

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

DIRECTIONS FROM HEARING COMMISSIONERS REGARDING “OPENING SUBMISSIONS”

9 August 2019

Introduction

1. The Hearings Administrator is about to issue an initial timetable for the hearing of submissions and further submissions on the Proposed Waikato District Plan (“**proposed plan**”).
2. That timetable will state that the first part of the hearings will commence on 30 September 2019 at which parties may wish to present opening submissions.
3. These Directions address how we propose to organise the preparations for, and conduct of, the hearing of opening submissions.

Directions regarding Opening Submissions

4. The purpose of the opening submissions phase of the hearings is two-fold:
 - a. To have **the Council** provide the Commissioners with an overview of the proposed plan, including the process followed in preparing it, an overview of the key issues the Council anticipates the subsequent hearings needing to address, and an overview of the legal framework within which our decisions are to be made; and
 - b. To enable those submitters / further submitters to “set the scene” regarding their key issues, both by way of the factual matters of particular concern and any legal matters they consider we need to be aware of.

Council’s Opening Submissions

5. Further to paragraph 4 a above, we anticipate that the Council will wish to present opening legal submissions and possibly have a senior staff member provide an overview of the plan preparation process, and the document’s contents.


6. Given the importance of the Council's opening submissions and the likely breadth of the issues we anticipate it may wish to canvas, we will depart from the "highlights package" requirements and timing limits specified in our First Directions. Instead, we direct that by **5pm on Friday 30 August 2019** the Council is to provide us, via the Hearings Administrator, a firm indication of the time it anticipates will be needed to present the opening submissions, noting that we do not expect written material to be read verbatim.
7. As foreshadowed in our First Directions dated 21 May 2019, the Council's opening submissions are to be provided to the Hearings Administrator, no later than **5pm on Monday 23 September 2019**. This will enable us to pre-read the information.

Submitters' Opening Submissions

8. Further to paragraph 4 b above, we do not anticipate that large numbers of submitters / further submitters will wish to present opening submissions on the plan as a whole, and that they will prefer to present their submissions, including any legal submissions, at the subsequent hearings on specific topics.
9. However, if any party wishes to present opening submissions, they should advise the Hearings Administrator of their intention to do so, **no later than 5pm on Friday 23 August 2019**. Any such advice should include a brief explanation of why the submitter / further submitter considers it necessary to present opening submissions, rather than doing so at the subsequent hearings on specific topics. The Panel reserves the right to direct that the matters raised be presented at the individual topic hearings.
10. We will depart from the "highlights package" requirements and timing limits specified in our First Directions for the hearing of opening submissions. Instead, we direct that by **5pm on Friday 30 August 2019** all parties presenting opening submissions are to provide us, via the Hearings Administrator, a firm indication of the time it anticipates will be needed to present the opening submissions, noting that we do not expect written material to be read verbatim.
11. All opening submissions from submitters / further submitters are to be provided to the Hearings Administrator, no later than **5pm on Thursday 26 September 2019**. This will enable us to pre-read the information.

Questions from Parties

12. Any questions regarding these Directions are to be addressed to the Hearings Administrator in the prescribed manner.



P H Mitchell (Chair)

9 August 2019