

20 May 2024

Hearing Commissioners
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Attention: Hearing Panel for the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan

Canterbury Regional Council – Waimakariri District Plan Review – Letter to be tabled at Hearings 12A-E: Maps and Rezoning

The Canterbury Regional Council (**Regional Council**) lodged a submission on the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan (**pWDP**) and has appeared at the Hearings in relation to several of the hearing streams relevant to the Regional Council's submission.

This letter is to clarify that Regional Council will not attend any of Hearings 12A-E in relation to the maps and rezonings, scheduled to commence on 4 June 2024, and instead respectfully requests that this letter be tabled for the Hearing Panel's consideration in lieu of attendance.

The Regional Council made an original submission on the pWDP in which it expressed concern regarding new development occurring outside areas identified on Map A of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (**CRPS**). However, the Regional Council chose not to lodge any further submissions in respect of each of the rezonings that seek to rezone areas for residential development outside of the areas identified in Map A of the CRPS.

While the Regional Council did not make a further submission on this topic and does not intend to appear at the hearing, it wishes to reiterate that it did lodge evidence and appear in support of its submission on the wider urban development strategy of the pWDP in Hearing Stream 1.

This is consistent with the approach that the Regional Council has taken to other district plan reviews in the region, by focussing on ensuring that the strategic objectives and policies give effect to the direction in the CRPS and other higher order documents. As the direction from the strategic provisions should then influence the remainder of the pWDP (including decisions on rezonings), the Regional Council considers its presence is not necessary at each of the specific rezoning hearings, as it would ultimately be pursuing the same relief it has sought as part of the strategic objectives hearing stream (and duplicating evidence / submissions in that regard).

Whether the Regional Council participates in a particular hearing stream or not, the district plan is still required to give effect to the CRPS (and other higher order documents). The CRPS stands on its own in that respect.

The evidence of Ms Mitten for Hearing Stream 1 placed emphasis on the direction of the National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020, the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 and the CRPS, as well as the strategic growth planning exercise that was completed through the development of the Urban Development Strategy (and more recently, the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan).

The Regional Council continues to support the policy framework it pursued as part of the relief sought in Hearing Stream 1, particularly restricting development outside existing urban areas in order to give effect to the provisions of the CRPS.

For these reasons, while the Regional Council is not intending to appear at Hearing Streams 12A-E, I respectfully request that the Hearing Panel remain cognisant of the Regional Council's submission points and previously filed evidence on these relevant matters when it is determining the rezoning requests.

Should you have any queries please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



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