

IN THE MATTER AND IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act
1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of Hearing of Submissions and Further
Submissions on the Proposed Gore
District Plan

Minute 25 of the Hearings Panel

HEARING STREAM 8 TIMING

Historic Heritage, Notable Trees and Sites and Areas of Significance to Maori

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 By way of a letter dated 30 October 2024 to the Mayor and Chief Executive of the Gore District Council, Bernadette Hunt on behalf of Southland Province Federated Farmers of NZ (Federated Farmers) has requested a delay to Hearing Stream 8 (HS8) matters set down to commence on 2 December 2024. That hearing is programmed to consider submissions to the Historic Heritage, Notable Trees and Sites and Areas of Significance to Maori (SASM) provisions of the Proposed District Plan (PDP).
- 1.2 The letter from Federated Farmers is supported by an email from Brett Highsted on behalf of Stoney Creek Station Ltd.
- 1.3 The letter and email have been forwarded to the District Plan Hearings Panel for consideration.
- 1.4 For the reasons set out below, the Hearings Panel has determined that it will proceed with the hearings set down for that week. That will include the SASM provisions that will commence at 1:30pm on Thursday 5 December, while also enabling submitters, should they wish, to appear at a reconvened hearing commencing at 9:00am on Monday 10 February.

2. CONTEXT

- 2.1 Members of the Hearing Panel are very much aware of the challenges facing the community at present, particularly the rural sector. We see it on our own land, while travelling, in social and other media, and in discussion with business owners and the wider community.
- 2.2 It has been a harsh, wet and prolonged winter and we recognise the impact this is having on the well-being of many in our community. The Hearings Panel acknowledges that for some there are more important and pressing tasks to be done than preparing for and attending a hearing to consider submissions to the PDP.
- 2.3 Reports are now available on-line from the consultants advising the Hearings Panel, assessing the submissions to the Historic Heritage, Notable Trees and SASM provisions of the PDP. The list of matters in dispute in the Historic Heritage, and Notable Trees chapters appear limited. However, notwithstanding some extensive changes being promoted by both the reporting officer and the Hokonui Runanga, the Hearings Panel anticipates there are a range of issues being raised by submitters that will still require careful consideration.
- 2.4 The SASM chapter, together with the Mana Whenua chapter, provide the basis for provisions throughout the PDP, particularly as they relate to assessment matters when resource consents are required. The Hearings Panel is unable to consider and finalise these other provisions until the structure and content of the SASM and Mana Whenua chapters is finalised, a task that could take several months to complete. Delaying HS8 until April 2025 will slow the entire District Plan Review process and add further to costs. Logistical constraints with Council advisers and other hearings in February and March limit the options for reconvening the hearing.

3. PATHWAY FORWARD

- 3.1 Having regard to the matters above, it is the intent of the Hearings Panel to proceed with the hearings as follows:
- Monday 2 December 2024 – Historic Heritage and Notable Trees, commencing 9:00am.
 - Thursday 5 December 2024 – McNabb Management Ltd rezonings, commencing at 9:00am.
 - Thursday 5 December 2024 – SASM Chapter, commencing at 1:30 pm, continuing on Friday 6 December 2024.
- 3.2 The Hokonui Runanga will present their legal submissions and evidence first at the SASM hearing followed by advisers to the Hearings Panel. This is likely to fill the entire afternoon.
- 3.3 Taking into the account the request of Federated Farmers the Hearings Panel wishes to provide submitters with an option of when they speak to their submission. This can occur during the week of 2 December 2024, or on Monday 10 February, commencing at 9:00am. If appearing in December, in relation to:
- Historic Heritage and Notable Trees, that will be enabled on Monday 2 December; and
 - the SASM chapter, the opportunity will be provided for submitters to speak on Friday 6 December 2024.
- 3.4 The Panel considers some submitters may see advantage in providing a separation between the initial presentations from the Hokonui Runanga and advisers to the Hearings Panel and making their own submissions.
- 3.5 The Panel would ask those submitters wishing to make their presentation on February 10 to:
- By 4:00pm 13 December 2024 advise the Council staff of their intention, to assist in scheduling the reconvened hearing.
 - By 1:00pm Monday 3 February submit any expert witness written material to be presented to the Committee. Written material from submitters (not experts) can be provided on the day of the hearing.

4. OTHER MATTERS

- 4.1 The Hearings Panel wishes to assure submitters, that although there are some areas of agreement between the consultant advising the Hearings Panel and the Hokonui Runanga, the Hearings Panel is not obliged to accept that advice. The Hearings Panel is committed to considering all reports, evidence and submissions received (regardless of whether the submitter attends the hearing or not), together with the relevant statutory provisions and various documents.
- 4.2 The Hearings Panel welcomes submitters attending the hearing and, if they wish, speak. The views, knowledge and experience of local people is important. The Panel does ask however that if others before you have said what you wanted to say, acknowledge that and add to it rather than repeat. Some may merely wish to

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indicate they are present to support other speakers and don't wish to add anything.
The hearing is also live-streamed on the Council's You Tube channel.

Any responses or queries regarding this Minute, should be directed to the Planning Department of the Gore District Council, phone (03) 2090330 or email Bridget Sim at bsim@goredc.govt.nz and Shakaya Perkins at sperkins@goredc.govt.nz.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Keith Hovell', is positioned above the printed name.

Keith Hovell
Hearing Panel Chair