

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of hearing submissions and further submissions on the Proposed Waikato District Plan

AND

IN THE MATTER of Hearing 21B – Landscapes

DIRECTIONS FROM HEARING COMMISSIONERS

18 August 2020

1. The hearing for the “Landscape” provisions of the proposed Waikato District Plan (“**proposed plan**”) was scheduled to commence on 10 September 2020.
2. On 17 August 2020, the Hearings Panel received a letter from Ms Tukere on behalf of Waikato-Tainui, which stated as follows:

As we have communicated to you previously, this hearing is of utmost importance to Waikato-Tainui, as this hearing addresses the Waikato River and the provisions that the district plan puts in place to protect our tupuna awa. We maintain that this hearing needs to be undertaken in person but accept that this cannot occur until the Alert Level in the Waikato is restored to Level 1. We request that the landscapes hearing, in particular the Waikato-Tainui evidence should be rescheduled until it can occur in person at Level 1. This is not only because of health concerns for our kaumatua or the number of experts that we will have presenting but also because we believe and you will see from our evidence that a conversation needs to be had about how we best protect the Waikato River. We believe we are bringing innovative options to the hearing that will be best discussed and understood in person.

Waikato-Tainui understand that this is a fluid situation and the alert level may be reduced by 11 September. Waikato-Tainui will provide hearing evidence on Friday as per hearing panel directions, but we are just seeking some clarity as to the hearing panels plans for the process should alert levels stay above 1.

3. We have carefully considered Waikato-Tainui’s request and direct as follows:
 - a) The hearing set down to begin on 10 September 2020 is to be rescheduled to a later date.

- b) A rescheduled hearing date will be set once New Zealand returns to Covid Alert Level 1.
 - c) All evidence and rebuttal evidence is to be provided and circulated in accordance with the timetable that would have applied if the hearing was still due to commence on 10 September 2020. That is to say that although the hearing has been deferred, the evidence exchange timetable remains unchanged.
4. Any questions concerning these Directions should be addressed to the Hearings Administrator, Mr Fletcher Bell. His contact details are as follows:
- Email Districtplan@waidc.govt.nz
- Telephone 027 214 8052
5. The Hearings Administrator is to provide these Directions to all parties that have made submissions and/or further submissions on the landscape provisions of the proposed plan.



P H Mitchell (Chair)

On behalf of the Hearings Panel

18 August 2020