

MEMORANDUM

To | Submitters to Hearing 19 Ohinewai rezoning requests
From | Chloe Trenouth, Hill Young Cooper Ltd
(Section 42A report author)
Subject | Hearing 19: Ohinewai Rezoning – Expert Conferencing
Date | 12 May 2020

The minute from the Hearings Panel (dated 8 May) invites submitters involved in Hearing 19 Ohinewai rezoning requests and Council to seek consensus on how expert conferencing for this hearing should proceed.

The purpose of this memo is to outline a suggestion for expert conferencing, and seek a response from the submitters. Please note that the minute from the Hearing Panel establishes a timeframe for a coordinated response from all the submitters and Council, so could you please respond by **5pm Thursday 14 May 2020** by email to districtplan@waidc.govt.nz

The minute from the Hearing Panel considers the relevant process issues to be:

- (a) *The scope of expert conferencing and the topics to be covered, including overlaps between topics;*
- (b) *The name and discipline of each expert participating in each topic. It is our intention that only technical experts attend conferencing, not lay persons;*
- (c) *Whether planners attend each topic or a planning topic(s) only;*
- (d) *The provision of information to be circulated in advance of each session, including agreed agenda and key issues for each topic;*
- (e) *The requirement for a Joint Witness Statement to be prepared at the conclusion of each topic session, in compliance with the Environment Court Practice Note 2014;*
- (f) *The timing of first set of conferencing sessions and whether a second round of conferencing will be required in advance of APL finalizing its evidence.*

I have set out below some questions and suggested responses that will form the basis of the response to the Hearings Panel. Your response to the questions would be appreciated, outlining whether you agree / disagree with my suggestions and providing reasons.

I. What should the purposes of expert conferencing be?

The purpose of expert conferencing is to address and narrow the issues raised in the section 42A report and technical peer reviews, the evidence provided by submitters and any experts representing submitters. Expert conferencing is for the purpose of documenting where experts agree, but also narrowing down areas of disagreement.

It is the intention of the Hearings Panel that only technical experts attend conferencing, rather than lay submitters. Lay submitters will have two opportunities to share their experience and knowledge of the area – at the stage where evidence is due, and again at the hearing.

Submitter comment:

2. Which topics / disciplines should be addressed through expert conferencing?

Suggested topics are:

- Transport
- Ecology
- Business land (Economics)
- Residential land (Economics)
- Water and wastewater
- Flooding/stormwater
- Urban design (including integration)
- Social impacts
- Strategic planning
- Planning provisions

Submitter comment:

3. Could you please provide the name and discipline of your expert participating in each topic?

Council is intending to have the following experts attend:

Transport	Naomi McMinn (Transport Planner from Gray Matter)
Ecology	
Business land (Economics)	Derek Kemp (Economist from Prosperous Places)
Residential land (Economics)	Douglas Fairgray (Economist from Market Economics)
Water and Wastewater	Jim Bradley (Engineer from Stantec)
Flooding/Stormwater	Megan Blackburn (Engineer from Stantec)
Urban design (including integration)	Matthew Jones (Urban Designer from Isthmus)
Social Impacts	Jo Healy (Social Impact Planner from Beca)
Strategic Planning	Chloe Trenouth (Planner from Hill Young Cooper)
Planning provisions	Chloe Trenouth (Planner from Hill Young Cooper)

Submitter comment:

4. Should planners attend each topic or planning topics only?

Council considers planners should attend all topics so they are aware of the issues, but only as observers for technical topics other than planning. If requested, planners can provide assistance in any discussions around provisions to address issues.

Submitter comment:

5. Should information to be circulated in advance of each session, including agreed agenda and key issues for each topic?

Council supports the pre-circulation of information so that attendees are better prepared to participate in discussions.

Council suggests that participants for each topic session are to agree on the agenda and key issues for each topic at least 5 working days before the day of conferencing.

Submitter comment:

6. Should a Joint Witness Statement to be prepared at the conclusion of each topic session?

Council consider there is value in a Joint Witness Statement being agreed at the conclusion of each topic session in accordance with Environment Court Practice Note 2014. This should be a succinct record of the matters discussed and the position of each expert.

Submitter comment:

7. When should expert conferencing sessions commence?

Council consider there needs to be adequate time before expert conferencing sessions commence to allow the exchange of information and establish an agenda.

Council notes that the Hearings Panel have an expectation that various experts will have discussed their differences on issues between themselves prior to facilitated expert conferencing commencing. A two week period between receiving additional information on a specific topic and the date for conferencing on that topic would enable such discussions to take place.

An indicative timeframe for beginning expert conferencing could be early June 2020, although Council does not have a preference for the order of topics.

Submitter comment: