

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

MEMORANDUM TO HEARING PANEL

FILE NO AND TRIM NO: DDS-06-10-02-04-01 / 240605089889

DATE: 05 June 2024

MEMO TO: Hearing Commissioners

FROM: Matthew Bacon, Development Planning Manager

SUBJECT: Availability of experts for Hearing Stream 12D (Ohoka)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Panel of further availability constraints for experts engaged by Council for Hearing Stream 12D (Ohoka).
2. As stated in the memorandum of 8 May, Council's landscape expert, Mr Hugh Nicholson is unavailable for Hearing Stream 12D. The Panel have responded to this matter in Minute 25.
3. Council wishes to now advise about the availability of two further experts for Hearing Stream 12D:
 - Council's farm productivity expert, Mr Stuart Ford, is overseas, and unavailable throughout the duration Hearing Stream 12D.
 - Council's economic expert, Mr Rodney Yeoman, is also overseas, and unavailable in person for Hearing Stream 12D. However, he is available online (with some time constraints on Day 1 of the hearing).
4. Council considers that of the two experts, Mr Yeoman is most likely to be required to respond to questions in person and is available to do so. This memorandum therefore notes Mr Yeoman's availability constraints however does not seek directions with respect to his attendance online, in accordance with Minute 1.
5. Mr Ford is unavailable from the 30th of June until the 13th of July, and will therefore be available within the standard right of reply timeframes to respond to questions from the Panel.¹ Depending on the date of any preliminary questions from the Panel, Mr Ford may also be able to respond to those preliminary questions prior to his unavailability.
6. With respect to the unavailability of Mr Ford over the hearing days, Council has noted the previous views of the main submitter of relevance to Hearing Stream 12D in respect of the previously advised unavailability of Mr Nicholson, and the Panels response in Minute 25 dated 22 May 2024. Having considered these views, Council continues to be of the view that no _____ persons _____

¹ Noting that the Panel may otherwise direct right of reply timeframes that consider the volume of rezoning evidence presented at the hearing streams.

are likely to be prejudiced by Mr Ford's unavailability for the hearing. This position is also informed by the PC31 experience (farm productivity expert caucusing was not required for that plan change, nor were there Panel questions on this matter)

7. Given that the s42A report for Hearing Stream 12D has recently been released, the Council has not yet sought the views of submitters in favour of early identification of this issue to the Panel.
8. The Council therefore seeks that the Panel confirm excusing Mr Ford from attending Hearing Stream 12D set down for 1 – 4 July.