



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 42 of the Hearings Panel

**Final Hearing
April 2025**

5 March 2025

Minute 42 – Final Hearing April 2025

1. The Hearings Panel has received a memorandum from Shelley Chadwick, Counsel for the Gore District Council, dated 24 February 2025, listing matters to be considered at the hearing commencing on 7 April 2025. A copy of that memorandum is attached.
2. All submitters were advised of the memorandum, with an opportunity by 3 March 2025 to comment on the matters listed in the memorandum and/or to request additional matters to be considered at the hearing. No responses have been received from submitters.
3. The prime purpose of the April hearing is to document in a public report and enable consideration of:
 - (a) Omitted and unresolved submission points from previous reports and hearings;
 - (b) Minor amendments, corrections and updates to the content of the Proposed District Plan; and
 - (c) Consequential amendments and plan integration matters.
4. In addition, the Hearings Panel seeks further advice from the Council's planners following on from Minute 16 regarding afforestation and the responses to that Minute. The Hearings Panel is interested in the relevance of the Great South report *Implications of Land Use Change from Pastoral to Carbon Forestry in Southland* to the forestry matters under consideration, as well as further data and analysis regarding the proportion of the Gore District categorised as highly productive land under the NPS-HPL and its relationship with potential afforestation. Those submitters that provided feedback on Minute 16, may wish to provide further comment on the advice received.
5. Since receipt of the memorandum from Shelley Chadwick, on 3 March 2025, the Hearings Panel has issued Minute 41 Ecosystems and Biodiversity, seeking further explanation as to the criteria used to identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation and potential content changes to the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter. Any of the submitters who attended the hearing on 24 and 25 of February 2025 have the opportunity to comment on the additional material being prepared for the Hearings Panel, and they may request the hearing be reconvened on 7 April 2025.
5. To provide full transparency, the Hearings Panel wishes to expand on two matters listed in the memorandum from Shelley Chadwick as follows:
 - (a) Heritage Item HH81 146 Broughton Street, Gore

The submitter, PA & JE Johnstone Family Trust, was not available for the hearing held on 2 December 2024, and an opportunity is being provided for lodging of expert evidence and presenting that to the Hearings Panel. The further submitter, Heritage NZ, may also wish to attend the hearing, or otherwise provide further evidence, specifically on this submission, for the Hearings Panel to consider.
 - (b) Natural Features and Landscapes – Minute 39

The Hearings Panel has sought an additional report considering the potential to include provisions in the District Plan to manage locally distinctive or valued natural features and landscapes. Those submitters

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referred to in that Minute have an opportunity to provide additional feedback and evidence to the Hearings Panel on the report.

6. For transparency, the Hearings Panel wishes to record that during the process of preparing and finalising decisions on submissions it will be necessary to have Council advisers confirm details of the submission points lodged by various submitters, particularly where the same submission issue has been lodged to, or recorded against, a multitude of plan provisions. To avoid duplication in individual decisions, common submission points from some submitters will be dealt with together.

Any queries regarding this Minute, should be directed to the Planning Department of the Gore District Council, phone (03) 209 0330 or email hearings@goredc.govt.nz.



Keith Hovell
Hearings Panel Chair