

A Guide to the Gore Proposed District Plan Hearings

When and where will the hearings be held?

An indicative hearing schedule is available at [Hearing topics and schedules | Let's Talk Gore District \(goredc.govt.nz\)](https://www.goredc.govt.nz/letstalkgore/)

All Hearings will be held at the Council's Administration Office at 29 Bowler Avenue in Gore. Hearings will also be livestreamed and a link to the live hearing will be available on the Council Hearings page on the day of the hearing.

How will I know which hearings to attend?

All of the submission points have been assigned a plan topic. If you stated in your submission that you wish to be heard at the hearing, you will be invited to the hearing(s) on the topic(s) that your submission relates to. This may mean you will be required to attend more than one hearing if you submitted on multiple parts of the Proposed District Plan.

The Hearing Administrator will contact you 30 working days prior to the hearing (via the contact details provided in your submission) to ask if you would like to speak at the hearing. If you have a preference for the day or time you wish to be heard, you need to contact the Hearings Administrator, who will do their best to accommodate your request on a first come, first served basis. Every submitter will be given a scheduled time.

Please arrive 15 minutes before your hearing time and wait to be summoned by the hearing panel.

Who has the right to speak at a Hearing?

The following people have the right to speak at a hearing:

- Submitters who have requested to be heard and anyone presenting evidence on their behalf (such as an expert or lawyer).
- Authors of the Section 42A report.
- Any other experts presenting evidence on behalf of the council who had a report circulated before the hearing.
- Any commissioner(s).

Any submitter who did not request to be heard or anyone attending the hearing does not have the right to speak.

You are generally limited to about 15 minutes of speaking time. If you think that you will require more than 15 minutes of speaking time, please contact the Hearings Administrator as early as possible so that it can be determined if your request can be accommodated.

What if I am unable to attend in person but would still like to speak?

If you are unable to attend a hearing in person and wish to give evidence to the hearing remotely, that will require the prior approval of the Hearing Panel and at least two days' notice to the Hearings Administrator prior the commencement of the hearing.

What will it cost me?

You have to pay for your own costs, such as travel to and from the hearing, time off work, and your own lawyers' and professionals' fees should you choose to have any. There are no other costs associated with presenting at the hearing.

What if I said I didn't wish to attend a hearing in my submission?

If you stated you did not wish to attend a hearing when you put in your submission, you will not be invited to the hearing. However, your submission will still be considered in its entirety by the Hearings Panel. You are still welcome to attend the hearings as an observer as they are open to the public.

What should I prepare before the hearing?

Here are a few tips to help you prepare for the hearing meetings:

- It is a good idea to prepare a written statement to read out at the hearing.
- Identify the key points you want to get across, and back them up in your statement.
- Practise reading out your statement. You want to get it right and to look confident and comfortable.
- Think about what questions the hearing committee might ask you, and how you can answer them.
- Go to a council hearing beforehand or view one online to see how it works and get a feel for the process. You don't want surprises on the day.

The statement you read out at the hearing will expand on the points you've made in your written submission. Your statement might include examples that illustrate some of the points in your submission, or comments about the recommendations in the council officer's report. You don't need to read your submission as the Commissioners will have read it already.

If you would like to bring additional information to the hearing in support of your original submission, you will need to prepare this in time for the hearing. The information should be no more than 3 A4 pages long and either provided to Council's hearing administrator 2 working days before the hearing or bring 8 copies to the hearing.

If you would like an expert to give evidence on your behalf, they will need to make their evidence available to all submitters before the hearing. The timing for circulation of evidence will be provided in the hearing notice and available on Council's website [Hearing topics and schedules | Let's Talk Gore District \(goredc.govt.nz\)](https://www.goredc.govt.nz/hearing-topics-and-schedules)

If you wish to use power-point as part of your presentation to the Hearings Panel, you must provide that in an electronic format to the Hearings Administrator at least two working days prior to the start of the hearing.

For more information you can also download the MFE guide [Appearing at a hearing about a proposed plan or resource consent | Ministry for the Environment](#) for appearing at a Council Plan or Plan Change Hearing.

What happens after the Hearing?

After all submitters have been heard on one topic, the Hearings Panel will consider the information heard in private. Once all hearings are completed the Hearings Panel will make a recommendation to the Council. This is likely to be around the middle of 2025.

The Council will make a final decision on accepting the recommendations of the Hearing Panel or not.

Submitters and further submitters have a right of appeal to the Environment Court on all decisions issued with regard to matters they have submitted on. Details of the appeal process, time allowed and how to lodge an appeal will be advised when decisions are issued.

Who is the hearing administrator/ who can I contact with further questions about the Hearings process?

The Hearings Administrator, Lindsey Crazy Wolf, is the 'point of contact' for submitters and the public regarding the hearings. She can be contacted by email at lcrazywolf@goredc.govt.nz or by telephone on (03) 209 0330.

Outside the hearings, all communications with the Hearings Panel and s42A authors from submitters and their expert witnesses must be directed through the Hearings Administrator.