

Gore District Plan Review

Minute from the District Plan Hearing Panel

Date: 18 January 2024

Subject: Extension of Period for Lodging Further Submissions

In an email to Gore District Council Principal Planning Consultant Matt Heale, Federated Farmers Senior Policy Advisor Rachel Thomas commented as follows with regard to the period during which further submissions could be lodged supporting or opposing submissions to the Gore District Plan Review:

I was hoping to discuss the further submission timeframe. You mentioned that the statutory ten days would be all that is allowed but I think it would bode well with the community if you offered an extended period, say 3 – 4 weeks. February is basically a write off for cropping farmers, and March can also be quite busy. With the large number of submissions received, 10 days does not give anyone in the community long to work through the submissions.

The Hearing Panel has considered this matter and determined the period for lodging further submissions would not be extended beyond the statutory requirement. However, the Panel has requested that all submissions lodged be available for public viewing on the Council's website as soon as practicable. The Panel's reasoning is set out below.

The relevant provisions related to further submissions are set out in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act as follows:

- 7 Public notice of submissions**
- (1) A local authority must give public notice of—
- (a) the availability of a summary of decisions requested by persons making submissions on a proposed policy statement or plan; and
 - (b) where the summary of decisions and the submissions can be inspected; and
 - (c) the fact that no later than 10 working days after the day on which this public notice is given, the persons described in clause 8(1) may make a further submission on the proposed policy statement or plan; and

- (d) the date of the last day for making further submissions (as calculated under paragraph (c)); and
 - (e) the limitations on the content and form of a further submission.
- (2) The local authority must serve a copy of the public notice on all persons who made submissions

8 Certain persons may make further submissions

- (1) The following persons may make a further submission, in the prescribed form, on a proposed policy statement or plan to the relevant local authority:
 - (a) any person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest; and
 - (b) any person that has an interest in the proposed policy statement or plan greater than the interest that the general public has; and
 - (c) the local authority itself.

Clause 8 restricts the persons who may make a further submission, excluding the public, unless they represent a relevant aspect of the public interest or have an interest greater than the general public.

Therefore, unless there is a submission directly related to a person's property or with some other direct impact on them, the ability of property owners or occupiers to support or oppose any submission is limited by paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

The Panel also noted approximately 130 submissions have been lodged to the Proposed District Plan. Panel members do not consider this a large number, compared to the number of submissions lodged during the review of other District Plans.

The Panel wishes to proceed with the consideration of submissions in a timely manner and not unduly delay the commencement of hearings. Mr Heale has advised the Panel that other Councils have made available to the public a full copy of the submissions lodged prior to the formal notification of the summary of submissions. This has enabled interested persons to assess, over an extended period, whether there are submissions they may wish to support or oppose.

The Panel considers this an excellent approach and one that should also be adopted as soon as practicable by the Council.

Making the submissions available, prior to the formal notification of the summary of submissions, achieves Federated Farmers' goal of having an extended period to consider the content of the submissions, while also enabling timely progress to be made towards the commencement of hearings to consider the submissions.

Any issues associated with the processing and consideration of the submissions lodged to the Proposed District Plan, including this Minute, should be directed to the Council's Regulatory Administrator Lindsey Crazy Wolf, email lcrazywolf@goredc.govt.nz or phone (03) 2090330.

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

Keith Hovell
Chair, District Plan Hearing Panel