

Whanganui District Council
Plan Change 63: Heritage

DIRECTIONS OF THE HEARING PANEL

Introduction

- [1] Pursuant to section 34A(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Whanganui District Council (WDC) has appointed independent commissioners Rob van Voorthuysen and Heike Lutz and councillors Glenda Brown and Charlotte Melser as the Panel to hear and decide the submissions on PC63.
- [2] The purpose of this Minute is to set out the timetable for reporting, evidence and legal submissions exchange.

Notice of Hearing

- [3] The Hearing is scheduled to commence on **Thursday 12 June 2025** in the WDC offices at 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui.
- [4] The Hearing will commence at **9:00 am**.

Hearing

- [5] The following directions relate to the Hearing:
 - (a) The order of appearance will be:
 - WDC as Proponent of PC63
 - Submitter(s)
 - Section 42A Report author's response
 - WDC as Proponent of PC63 Right of Reply which may be given verbally at the hearing or subsequently in writing
 - (b) A Section 42A Report¹ from WDC (in their regulatory capacity) will be available on or before **Wednesday 28 May 2025**, allowing submitters to have regard to its contents when preparing their evidence. It would be extremely helpful to the Hearing Panel if the submitters could indicate in their evidence if they agree or disagree (with reasons) with the Section 42A Report author's recommendations.
 - (c) Pursuant to section 41B(3) of the RMA, submitters who intend to call expert evidence in support of their submissions are directed to provide a written statement of that evidence to the Hearing Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Wednesday 4 June 2025**.
 - (d) If Submitters intend to provide written evidence themselves, or have non-expert people appear on their behalf, then they are requested and strongly urged to also provide a written statement of that evidence to the Hearings Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Wednesday 4 June 2025**.
 - (e) If evidence to be presented by non-expert people is not provided to the Hearing Administrator by the above date, then those people should bring ten (10) hard copies to the Hearing.
 - (f) If the WDC as Proponent of PC63 or any submitters propose to have legal counsel present legal submissions, they are requested to provide those submissions to the Hearings Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Monday 9 June 2025**.
 - (g) All submissions, pre-circulated evidence and legal submissions will be taken as read at the Hearing. Accordingly, pursuant to section 41C(1)(b) of the RMA, the Hearing Panel directs that all such material will not be read aloud at the Hearing, as that would be an inefficient

¹ A Section 42A Report includes a discussion of the Plan Change and the submissions. It recommends (with reasons) whether the Plan Change should be approved or not and if any amendments should be made to the notified Plan Change provisions. Those recommendations do not bind the Hearing Panel.

use of time as the Hearing Panel will have already read it.

- (h) At the Hearing the WDC as Proponent of PC63 may table and read aloud supplementary or rebuttal evidence responding to the Section 42A Report or any evidence lodged by Submitters. The Hearing Panel anticipates that any such supplementary or rebuttal evidence will be concise.
- (i) All people appearing at the Hearing will be allowed to verbally and briefly highlight key points from their evidence or legal submissions for the benefit of the Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel will then ask any questions that they may have.
- (j) Should any Submitter wish to speak in Te Reo, utilise Sign Language, or utilise visual aids (PowerPoint, etc) they are requested to liaise directly with the Hearings Administrator, as soon as possible, but prior to **Friday 30 May 2025** regarding their needs.
- (k) If any participant intends to attend the Hearing remotely (e.g. by way of Zoom) then they must ensure that a copy of all written material that they will refer to or read from (including speaking notes) during their presentation is provided to the Hearings Administrator no later than **4.00pm on Friday 30 May 2025**.

Website

- [6] All information relevant to the Hearing for PC63 may be found on the WDC website:

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/Building-and-Planning/Planning-Services/District-Plan-Changes/Current-Plan-Changes/Plan-Change-63-Heritage>

Correspondence

- [7] Hearing participants must not attempt to correspond with or contact the Hearing Panel directly. All correspondence relating to the Hearing or this Minute must be addressed to the Hearings Administrator, Leayne Huirua.

Service on the Council

- [8] All evidence and legal submissions addressed by this Minute must be lodged with the WDC:
- Preferably by email to Leayne Huirua at Leayne.Huirua@whanganui.govt.nz
 - or
 - By post addressed to Planning Services, Whanganui District Council, PO Box 637, Whanganui 4500.
- [9] Evidence and legal submissions lodged **must** be provided in **Microsoft WORD** format. The documents must be 'unlocked' so that they can be annotated by the Hearing Panel.



Rob van Voorthuysen
Hearing Panel Chair
24 March 2025