**Hearing Schedule**

14. A hearing schedule will be emailed to submitters and posted to the website prior to the hearing showing the location, date, sequence and time allocated to each submitter.

15. Time allocations will be set in light of the content of each submitter’s written submission, requests made (pursuant to paragraph 12 above) and expert evidence to be called (if any). The hearing schedule will be indicative only and may be subject to change. However, all efforts will be made to accommodate submitter availability and requests.

**Website**

16. All information relevant to the hearing will be made available on the Council’s website: www.ecan.govt.nz/HurunuiWaiauPC1. Submitters who indicated they wish to be heard at the public hearing will need to check the website to access such information.

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\(^1\) Expert evidence is that written by qualified planners, engineers or scientists, for example, prepared in accordance with the Environment Court’s Practice Note 2014 for expert witnesses.
Evidence Recording

17. An audio record of the hearing will be maintained and available on request.

18. Excerpts from the audio record may be transcribed, if directed by the Hearing Commissioners.

Communications

19. All communications between the parties and the Hearing Commissioners will be through the Hearing Officer, Ms Fernando. Any information or clarification relating to the public hearings or this Minute should be made by email to planhearings@ecan.govt.nz or by phone on 03 365 3828.

Sharon McGarry
Independent Commissioner (Chair)
On behalf of the Hearing Commissioners

2 August 2019