



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 of the Hearings Panel

Natural Character Chapter

Minute 30

9 December 2024

Minute 30 – Natural Character Chapter

MINUTE OF THE HEARINGS PANEL

Purpose of Minute

- 1 This Minute is directed to those persons who lodged submissions and further submissions related to natural character issues, who may wish to respond to a draft Natural Character chapter and associated documents received by the Hearings Panel.
- 2 Documentation relevant to this Minute is available as part of the Hearing Stream 9 documents on the Council's Hearing Hub <https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/hub-page/proposed-district-plan>.

Background

- 3 In Minute 18 dated 10 September 2024, the Hearings Panel advised it had reached the view that in addition to including provisions relating to Natural Character throughout the Proposed District Plan (PDP), there should also be a separate chapter providing a strategic overview and link to those provisions. The Panel directed that the Council's Reporting Officers prepare a draft Natural Character chapter to be considered at the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter hearing, set down to commence on 10 February 2025.
- 4 The Hearings Panel has received a draft of a Natural Character Chapter, together with an associated draft Appendix to be included in the Proposed District Plan, a statement of evidence from Mike Moore, Landscape Architect, and a Section 32AA Report.
- 5 Counsel on behalf of the Gore District Council has sought direction to confirm the process that should be followed in relation to service on submitters and their potential further involvement with this natural character topic.

Direction

- 6 In a Memorandum dated 29 November, Shelley Chadwick Counsel for the Gore District Council has proposed that the draft new Natural Character chapter be served on the following submitters:
 - (a) Southland District Council, being the submitter initially raising the manner in which natural character is dealt with in the proposed Plan;
 - (b) All submitters who submitted on one or more of the provisions listed in Appendix A of Minute 18; and
 - (c) All submitters involved in Hearing Stream 1;
- 7 The Hearings Panel agrees, and directs these persons be advised of this Minute and served with a copy of the relevant documents.

Further Participation

- 8 Those persons who lodged submissions and further submissions related to natural character issues are welcome to respond to the draft chapter and associated documents no later than 28 January 2025. Any response is to be in writing and include reference to relevant points in their submission linking to the

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natural character issues. Any request to appear at the hearing is to be included in the response.

- 9 A Section 42A Report shall be prepared by the advisers to the Hearings Panel and submitted to the Council for distribution to the Panel and any relevant persons responding to this Minute no later than 4 February 2025.
- 10 The draft Natural Character Chapter, any responses received, and the S42A Report will be considered at the hearing commencing on 10 February 2025.

Any queries regarding this Minute, should be directed to the Planning Department of the Gore District Council, phone (03) 2090330 or email hearings@goredc.govt.nz.



Keith Hovell
Hearings Panel Chair